



**Supporting
International and
Immigrant Students
After Sexual Assault:
Navigating Protections,
Barriers, and Culturally
Responsive Campus Care**

Tuesday, June 16, 2026
10-11:30 am PDT

VALORUS 

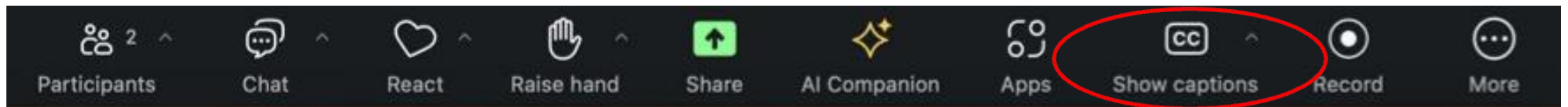
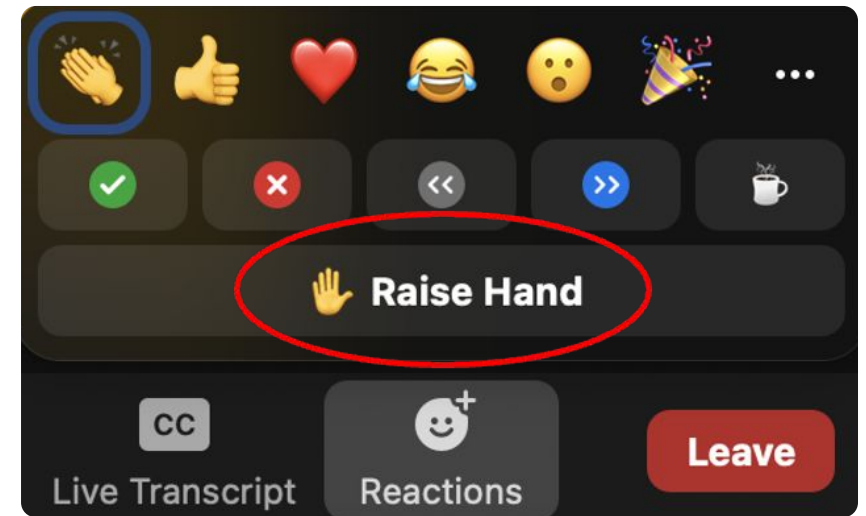
Hosts



Priscilla Klassen
she/her
Project Coordinator,
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Accessibility

- English Closed Captions can be accessed by selecting the “Show Captions” button
- Use the raise hand feature or chat function to ask questions throughout the web conference
- Message conference facilitator, Priscilla Klassen, for technical support



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Statewide Conference
August 26-27, 2026

Rooted and Reimagined



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Advancing Equity. Ending Sexual Violence.®



Working With Interpreters:
Supporting Multilingual and Deaf Survivors
of Sexual Assault in Campus Settings

Thursday, June 25, 2026 | 10-11:30 am PDT

**Neurodiversity, Trauma, and
Campus Response:** Supporting Student
Survivors of Sexual Assault

Tuesday, June 30, 2026 | 10-11:30 am PDT

Campus Summer Series



**Supporting
International and
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Tuesday, June 16, 2026
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Learning Objectives

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- Recognize key barriers and systemic gaps that international and immigrant student survivors face
- Identify barrier reduction and relevant legal frameworks applicable in campus and community settings
- Adapt campus and community-based services and outreach strategies
- Explore legal protections & resources specific to international and immigrant survivors

Presenters



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OVW Disclaimer:

This project was supported by Grant No. 15JOVW-23-GK-05124-MUMU awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this program are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice.



Potential Barriers for International and Immigrant Student Survivors

Potential Barriers for International and Immigrant Student Survivors

- Confusion about reporting options and processes:
 - Reporting to law enforcement
 - Reporting to the College
 - Reporting to confidential supports

Potential Barriers for International and Immigrant Student Survivors

- Cultural differences around sex, dating, boundaries and behaviors
 - Variations in norms
 - Influence of social media
 - Family expectations
 - Fear of negative repercussions of reporting

Potential Barriers for International and Immigrant Student Survivors

- Access to support networks
 - Proximity of family or friends
 - Culturally responsive services

Potential Barriers for International and Immigrant Student Survivors

- Financial and Academic pressures
 - Scholarships
 - Leaves of absence
 - Access to legal services

Potential Barriers for International and Immigrant Student Survivors

- Fear:
 - Impact on visa status
 - Retaliation
 - Uncertainty of legal protections

What International & Immigrant Students Often Fear

- Students may fear:
 - “Will I lose my visa?”
 - “Will my parents be notified?”
 - “Will reporting affect my future?”
 - “Will campus staff contact immigration?”
 - “What if my abuser is also an international student?”
 - “What if I don’t understand the process?”

