## A Resource for Faculty & Staff:



Best Practice Tips for Compassionate Conversations about Sexual Misconduct



# **SELF-AWARENESS**

- The more self-awareness we have, the more we can navigate difficult conversations and express empathy for others
- Recognizing and having insight about our biases and reactions is key to having open, compassionate and productive dialogues with others
- If you feel emotional, take a moment to breathe before responding to others, or making specific decisions

# LISTEN

- Make eye contact and take the time to truly listen, without judgement. This allows the student space to process their feelings
- Let the student know you do not subscribe to any of the common myths about sexual assault
- This is not the time to share your own experiences; it is about being present for the student
- Understand that the student may have several feelings, and some of them may be in conflict with other feelings. Let the student know this is normal





# CONFIDENTIALITY

- If a student approaches you to have a confidential conversation, gently remind the student about your role in reporting sexual misconduct on campus **before** they divulge anything personal
- If the student wants the conversation to remain confidential, offer to accompany them to the RSVP office, or to Student Counseling Services
- Don't pressure the student. Give them the information, and trust that s/he/they are capable of making their own decisions

## **Private vs. Confidential Campus Resources**

### **PRIVATE:**

Information will generally be shared only with those University employees who need to know the information in order to review, investigate, or resolve the report.

#### Office of Equity and Diversity/ Title IX Office USC Credit Union Building 3720 S Flower St., 2nd Floor Los Angeles, CA 90089-0704 213-740-5086 titleix@usc.edu



Information shared will not be disclosed without the individual's permission or as required by law.

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) 213-740-4900 usc.edu/rsvp

Student Counseling Services 213-740-7711 usc.edu/counseling

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