



ending gender based violence @ UVic: Prevention. Support. Action

## **VOLUNTEERING WITH THE ANTI-VIOLENCE PROJECT**

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with the Anti-Violence Project (AVP)! Below is a brief explanation of our organization, volunteer training and commitments, as well as the volunteer application form. This training is open to people of all genders, backgrounds and abilities who are students, staff and/or community members. Once you've read the following information and decided that you're interested in joining us for the 2019/20 school year, please fill out the application form below, and submit it. You can print the PDF and write in your responses, or complete the digital fillable PDF version. Either way, please drop it off at our office: Student Union Building Room B027 or email it to [volunteer@antiviolenceproject.org](mailto:volunteer@antiviolenceproject.org) by **April 22, 2019** at 12pm.

### **About the Anti-Violence Project**

The Anti-Violence Project provides sex-positive, anti-oppressive services that prevent and act against gender-based and sexualized violence. Our services are open to people of all genders whether you're a UVic student, alumni, staff, faculty, or a community member. We provide confidential peer support services to people who have been impacted by gender-based and/or sexualized violence by: directly experiencing it, through causing harm to someone else, or supporting or knowing someone who has experienced it. We provide resources and information through our support hours, free workshops, lending library, free zines and free safer sex supplies. Our education and advocacy initiatives on campus and in the community include collaborative events and campaigns to raise awareness about gender-based violence. Browse our website for more info: <http://www.antiviolenceproject.org/>

### **Who can apply?**

We encourage people of all genders, backgrounds, and abilities to apply. Our volunteer training is open to all community members; you do not have to be a UVic student to apply.

### **Benefits of Volunteering**

- Gain and utilize knowledge, analysis, and awareness of gender-based and sexualized violence and the forms it takes
- Gain skills to support and empower survivors and allies
- Join a team of people committed to creating change on personal, community, institutional, and systemic levels and form lasting friendships
- Learn about and utilize anti-oppressive and decolonizing practice in relation to anti-violence work
- Experience personal development and growth
- Receive approx. 35 hours of training on topics including support, violence prevention, and sex-positive education skills

- Participate in ongoing training sessions throughout the year
- Volunteer appreciation events
- A written reference on request
- Opportunities to be involved in campus life and community events as representatives of the Anti-Violence Project
- UVic students can receive a co-curricular credit for completing the training

## **Volunteer Requirements**

- Available approximately 35 hours in May/June for volunteer training (all dates on next page)
- Commit to volunteering an average of 1-3 hours/week from September 2019 to April 2020
- Have an open and respectful attitude
- Have a curiosity or awareness of intersectional feminism and anti-oppressive practices
- Have willingness for self-reflection and accountability
- Have willingness to unlearn oppressive behaviours and challenge own assumptions
- Have good interpersonal skills and/or willingness to receive feedback
- Be comfortable working in a group setting
- Have supports available in your life, as volunteering can be challenging
- Be comfortable working with diverse populations (people of all genders and sexual orientations, people from various cultural backgrounds)
- Respect people's rights regarding contraceptive choice and reproductive freedom
- Review our "scent free" policy and be scent-free during training and while volunteering

## **Volunteer Training – An Overview**

After reviewing applications we may interview/have follow up questions for short-listed applicants as we only have 20 training spots available. We then invite successful candidates to attend our extensive and informative volunteer training (approx. 35 hours). Our volunteer training program is not an academic course, but the workload is comparable to a university course; regular attendance is required and there are weekly readings. Topics covered in training include: colonization, sexualized violence, consent, sex positivity, gender beyond the binary, anti-racism, ableism, and self and community care. AVP's training is done from an anti-colonial, intersectional framework.

We will conclude the training with individual check-in meetings to confirm that the volunteer and AVP's work are a good fit. We ask volunteers to commit to working with AVP throughout the Fall and Spring term for an average 1-3 hr/week in various available volunteer roles which include: supporting survivors, allies, and people who've caused harm who are seeking crisis support and referrals, outreach initiatives that may include peer education, engaging groups through activities and table displays, research projects, writing blog posts or book reviews, making zines, art or buttons, helping with administration tasks, and facilitating workshops. We also collaborate and volunteer with many groups to commemorate, celebrate, resist, and protest in the form of marches, cultural events and gatherings, joint conferences or workshops,

and artistic events in the community.

