

GLOSSARY- What does it mean when we say....

PLEASE NOTE: In this glossary, terms are defined in plain language to help students understand the module content. When engaging with the CBU campus processes, the definitions as written in policy will be used.

2SLGBTQIA+- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, two-spirit, plus.

Advocate- Someone who actively supports someone else's interests or the interests of a group of people.

Accommodation- Measure(s) put in place in the context of education or employment to provide support to someone subjected to sexualized violence. These measures may include, for example, exam or assignment deferral, class and/or schedule changes, residence housing changes.

Cisgender (or cis)- Someone whose gender identity matches the sex and/or gender they were assigned at birth.

Coercion- Coercion is when someone tries to change a "no", "maybe", "I don't know" or "I don't feel like it" (for example) into a "yes". Coercion can involve the use of authority, psychological pressure, intimidation, bribery, threats, or physical force.

Consent to Sexual Activity- is a voluntary, willing, unimpaired, and conscious choice to engage in a specific sexual or non-sexual activity. When a person expresses (by words or actions) that they do not want to engage, or do not want to continue to engage, in sexual activity, there is no consent. A person who is asleep or unconscious is incapable of consenting to sexual activity. A person may be incapable of consenting to sexual activity when under the influence of alcohol and/or other substances/drugs. A person may be incapable of consenting to sexual activity when there is an imbalance of power and/or authority, or when one person is in a position of trust.

Cyberviolence- Cyberviolence is the use of technology and/or social media to harm another person. Cyberviolence can show up in a number of ways including unwanted sexts, non-consensual sharing of sexual images of another person, and revenge porn. It is illegal to share "intimate images of a person" without their consent, regardless of age. Cyberviolence may also be called cyberbullying.

Disclosure- refers to a victim/survivor sharing information, about their experience of sexual violence. The victim/survivor discloses information about their experience for the purpose of receiving support(s) from their institution, or informally with friends or family.

Entitled- To feel that you have a right to something, are inherently deserving of something, or are owed something.

Gender- “A culturally specific set of characteristics that identify the social behaviour of individuals, the relationship between them, the way this relationship is socially constructed, and the way individuals are treated or viewed.” (Glossary and Definitions, Avalon Sexual Assault Centre)

Gender binary- “A social system whereby people are thought to have either one of two genders: ‘man’ or ‘woman.’ These genders are expected to correspond to birth sex: male or female. In the gender binary system, there is no room for living between genders or for transcending the gender binary. The gender binary system is rigid and restrictive for many people whose sex assigned at birth does not match up with their gender, or whose gender is fluid and not fixed.” (The 519’s Glossary of Terms)

Gender identity- “A person’s internal, deeply held sense of their gender.” (*GLAAD Media Reference Guide Tenth Edition*). Gender identity is a protected characteristic under the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act.

Gender expression- The external expression of a person’s gender, which can be communicated via pronouns, clothes, hair, behaviour, voice, etc. Gender Expression is a protected characteristic under the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act.

Gender norms- A widely held set of broad generalizations about how people should act based on their gender.

Intersectionality- the complex, cumulative way in which the effects of multiple forms of discrimination (such as racism, sexism and classism) combine, overlap or intersect. This is especially evident in the experiences of marginalized individuals or groups. The word intersectionality was introduced by scholar and activist Kimberlé Crenshaw to describe how systems of power interact to oppress people with multiple marginalized identities.

Members of the Campus Community- includes all students, employees (faculty and staff), and visitors to the campus. This includes:

- Employees/individuals who are in contractual relationships with the Institution
- All students, whether part-time or full-time, participating at the Institution both on-site and/or online
- Individuals who sit on Institution committees, boards, councils, associations, union partners and/or who are volunteers
- Invited speakers associated directly with students/staff either through face-to-face contact or online
- Volunteers

Mi’kmaq and Mi’kmaw (‘Meeg Mah’)- The Indigenous peoples of Mi’kmaki. Mi’kmaw people have lived throughout Mi’kma’ki for over 10, 000 years. There are currently 13 Mi’kmaw communities, and over 16, 000 Mi’kmaw people, throughout Nova Scotia.

“Mi’kmaq is used as a plural term for the people. Mi’kmaw is the adjectival form and is also used for a single person....The language is also Mi’kmaw.” (*Mi’kmawe’l Tan Teli-kina’muemk: Teaching about the Mi’kmaq*, The Mi’kmawey Debert Cultural Centre)

Mi’kmaki- The traditional and unceded territory of the Mi’kmaq, which includes Nova Scotia, PEI and large parts of New Brunswick, the Gaspé Peninsula, Newfoundland and part of Maine.

