

HOW TO HELP INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS & FACULTY NAVIGATE SEXUAL HARASSMENT

ADRIENNE MATHIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
TITLE IX SOLUTIONS, LLC

OVERCOMING
OBSTACLES

FIVE BARRIERS TO REPORTING

Barrier

01

Lack of Support Network

Without a network of friends and family, individuals are more vulnerable to sexual harassment and may not know when or how to report an incident.



Barrier

02

Fear of Consequences

A variety of fears such as being sent back to their home country, family members finding out, being blamed for the incident, feelings of disappointment and shame, and potential long-term repercussions stifle reporting.

Barrier

04

Unknown Processes

Students may not know about Title IX or how to report an incident to law enforcement. With such unknowns comes a fear of deportation, loss of visa, or punishment for reporting sexual harassment.

Barrier

03

Cultural Differences

Newcomers to American culture may find it difficult to set boundaries, communicate clearly, and read social cues effectively. What does flirting look like here anyway?

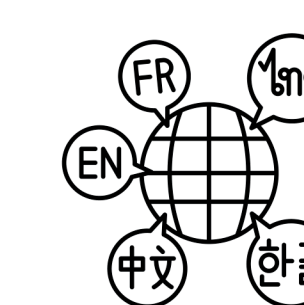
Barrier

05

Financial Implications

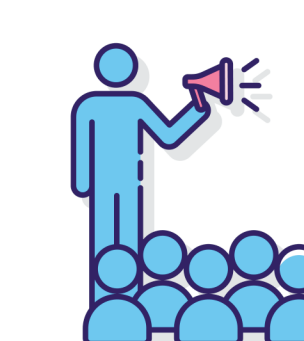
Will reporting an incident disrupt educational or employment opportunities in the U.S.? Will scholarships or visas be at risk? What if I can't afford an attorney?

COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE TITLE IX OFFICE



Creation of Transparent, Accessible and Culturally Sensitive Title IX Policies, Procedures and Notices

Can you imagine participating in a complaint process in your non-native language? Translated policies and interpreters can improve the efficacy of the process.



Detailed and Ongoing Orientation for International Students, Scholars, and Family Members

Regularly educate and remind international students and scholars of their rights under Title IX, university reporting protocols, confidentiality requirements, and processes for involving law enforcement.



Education about Visas, Supportive Measures, and Local Resources

Visa, employment, and financial reassurances, if possible, can help a victim decide if they want to report an incident.



Training for Faculty Members on Reporting and Processes

Faculty members working with international students and scholars are often the first to hear about an incident. They can provide critical guidance to victims.



Scheduled Events for International Students and Scholars to Build Support Networks

A community of peers and trusted colleagues can help international students and scholars share their experiences, clarify cultural norms, and encourage reporting if an incident occurs.

