The mission of the Office of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response is to provide leadership in creating a Harvard community free from sexual and interpersonal violence and harassment. We are committed to supporting and empowering survivors of violence. We believe in preventing violence through education, personal and collective accountability, and social change.

OSAPR provides information and support for student survivors of violence, their friends and partners, accompaniment for medical care at UHS / Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital (for medical evidence collection), referrals to community agencies and police if requested.

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Cover statistics issued by rainn.org and David Lisak, PhD
Who we are

Harvard Men Against Rape (HMAR) seeks to foster a fellowship of men dedicated to:

- exploring their personal relationship with a culture supportive of interpersonal violence,
- preventing the occurrence of interpersonal violence within the Harvard community,
- supporting the historical and ongoing resistances of women, men, and children to interpersonal victimization, and
- promoting the necessary presence of men in the international anti-interpersonal violence movement.

HMAR was recently revived to provide men with an outlet in a cause that many men care about but in which they do not always feel welcomed. It is a relatively young organization and your contributions can go a long way towards building Harvard’s effort to join a growing international effort of college men resisting campus cultures that tolerate interpersonal violence.

What we do

education:

We bring nationally recognized speakers, such as Byron Hurt (right) and Jackson Katz (below), to Harvard’s campus to educate the student body on issues of masculinity, sexism, and sexual violence.

support:

We partner with established programs and organizations involved in the fight against sexual and domestic violence, providing assistance such as collecting supplies for local women’s shelters.

advocacy:

As a part of the Office of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (OSAPR) Student Alliance, we act as liaisons between OSAPR and the student body. We provide a voice for student concerns regarding Harvard University’s sexual misconduct policies and outreach.

reflection:

We look critically at how our own behaviors and attitudes might contribute to a campus culture that tacitly supports sexism and violence, and challenge each other to pursue a full, healthy vision of masculinity.

Why should men care about sexual violence?

Men are victims too - We don’t like to think about it but sexual violence is perpetrated against men as well. Studies show that 10-20% of men are sexually assaulted in their lifetimes.

Sexual violence confines men - When some men rape, and when 80% of those who are raped know their attackers, it becomes difficult to distinguish men who are safe from those who are dangerous. The result is a society with its guard up, where relationships with men are approached with mistrust, and where all men are labeled “potential rapists.”

Men know survivors - Due to the high prevalence of sexual violence, all of us know survivors. Men should be prepared to respond with sensitivity and compassion should a friend, family member, or intimate partner disclose to them.

Men can stop sexual violence - Nearly all of sexual violence is perpetrated by men. These men are our friends and family members. We all have a role in challenging them and promoting a safer culture where men are free to break away from violent social norms.

How to get involved

If you are interested in joining, volunteering, or simply stopping by a meeting to see what HMAR is all about, contact Gordon Braxton (617-496-5630, gbraxton@fas.harvard.edu).