

Frequently Asked Questions

Why was the UNC Gender Based Violence Prevention Advisory Group (GBV AG) formed?

The UNC Gender-Based Violence Prevention Advisory Group was convened by Vice Chancellor Becci Menghini and Interim Vice Chancellor Jonathan Sauls in June 2020. The advisory group's first charge is to review the existing [Prevention Task Force report and recommendations](#) and 1) determine if any data or other information needs to be updated or supplemented for the report to reflect current climate; 2) review the recommendations and determine whether they are all still relevant to our current campus needs and in line with national research-based best practices; and 3) develop an implementation plan that reflects which recommendations have already been implemented, which can be implemented immediately, and which ones require a long-term strategy. The group may amend or add to the recommendations based on updated information and the implementation plan should develop priorities based on need, effectiveness, feasibility, and budgetary considerations.

For the long term, the group will serve as a standing committee that will establish goals and desired outcomes for prevention and monitor progress in order to establish a centralized framework with decentralized service delivery. The group will communicate regularly with other working groups and committees on campus to maximize efficiencies. The group will periodically update the inventory and make available a summary of all initiatives related to violence prevention, and regularly review emerging best practices and assess their applicability to UNC-Chapel Hill. The group will periodically revisit prevention philosophy, create a report on the progress made, and solicit feedback from the community. This group will initially report to the Vice Chancellors for Student Affairs and Human Resources/Equal Opportunity and Compliance and will later transition to the Strategic Prevention Strategy Officer upon their recruitment. Members will be a combination of people who are implementing prevention work directly, those who have expertise in violence prevention, and community stakeholders.

Which university administrators were involved in the creation of the GBV AG, and what is the group's connection to university administrators? Do university administrators attend meetings?

The group was convened by Vice Chancellor Becci Menghini and Associate Vice Chancellor Jonathan Sauls. The chair of the group meets regularly with these two administrators, Vice Chancellor Amy Johnson, and Executive Director of Strategy, Policy, and Special Projects Katie Nolan. These leaders will meet with the group after they submit their report and draft plan and at regular intervals thereafter.

How were members of the group selected?

The group was formed based on nominations from a pre-coalition group of students, faculty, and staff. The goal of group membership was to convene experts and those actively engaged in prevention work. There is a need for multiple spaces at UNC to discuss gender-based violence

prevention, intervention, and policy, and we are providing suggestions for additional spaces in our report as well.

Can I attend group meetings?

Sure! Our meetings are subject to open meetings law. A list of our meeting dates/times is available on this website as well as on the university open meeting calendars. Contact LB Klein at lbklein@unc.edu for the log-in information.

How was the GBV AG's Violence Prevention Philosophy informed by the findings of previous campus climate surveys and other data sources around gender-based violence and harassment?

The advisory group first task was to review the previous [Recommendations Report from the Violence Prevention Task Force](#) from 2017. Our group has intentionally reviewed and discussed related reports (e.g., Mental Health Task Force Report, Campus Safety Commission Report) and is amplifying relevant recommendations. The group is also making data-driven decisions based on the American Association of Universities data as well as other UNC and national data sources.

How have the group's goals for the 2020-21 academic year shifted in light of COVID-19 and the virtual learning environment?

Due to COVID-19 and virtual learning, our group has met exclusively via Zoom and has focused on developing a malleable plan that will be bolstered by student engagement and feedback opportunities. The group is also considering how technology can be leveraged to enhance prevention. The group has also advocated for guidelines specifically related to COVID-19. See [here](#) for the answer to the question “Will I get in trouble for going against the University’s COVID-19 Community Standards at or near the time of an incident if I make a report to the university?”

What is the group’s timeline?

The group is currently working on addressing the first part of our charge which entails: 1) determine if any data or other information needs to be updated or supplemented for the report to reflect current climate; 2) review the recommendations and determine whether they are all still relevant to our current campus needs and in line with national research-based best practices; and 3) develop an implementation plan that reflects which recommendations have already been implemented, which can be implemented immediately, and which ones require a long-term strategy. We plan to share our report with leadership by the end of 2020. Then, the advisory group will continue on to support the Strategic Prevention Strategy Officer and to advise administration. We will suggest time intervals and communication strategies in their report.

How is the GBV AG recognizing and working to address the disproportionate impact that gender-based violence has on specific community groups (such as those who are LGBTQIA2S; Black, Indigenous, and/or People of Color, and/or are people with disabilities?)

Our guiding philosophy delineates that “Prevention should seek to change the underlying conditions and structures that enable violence, including systems of oppression.” We are also using an adapted version of the STOP SV framework from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that includes a focus on opportunities to empower and support people at higher risk of experiencing violence such as women, LGTBQIA2S people, Black and Indigenous people, People of Color, and people with disabilities. An intersectional, anti-oppression approach is essential to ending gender-based violence at UNC and in society.