

# Community Readiness Model for Prevention of Sexual Violence on Campus in South Africa

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# Outline of presentation

- Defining Community Readiness
- Findings – pilot project with mixed group
  - - male only group
- Development of the Men With Conscience Intervention for primary prevention of sexual violence in university settings
- Establishing the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) at UCT
- Lessons learned
- Concluding comments



# Defining Community Readiness

- The integration of a “community’s culture, resources and level of readiness” to address a community’s issues effectively (Plested, Edwards & Jumper-Thurman, 2006:3).
- According to this model “readiness” refers to “the preparedness of a group to take action on an issue”, i.e. in this study, the level of readiness of participants to address sexual violence prevention in student residences (Plested, Edwards & Jumper-Thurman, 2006:3).
- Considering that each community is unique, this model makes provision for contextual differences, i.e. an intervention that meets the needs of that particular community.
- The Community Readiness Model is made up of **six dimensions** and **nine stages of readiness**.

# Six dimensions of community readiness

No.	Dimension	Definition
1.	Community efforts	To what extent are there efforts, programmes and policies that address the issue?
2.	Community knowledge of the efforts	To what extent do community members know about local efforts and their effectiveness, and are efforts accessible to all segments of the community?
3.	Leadership	To what extent are appointed leaders and influential community towards the issue? Is it one of helplessness or one of the responsibility and empowerment?
4.	Community climate	What is the prevailing attitude of the community towards the issue? Is it one of the helplessness or one of responsibility and empowerment?
5.	Community knowledge of the issues	To what extent do community members know about the causes of the problem, its consequences and how it affects the community?
6.	Resources related to the issue	To what extent are local resources – people, time, money, space, etc. – available to support efforts?

(Adapted from Plested, Edwards & Jumper-Thurman, 2006)

# Stages of Community Readiness

(Plested, Edwards & Jumper-Thurman, 2007)



# Main research project

1. Pilot study with mixed sex group – focus group discussion

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2. Male student leaders - pre-intervention FGD

- 5 workshops

- post-intervention FGD

- interviews 6 months after intervention

# Findings

- Mix group – stage 3: Vague awareness

# Findings

- Male only group – Men With Conscience Intervention



# Findings – male student leaders

- Young men started at stage 3: Vague awareness, but were hungry to learn more about sexual violence and wanted to share with others

*“Awareness should be created, e.g. posters, protests, plays and in the media”*

- Self-reflection helped them shift to the next stage each week

*“I was challenged to think critically”*

# Findings – male student leaders

- They reached a turning point when they realised the reality of rape, e.g.

*“I carried on until she stopped saying ‘no’! I am a rapist” - (posted on social media)*

- Realizing the complexity of sexual violence – shift towards next stage in the CRM

*“We need a space where our opinions and views matter and that we respect each other’s opinions even if it’s different to our own, coz the way I see it, sexual violence is not an easy thing to deal with”*

# Findings – male student leaders

- Taking ownership in prevention of sexual violence –  
Professionalization

*“Sexual violence is a seriously hectic subject, so we need to address it, whether we like it or not. Who would have thought that sexual violence is an issue that we would be discussing here on university campus? It just shows you that we need to pay attention and get involved”*

Gave the intervention a name – *“Men With Conscience”*

# Establishing the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) at UCT

- Events leading to development
- Level according to the Community Readiness Model
- Models of responding to sexual violence
- UCT's hybrid SART & its development
- Membership
- Achievements

# Questions & Answers

- Partnership and collaboration opportunities