Take Back the Night Information and Interest Form

Thank you for your interest in speaking at Take Back the Night! We’ve provided some details below about the night and the process, but please don’t hesitate to reach out with questions or to schedule an informational meeting. If you are interested, please fill out the brief interest form and send it to Megan O’Hara, Violence Prevention and Intervention Coordinator, at m.ohara@northeastern.edu by March 19th. Thanks for considering.

What’s the purpose of Take Back the Night?
The purpose of the Take Back the Night event is to help raise awareness about the issue of sexual assault, to instill hope and to support healing for survivors, and to stand/walk together for social change.

The focal point of the evening is when student survivors are invited to tell their stories.

What will happen that night?
The night will consist of two parts. The first part of the night will be held in the Indoor Quad in the Curry Student Center. This will be a structured program that features the stories of survivors.

Afterwards, students will be invited to walk together in a loop around campus as an act of solidarity. We will close the program gathered around Centennial Quad.

Who will be invited?
All are welcome at the event. We hope that Northeastern undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and staff will all be represented. We will specifically encourage student organizations or residence halls to attend in support of survivors in our community.

Who are we looking for in our speakers?
We are looking for 3-5 members of the Northeastern community who have been affected by sexual or intimate partner violence and who are interested in speaking about that experience.

Each speaker will be invited to speak for approximately 5-10 minutes. You will have the opportunity to share a piece of your story and/or to offer a message to the survivors and allies gathered in the space. You are welcome to share your story in a form (poetry, song etc.) that feels good to you.

We recognize that it takes a lot of courage to do this and we want to make sure you’re not alone in it. An OPEN (Office of Prevention and Education) staff member will reach out to provide support, answer questions, and to assist you in preparing for the event as needed.
What if I fill out the interest form or start to work on my talk and then want to drop out? If at any point (even that day!) this does not feel like the right thing for you, you do not need to do it.

How do I know if it’s the right time for me to speak? We believe that you are the best judge of what’s right for you. Perhaps consider:
- How safe do you feel, if at all?
- What would it look like to be emotionally ready to do this?
- How do you imagine participating will affect you?
- What coping strategies or supports do you have in place?
- What message do you want to convey to other survivors who will be in the crowd? What would you have wanted to know?
- What would you want to say to others who will be there that night?

What’s the commitment?
- Attend and speak at Take Back the Night on April 19th at 6:30pm
- Write down your story ahead of time
- Meet with an OPEN staff member to talk about the event and your story
- If desired, meet with other Take Back the Night speakers ahead of time

Is this confidential? Yes. You may have heard that all faculty and staff (except UHCS and spiritual advisors) have an obligation to report all cases of sexual assault or intimate partner violence of which they are made aware. This is normally true. However, there is an exception for events like Take Back the Night. You and the OPEN staff member will work in confidence. The same is true for the evening of Take Back the Night itself. That said, if you want resources or to make a report, we will help to support you in that process.
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What are some of the identities you hold that feel important to share? (gender, race, religion, sexuality, class year, major, areas of interest etc.)

What are some of the main points that you hope to convey to others by speaking?

What concerns do you have about sharing your story?

In what setting and at what point in your life did the violence occur?

Is there anything else you’d like for us to know about you or your story?

Do you have any accommodation needs to be able to fully participate in the event? (ie: interpreters, large print materials, wheel chair accessible space, etc).

Please fill out as much as you feel comfortable and return by March 19th to Megan O’Hara, Violence Prevention and Intervention Coordinator, at m.ohara@northeastern.edu. If you prefer to speak in person, please email to set up a time. Once your interest form is received, you will be contacted about next steps. Thank you for your interest in speaking at this event.