



Legislative Council – January 25th, 2017

Motion to Endorse the SSMU Survivor Bill of Rights

Whereas, the SSMU has committed to addressing sexual violence within its context;

Whereas, there has been a large call for the accountability of the various bodies of the SSMU;

Whereas, the Gendered and Sexualized Violence Policy Project team has prepared a SSMU Survivor Bill of Rights;

Whereas, approval or endorsement of this bill would hold Legislative Council and individual councillors accountable to advocating for the rights enclosed in this bill within their associations and larger student and McGill communities;

Be it Resolved, that the Legislative Council endorse the SSMU Survivor Bill of Rights as outlined below.

Moved by,

Connor Spencer, Vice President (External Affairs)

Jennifer Chan, Arts Representative

Vivian Campbell, Engineering Representative

Maya Koparkar, Vice President (Internal Affairs)

Survivor Bill of Rights

In the immediate aftermath of an instance of sexual violence, survivors have the right to:

1. *Protection and Care:*
 - Access immediate protection and care (including but not limited to medical care, police intervention, and crisis support) in a timely manner and as they see fit;
2. *Compassion and Validation:*
 - Be shown compassion and validation if and when they seek these forms of immediate protection and care;
3. *Provided Information on Options:*
 - Have information on short- and long-term options, as well as the various resources in their community which are available to them, made easily accessible and in timely manner;
4. *Non-Judgemental and Non-Directional Support*



- Be given non-judgemental and non-directional support which ultimately allows for agency in decision-making.

During the process of disclosure, survivors have the right to:

5. *Sensitivity and Discretion with Disclosures*

- Utilize avenues for communication which account for their particular accessibility needs and barriers, and be given the option to not have to repeat a disclosure should they seek further recourse;

6. *Control Over Their Disclosure*

- Choose which individuals they are willing to disclose to, particularly if they are not comfortable discussing experiences of sexual violence with authorities such as police, medical professionals, or individuals with whom they have a personal relationship.
- Be selective about how much information they wish to disclose and reject further questioning about certain topics at their discretion, including information about prior sexual experiences, details of an instance of sexual violence, or specificities of their lived experience and identity;

7. *Accompaniment*

- Accompaniment by a friend, family member, or any advocate as they see fit;

8. *Awareness of support, accommodation and discipline options*

- Be made aware of all potential avenues for support, accommodation, and discipline which are available given the context and situation;

9. *Agency*

- Exercise agency in choosing the forms of recourse which they consider appropriate, without directional counsel or judgement from administrators and support workers;

In seeking accommodations within their communities and institutions, survivors have the right:

10. *Safety and Security*

- To feel safe and secure in their academic, professional, residential and community spaces;

11. *Campus Accommodations*

- To transfer into a different class, workplace, or professional environment, or to request that their perpetrators be removed from those environments in order to maintain said safety and security;

12. *Academic Accommodations*

- To take time off from professional or academic obligations without penalty in the event that it is necessary for them to do so;

13. *Financial Accommodations and Support*

- To request professional, academic, and financial support in the event that it is necessary for them to do so;

14. *Accessibility of Accommodations*



- To receive any requested accommodations in a timely manner.

In navigating avenues for recourse and discipline, survivors have the right:

15. Agency and Control Over Next Steps

- To choose whether disciplinary and punitive solutions are desirable, and to utilize these measures in various institutional contexts simultaneously;

16. Non-Judgemental Options

- To pursue disciplinary and punitive solutions without being subject to judgement;

17. Protection from Face-to-Face Encounters

- To opt out of any situation in which they would need to negotiate solutions or advocate for themselves in the presence of their perpetrator;

18. Interim Measures

- To be granted temporary accommodations for the duration of a disciplinary procedure;

19. Freedom from Gag Orders

- To be able to openly discuss their experiences outside of these avenues for recourse and seek support that may be necessary at this time.

In seeking support, survivors have the right:

20. Accessibility, Compassion and Non-Judgemental Care

- To easily accessible, compassionate, and non-judgemental care which validates their experiences of sexual violence;

21. Intersectional Sexual Violence Support and Resources

- To services which account for the specific causes and qualities of sexual violence towards persons who face marginalization (including women, trans and gender nonconforming individuals, queer individuals, people of colour, disabled individuals, migrants, and lower- and working-class persons);

22. Confidentiality and Anonymity

- To complete guaranteed confidentiality and anonymity.