

**Volunteer Application
Break the Silence
Gender Violence Prevention Peer Educators**



Break The Silence
Gender Violence Prevention
Peer Educators

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in becoming a member of Break the Silence. Break the Silence currently provides students in good standing the opportunity to volunteer as a Gender Violence Prevention Peer Educator and Peer Hotline volunteer. **All volunteers must complete 40 hours of mandatory training, attend a 90 minute weekly group meeting, attend an individual meeting with the Assistant Director each semester, attend the Women's Center retreat each semester, and be able to commit to 3 semesters of service.**

This written application is the first of two steps in the selection process. The Women's Center Assistant Director and current Break the Silence members will review your application. All information provided on the application will be kept confidential. **Please submit this application by September 30.**

Please note that interviews will only be granted to those who take the time to complete thoughtful, well-written applications. 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 and be invited to attend training. **You must attend the entire 40 hours of training to be accepted as a volunteer for Break the Silence. Please see the attached training schedule for dates and times.**

Again, thank you for your interest in Break the Silence, and if you have any further questions, please contact me at 758-5808 or bed4@lehigh.edu. **Please keep this letter for your records.**

Sincerely,

Brooke DeSipio
Assistant Director
Lehigh University Women's Center

Break the Silence Training Schedule

30 hours of gender violence prevention training will occur:

Tuesday, October 22 4-7 pm

Tuesday, October 29 4-7 pm

Tuesday, November 5 4-7 pm

Friday, November 8 4-7 pm

Saturday, November 9 9am-5pm

Tuesday, November 12 4-7 pm

Friday, November 15 4-7 pm

Saturday, November 16 8:30am-12:30pm

An additional 10 hours of peer educator training will occur in the spring 2013 semester:

Saturday, January 18 and Sunday, January 19

Women's Center fall and spring retreat TBA

Break the Silence Hotline Volunteer Description

The Break the Silence hotline provides a referral service for students who have experienced gender violence, as well as for students who know someone who has experienced gender violence. Student volunteers will monitor the hotline Thursday through Monday 5:00 pm to 9:00 am each day 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, unless there is a threat to campus safety.

Calls are directed to a cell phone carried by an on-call volunteer. Volunteers are on-call approximately 8 days per semester with one other member and must be available for contact with other member on call. 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.

While on-call, volunteers may not:

- drink alcohol or use recreational drugs;
- 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.

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I. PERSONAL DATA

1. Name: _____
(Last) (First) (Middle Initial)
2. Gender identity: _____
3. Local Address: _____
4. Hometown: _____
5. Telephone Numbers: (_____) _____ (_____) _____
(Cell) (Alternate phone)
6. Email Address: _____
7. What is the best way to contact you? _____

II. EDUCATION

1. Current semester in school: _____
2. Semester & year you expect to graduate: _____
3. Overall GPA: _____
4. Major: _____ Minor: _____ / Graduate Program: _____

5. List other time commitments you presently have in addition to your academics (e.g. work, groups, organizations, volunteer activities, sports:

IV. CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

As a reminder, only the Assistant Director and members of Break the Silence 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. How did you learn about Break the Silence?
2. Please indicate your reasons for wanting to be a member of Break the Silence.
3. How does joining Break the Silence connect to your Lehigh “Blueprint”?
4. Do you have any previous experience that is related to gender violence and the work Break the Silence does? If so please explain.
5. What do you hope to contribute to Break the Silence and what do you hope to gain from being a member of Break the Silence?
6. Are there any aspects of being a member of Break the Silence that might be challenging for you? If so, please explain.
7. In your opinion, what are the main gender violence issues at Lehigh and in the community?
8. What events, programs or projects are you interested in working on as a member of Break the Silence?
9. As a member of Break the Silence you may be asked to provide hotline callers with information about resources you may personally disagree with, such as abortion resources. How would you handle these situations?
10. Describe your “self-care” strategies (e. g. how you manage stress, what you do to take care of yourself in an upsetting situation, etc.)
11. Any additional comments or information you would like to provide

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 bed4@lehigh.edu.
2. Upon review of your application, you will be contacted to set up a time for an interview.
3. If selected, you must complete the 40 hours of training.
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.