

**Volunteer Application
Break the Silence
Sexual Violence Hotline & Peer Education**

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in becoming a member of Break the Silence. Break the Silence currently provides students the opportunity to volunteer as a Sexual Violence Peer Hotline volunteer and as a peer educator. **All volunteers must complete 30 hours of mandatory training and attend a weekly meeting.**

This written application is the first of two steps in the selection process. The Women's Center Assistant Director will review your application. All information provided on the application will be kept confidential. **Please submit this application by Friday, October 30th at 5:00pm.**

If your written application is accepted, you will be contacted to schedule an interview with the Assistant Director and current members of Break the Silence. If you are selected as a new member of Break the Silence, you will receive notification. At that time, you will be invited to attend training during the Spring 2010 semester. **You must attend the entire 30 hours of training to be accepted as a volunteer for Break the Silence. You will be notified with training dates and times.**

Again, thank you for your interest in Break the Silence, and if you have any further questions, please contact Michelle Issadore at 758-5808 or mii206@lehigh.edu. **Please keep this letter for your records.**

Sincerely,

Michelle Issadore
Assistant Director
Lehigh University Women's Center

Break the Silence Hotline Volunteer Description

The Break the Silence hotline provides a confidential and anonymous referral service for students who have experienced sexual violence, as well as for students who know someone who has experienced sexual violence. Student volunteers will monitor the hotline 24 hours a day, seven days a week during the fall and spring semesters. Individuals calling the hotline will remain anonymous and student volunteers will keep all information shared by the individual confidential. Calls are directed to a cell phone carried by an on-call volunteer. Volunteers are responsible for providing callers with options, and connecting them with the appropriate resources. Volunteers may not set up meetings with callers. The hotline is not a counseling service.

Break the Silence hotline volunteers must be:

- current undergraduate or graduate students enrolled at Lehigh University;
- in good standing with Lehigh University and may not be on academic or disciplinary probation;
- able to complete 30 hours of mandatory training;
- able to attend all scheduled meetings and in-services (approximately 1-2 hours per week);
- on-call approximately 2-3 weeks per semester with two other members
-must be available for and in contact with other members on call

While on-call, volunteers may not:

- drink alcohol or use recreational drugs;
- travel more than 30 minutes away from Bethlehem; or
- attend parties or enter any environment that
 - does not allow them to hear the phone clearly;
 - causes the phone to lose service; or
 - does not allow for the option to have a confidential conversation.

Members who have three unexcused absences from meetings in a given semester will be required to meet with the Assistant Director to determine their future involvement in Break the Silence.

III. PERSONAL INFORMATION

1. Are you interested in volunteering for the Sexual Violence Hotline (required)? Yes No
 2. Are you interested in presenting sexual violence programs to Lehigh students? Yes No
 3. List other time commitments you presently have in addition to your academics (i.e. work, group meetings/organizations, volunteer activities).
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NOTE: All members volunteer on the sexual violence peer hotline for a week at a time, approximately three times per semester. Members' availability is factored into the on-call schedule and meeting schedule. Members carry a Break the Silence-provided cell phone.

IV. CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

As a reminder, only the Assistant Director will review your application and all information provided will be kept confidential.

✘ PLEASE TYPE YOUR ANSWERS TO THE NEXT 10 QUESTIONS AND ATTACH IT TO YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION. ✘

1. Please indicate your reasons for wanting to be a member of Break the Silence.
2. Indicate what you hope to contribute and gain by volunteering as a member of Break the Silence.
3. What strengths would you bring to Break the Silence?
4. Break the Silence members work with the following issues: sexual assault or coerced sex, relationship abuse, stalking, harassment, and molestation.

If you have experienced any of these situations, please describe and explain how you feel your experience will help you or someone calling/coming to Break the Silence.
6. What is your opinion about professional counseling?
7. You may be asked to provide callers with information about resources you may personally disagree with, such as abortion resources. How would you handle these situations?
8. Describe how you develop and maintain support systems.

9. How do you define Lehigh campus culture or climate?
10. Describe how you manage stressful situations.

V. SIGNATURE

1. By signing below, I confirm that the information provided on this application is truthful to the best of my knowledge. Additionally, I agree to a release of my personal information for academic and disciplinary background-check purposes. Lastly, note that we use Facebook as a learning tool and your photographs, group memberships, and general profile content are also subject to meeting acceptable standards.

(Print Name)

(Signature)

(Date)

VI. CLOSING REMINDERS

1. Put your completed application in an envelope marked "confidential" and return it to the Women's Center, or email it to mii206@lehigh.edu.
2. Upon review of your application, you will be contacted to set up a time for an interview. If selected, you must attend both weekend sessions of the 30-hour training. No exceptions will be made. The dates of the two weekends will be given to you at the time of your interview.
3. All members are required to attend weekly meetings. Members who fail to meet this requirement will be asked to take a semester or more off from the group.
4. Remember to keep a copy of this application for future reference.