Common Myths That Prevent Student Survivors From Seeking Help

■ Myth

- Reporting assault automatically affects immigration status
- International students cannot access the same student services
- A student must report to the police to get support
- Students should bring their own interpreter

■ Fact

- Campus reports do NOT involve immigration authorities
- Survivors can usually access confidential and supportive services regardless of status
- Supportive services can often be accessed without a police report
- Free confidential interpreters are available to support

Audience Question
Please answer in the text chat

Are there other barriers
that you have noticed?

Reducing Barriers on Campus

How to reduce barriers:

- Allow for informed decision making
- Be as transparent as possible about where information will go

Relevant Laws Related to Record Protection

- VAWA, VOCA
- HIPAA
- FERPA
- Title IX
- Jeanne Clery Act
- Code of Ethics
(attorneys, social workers)
- Confidentiality Statutes and Case Law

Title IX:

- Information and records remain private but not confidential
- Most Title IX Coordinators are Campus Security Authorities (CSAs) under the Clery Act
- No requirement of a formal complaint to receive supportive measures

“No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”

[Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972](#)

How to reduce barriers:

- Create educational materials to address the unique barriers
 - Develop FAQs
 - Publish information in multiple locations

How to reduce barriers:

- Translate educational prevention materials, reporting resources documents, flow charts, infographics, not just policies

Outreach and Relationship Building

Build key relationships:

- Who are these students most likely to disclose to?
- Cross train those folks frequently!
- Allow them to ask “hypothetical” questions

Build key relationships:

- Title IX, International Student Centers, cultural centers that serve specific populations, law enforcement, victim services, advocates, faculty who teach on specific topics
- Make those partnerships visible

Audience Question
Please answer in the text chat

What else has helped
you reduce barriers on
campus?

Audience Question

Please answer in the text chat

An F-1 (student visa) graduate student experiences sexual assault by another student in her research department and work study program. She no longer feels safe going to her work study assignment.

She fears reporting because her funding and housing are connected to the university. She is worried her family abroad will find out and is unsure whether speaking to Title IX could affect her visa.

What could help to make the survivor feel safer?

What Can Help the Survivor Feel Safer

- Clear explanations of confidentiality
- Transparent reporting processes
- Language access
- Survivor choice and autonomy
- Warm referrals
- Collaboration between campus/community advocates
- Culturally responsive support
- Consistent follow-up

Legal Protections and Resources

Key Legal Protections

- Title IX
- Clery Act
- FERPA
- VAWA confidentiality protections
- State confidentiality laws
- Crime victim rights protections
- VAWA immigration protections

Immigration Relief Available to Student Survivors

Protections

- U visa

- VAWA

- T visa

- SIJS

Who will it help

- Survivors who report and are helpful to detection and/or investigation

- Survivors abused by USC/LPR spouse or step/parent

- Human Trafficking

- Some youth survivors

Key points

- provide work authorization

- provide work authorization

- labor and/or sex traf

- state court findings required

Important Campus Messaging

Campus staff should avoid:

- Making assumptions about immigration status
- Promising outcomes they cannot guarantee
- Asking unnecessary questions
- Using family/friends as interpreters
- Pressuring survivors to report or not report

Important Campus Messaging

Campus staff should:

- Respect student autonomy
- Explain the options
- Normalize trauma/help seeking
- Connect students with trusted advocates/programs

Additional Resources

- Title IX office
- Local Rape Crisis Center
 - valor.us/get-help
- Immigration Orgs
 - ilrc.org/community-resources
 - immigrationadvocates.org/legaldirectory
 - chirla.org

Thank you for joining us!

QUESTIONS?



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VRCL's TA Services :

- Expert Advice
- Case consultation
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