

## **INTERVENTION STRATEGY**

FOR PREVENTING AND COUNTERING  
**SEXUAL VIOLENCE** IN HIGHER EDUCATION

**SPEAKING UP AND TAKING ACTION  
TO ENSURE THAT VICTIMS  
ARE NO LONGER ALONE**

**VISION** Ensure that institutions of higher education are recognized as healthy, safe and proactive environments in the fight against sexual violence, and places where everyone can achieve their full potential.

**I. Awareness, prevention and knowledge development**

**CHALLENGE**

Awareness and education

**ORIENTATION**

Foster the emergence of a culture of respect and personal responsibility

1. Review the concepts and terms associated with sexual violence.
2. Support the development of awareness-raising tools with the help of institutions of higher education and their partners, and evaluate their effectiveness.
3. Support projects aimed at educating people on college and university campuses about sexual violence and the best practices for handling disclosures.
4. Support research on sexual violence in institutions of higher education.

**II. Handling of disclosures and complaints**

**CHALLENGE**

Effectiveness and efficiency in handling disclosures and complaints

**ORIENTATION**

Improve the handling of disclosures and complaints

1. Support the establishment of a “single-window” reception, guidance and referral service for victims of sexual violence in each institution of higher education.
2. Support the establishment of an advisory committee to examine any questions arising from the handling and/or follow-up of disclosures and administrative complaints.
3. Look at opportunities for improving online services.
4. Study opportunities to adopt a visual reference or universal symbol to identify intermediaries, safe spaces and specialized resources.

**III. Support**

**CHALLENGE**

Victim support

**ORIENTATION**

Provide rapid support for victims of sexual violence in order to limit the impact on their personal and school life

1. Support institutions of higher education in implementing academic accommodations for victims who disclose sexual violence.
2. Support institutions of higher education in facilitating access to existing psychosocial services or in setting up such services in collaboration with external sexual-violence resources, and ensure that they are adapted to cultural, sexual and gender diversity and the special needs of certain students, such as those with disabilities.

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**IV. Personal safety****CHALLENGE**

Personal physical and psychological integrity

**ORIENTATION**

Improve campus security and foster a sense of safety

1. Share best practices for ensuring the safety of people and the security of premises.
2. Consider funding to create safer campuses within the framework of the Plan québécois des infrastructures.
3. Identify safety measures that municipalities can take, and share them with municipal authorities.

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**V. Collaboration****CHALLENGE**

Shared vision of the problem of sexual violence

**ORIENTATION**

Promote coherence and collaboration in interventions by ministries, organizations and other partners

1. Adopt a declaration of commitment to counter sexual violence.
2. Make available tools and resources from public, parapublic, community and research organizations to victims of sexual violence in institutions of higher education, their families and friends, perpetrators and all other people on college and university campuses, and encourage their use.
3. Consult the various higher education stakeholders in implementing the intervention strategy.

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**VI. Framework****CHALLENGE**

Effective implementation of the intervention strategy

**ORIENTATION**

Ensure that the intervention strategy is monitored and implemented in a transparent manner

1. Support every institution of higher education in adopting a code of conduct and a policy to counter sexual violence for all staff and students.
  2. Encourage every institution of higher education to offer the services recommended in the intervention strategy.
  3. Encourage every institution of higher education to implement the measures set out in the intervention strategy.
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**ALL OF THESE MEASURES WILL BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE MINISTÈRE DE L'ÉDUCATION ET DE L'ENSEIGNEMENT SUPÉRIEUR IN COLLABORATION WITH INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND OTHER MINISTRIES OR ORGANIZATIONS, WHERE APPLICABLE.**

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