Pronoun- “A word that can function as a noun and refers to the participants in the discourse or to someone or something mentioned elsewhere (for example, I, he, she, they, him, her, them, ze, zir, etc.)” (*A Rights Guide for Girls, Young Women & Gender Nonconforming Youth*; YWCA Canada)

Rape culture/Culture of sexualized violence- Rape culture is a term that describes an environment where rape is pervasive, normalized and accepted as inevitable. A culture of sexualized violence is largely perpetuated through unexamined and false beliefs, however, sexualized violence may also be promoted in an outward, active manner.

Report or Reporting- when a person impacted by sexualized violence shares information, in accordance with the Sexual Violence Policy and Procedures, about sexualized violence by one member of the campus community against another member of the campus community. A formal Report is the sharing of information for the purpose of initiating an investigation that could result in disciplinary and/or remedial measures against a Member of the Institution Community who is alleged to have engaged in sexual violence.

Reporting party- means a person who has initiated a formal Report under the Sexual Violence Policy alleging that a Member of the StFX Community has committed sexual violence.

Respondent- person accused of committing an act of sexualized violence in the campus reporting process

Sexualized violence- is a broad term that describes behaviours and actions that are sexual in nature and are unwanted, coerced, and committed without consent. Acts of sexualized violence include unwanted sexual comments, unwanted touching or advances, sexual harassment, stalking, removal of or failure to use a condom during intercourse without consent, indecent exposure, voyeurism, cyber-sexual harassment, coercion of another person’s sexuality by physical or psychological intimidation, and/or denial of another person’s sexual decision-making rights.

Sexual Violence Response Team (SVRT)- group of individuals at the [Institution] who respond to reports made under the [Institution] Sexual Violence Policy and Procedures.

Sexual activity- Sexual activity includes, (but is not limited to), all sexual touch, “dirty talk”, sexting, kissing, making out, groping, fondling, masturbation, oral sex, penetrative sex, and BDSM (bondage, discipline, dominance and submission, and sadomasochism).

Survivor/victim- The term “survivor” was originally used to honour victims who experienced violence and survived, emphasizing strength and hope over despair. While some people find it an empowering alternative to “victim”, others do not use either because they feel that the language reduces their identity to what someone did to them. A person who has survived sexualized violence gets to choose what word, if any, they want to use to describe themselves as well as the sexualized violence.

Systemic oppression- refers to a series of barriers that disadvantage particular groups of people based on race, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, etc. Systemic oppression is often made invisible to those who don’t experience it. It is embedded in social norms and formal institutions such as the police, law, education, and health systems.

Transgender- “Transgender is an umbrella term for persons whose gender identity/ gender expression does not conform to that typically associated with the sex to which they were assigned at birth. There is no single, typical transgender experience. There is an endless variety of transgender bodies, transgender identities, and transgender experiences.” (Carmella Farahbakhsh, South House gender justice centre)

Trauma- “Trauma, by definition, is the result of exposure to an inescapably stressful event or events that overwhelm a person’s coping mechanism(s).” (Bessel A. van der Kolk M.D, Founder, Trauma Centre)

Trauma-informed- Trauma-informed support is about acknowledging trauma as a normal response to an overwhelming event, being aware of the prevalence and impacts of trauma, and understanding how trauma may lead to adaptive behaviours and behaviours that may be perceived as “challenging” or “difficult”.

Two-Spirit or Two-Spirited- “An umbrella term in English that (1) refers to the gender constructions and roles that occur historically in many Native gender systems that are outside of colonial gender binaries and (2) refers to contemporary Native people who are continuing and/or reclaiming these roles within their communities....Not all queer Native people identify as two-spirit or see their sexualities and genders as connected to two-spirit histories in their communities, just as many people who identify as two-spirit or with tribally specific terms do not identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or queer. Still others identify as both GLBTQ and two-spirit but see these identities as inhabiting different social and cultural spheres, and many people shift between labels and terms depending on their contexts.” (*Sovereign Erotics: A Collection of Two Spirit Literature*, Edited by Qwo-Li Driskill; Daniel Heath Justice; Deborah Miranda, and Lisa Tatonetti).

Victim- is often used to refer to a person who has been sexually assaulted, particularly in law enforcement where people are considered to be victims of a crime. The term signals that a person has been violated against their will by someone else. However, some people choose not to use “victim” because it can contribute to a sense of powerlessness and a feeling of being defined by an act of violence.