

# Sexual Assault and Relationship Violence Scenarios

## Scenario 1

Your roommate Allison has a serious boyfriend, and he frequently comes to visit. You've seen him walk her to class and help her do her laundry. At first you think this is sweet, and your other roommates comment about how Allison's boyfriend "worships" her. Over time you notice some changes in Allison's behavior. She seems jittery, she keeps her door closed all the time, and hasn't been hanging out on the hall, which isn't like her. You also noticed that she frequently doesn't answer her cell phone. You overheard Allison telling another student that she and her boyfriend broke up a few weeks ago, but you notice that he still frequently stops by the hall. One day, while walking out, you see Allison and her (ex-) boyfriend having a heated argument outside.

- What would you do in this situation?
- What factors would you want to consider?
- How would you approach Allison after the argument to check in?
- What are some resources you could direct her to?

## Scenario 2

You are coming back late from a party. You see one of your roommates, Chris, come in with another student who seems pretty drunk. Chris starts kissing the other student as he is opening his bedroom door. A few minutes later, you leave your room to go to the bathroom. You overhear Chris asking another roommate if he has any condoms. The other roommate does not. Chris then asks you if you have any condoms.

- How should you respond to Chris?
- How would you follow up with Chris?

## Scenario 3

One of your friends, Sam comes to you to talk about a fight he had with his significant other. Sam tells you that his partner shoved him against a wall. Sam says this is not the first time his partner has ever hurt him physically.

- How would you respond to Sam?
- What are some resources that you can offer Sam?

A week later, you check in with Sam. Sam tells you, "Everything is great! Don't worry about me."

- How would you follow up with Sam?

#### Scenario 4

You go out to dinner with a small group of friends. One of your friends, Casey is unusually quiet at dinner. You ask her if she is okay and she blurts out the following story: “When I was in Chemistry class today, the guy in front of me kept stretching his arms behind him and hit my knee a couple of times. Near the end of class, I noticed that he had a phone in his hand. I know this sounds crazy, but I think he was trying to take pictures up my skirt.”

One of your other friends says, “Are you kidding? Nobody would do that in class.” Another friend says, “He must have thought you were pretty hot to do that.” Casey then says, “Yeah, you’re right. I’m sure it was nothing.”

- How do you respond?
- How can you help Casey?
- How can you educate your friends?

#### Scenario 5

One of your friends comes to see you about a problem she’s having with a guy she met at a party a couple of weeks ago. She gave him her number and they talked via Facebook for a while. Now he’s constantly contacting her via text, IM, and even slipped notes under her door. What bothers her even more is that she sees him around campus all the time, at the gym, in DIGS, even when she went to go get ice cream with her friends on Dave Lyle. He also keeps “appearing” in buildings where she has her classes. She sent him a message the other day telling him that she is not interested, but this has not stopped his behavior.

- What are some things you’d say to this friend?
- What are some resources you might direct her to?

#### Scenario 6

In your class, you start talking about a sexual assault that happened on campus. Some of the comments made by other students include these: “Women make up stories about being raped all the time.” “The whole rape thing is completely overblown. Women cry rape when it’s just unwanted sex.”

- How could you respond effectively to these comments?

#### Scenario 7

Sally is at a party with several good friends. One of the guys in the group is Caleb. She has had a crush on him for about 4 months now. Everyone is having a great time at the party. Caleb and Sally are sitting on the couch chatting when he asks her to go upstairs so he can show her something. She eagerly follows, excited for the time to flirt. Once upstairs, he takes her in a room and closes the door behind them. After a brief chat on the bed, they begin to kiss. Internally, Sally is excited! However, it quickly leads to more. Caleb begins touching her in places she does not want. She tries to say no, but he continues. At the end of the night, Sally feels gross.

- When your friend, Sally, shares this story with you, how would you respond?
- What are some resources you might direct her to?

## Scenario 8

It has been a great night at the Charlotte Muse. You just finished seeing a local band play and finished uploading your pictures to facebook from the night. It's about 2am and you just finished brushing your teeth in the bathroom of Margaret Nance and are headed off to bed. As you walk down the hallway, you hear your next door neighbor, Abby, crying. She smells like alcohol. You crouch next to her to ask her if everything is ok. Abby says with tears, "I just woke up with someone in my bed and I don't remember much else. I think I may have had sex with someone."

- How could you respond effectively to these comments?
- What resources would you want to immediately refer Abby to?
- What other things may you want to consider in this situation?

*Resources taken from "Helping Advocate Violence Ending Now (HAVEN).  
Duke University & University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill. Updated 5.2010.*