

# CONCEPTUALIZING GBSV AND CULTURE CHANGE IN A POST-SECONDARY ACADEMIC INSTITUTION

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## The Problem



Gender-Based and Sexual Violence is a persistent problem on university campuses and has existed for years. As people develop more awareness of cultures of misogyny and casual sexism, more universities are seeking ways to change the culture on their campuses.

## The Problem at Western



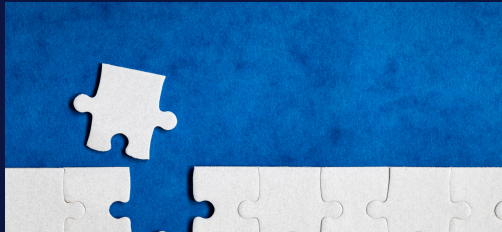
Western University in Ontario, Canada, has garnered a reputation for its party culture, where the prevalent mentality seems to be "work hard, party harder." Unfortunately, this stereotype has contributed to an environment where rape culture and GBSV issues are disturbingly prominent.

## Why Address It Now?



Addressing deeply ingrained misogyny and casual sexism requires a comprehensive effort. Universities must tackle broad societal issues perpetuating gender inequalities, aligning cultural practices with values of safety, respect, and inclusivity, as well as increase preventative measures to ensure no future harm.

## The Missing Piece



True cultural change cannot be achieved solely through these initiatives. To promote lasting positive change, the transformation must begin from the top-down. It requires alignment of beliefs and actions among leadership, staff, faculty, and students, with a shared commitment to an inclusive and safe campus environments for everyone.

## Key to Creating Change



1. Cultivating Leadership as Catalysts for Change
2. Empowering Staff and Faculty
3. Engaging Students and the community as Change Agents
4. Inclusive Policies and Practices
5. Ownership and Accountability

## What's Next



It is vital to prioritize top-down actions. Institutional leaders must actively engage through training and education, focus groups, and genuine listening to create an environment of trust and accountability.

# Works Cited

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