### **TRAINING DATES for 2019:**

The 2019 Volunteer Training takes place over 6 weeks in May/June and is broken into three sections. The first section will be held on Tues & Thurs evenings (one Saturday exception) in May/June, starting May 14th until June 8th. In the second section, between June 10th and 14th, we will have a week long break from training sessions, providing participants the opportunity to reflect upon the training content, as well as think about their own goals and interests for volunteering. During this time we will meet with each volunteer individually to chat about these topics. For the third section, during the week of June 17th, new volunteers will be able to attend more skill focused training sessions to learn how we run our peer support services and facilitate workshops (we will decide on the exact dates during the first part of Volunteer Training). This third section emphasizes ways we can take our learnings in section 1 and 2 and apply them to volunteering at AVP.

#### **DATES:**

Tuesday May 14, 5:30-8:30pm

Thursday May 16, 5:30-8:30pm

Tuesday May 21, 5:30-8:30pm

Thursday May 23, 5:30-8:30pm

Tuesday May 28, 5:30-8:30pm

Thursday May 30, 5:30-8:30pm

Tuesday June 4, 5:30-8:30pm

Saturday June 8, Morning - afternoon, exact time TBA

June 10-14 Break/Check ins

June 17-23 Support and Facilitation Skills Workshops, dates and times TBA

#### **Accessibility:**

AVP strives to be as accessible as possible but acknowledge we are far from being truly accessible.

- Applications can be submitted online or in person
- Colouring, fidgeting, knitting, etc during workshop times encouraged if it's helpful for you
- Self-care encouraged
- We invite you to inquire about content warnings prior to training if that would benefit you, we strive to provide content warnings throughout the training process.
- The support room is open during training sessions for a quiet space
- Childcare upon request
- Transcription services upon request
- Gender-inclusive washrooms
- Training rooms are large in size and are mostly quiet but can be echoey and have lower

levels of background noise including a fan

- There will be chairs without arms available in each of the rooms
- Wheelchair accessible training spaces and washrooms - please contact us for more specific information such as door widths.
- The Student Union Building is a designated scent-free space, however we are using shared spaces for training and cannot guarantee no residual scents will be present
- We strive to use only video with captioning
- Food will be provided via potluck style with contributions from participants and AVP - there is no requirement to bring food
- AVP has volunteer tasks that can be done from home but we currently have no way to make training available online. If you have ideas on how this might work please do contact us. We're excited to push our learning.
- Many buses are close by and bus tickets available at each session and can be mailed prior to first session

We'd love to know what your accessibility needs are and how we can make this training accessible to you. Please contact Paloma at 250-721-8080 or [education@antiviolenceproject.org](mailto:education@antiviolenceproject.org) with questions, comments, or concerns. Please contact us as soon as possible as some accessibility services (such as transcription or ASL translation) will need to be booked far ahead of training dates.



5. What do you hope to gain from the experience of volunteering at AVP?
6. What do you imagine/expect will be most challenging for you in volunteering?
7. What relevant experience (paid, life, volunteer, or academic) or personal qualities do you have that you feel would make you a suitable candidate for volunteering with AVP?
8. How will the considerable time commitment of Volunteer Training (approx 35 hours) and the approx 1-3 hours a week of volunteering with AVP fit in your life?
9. Our volunteer training includes a number of required readings. Would you prefer to receive these readings in:  
 printed form       by email      another way: \_\_\_\_\_
10. How did you learn about the Anti-Violence Project?

11. Any dietary restrictions or notes we should know about?

12. Is there any other information that you would like to provide?

13. Do you have any other accessibility needs that we should know about?

14. Do you need childcare?       Yes       No       Maybe

15. Please let us know about conflicts with training dates (including spiritual or religious observances). *\*\* If you will be consistently late or leaving early due to scheduling conflicts, please let us know that as well. Openings and closings are extremely important for the training and for group cohesion. \*\**

Please list the names and contact numbers of two references - These do not need to be “professional” references, we are looking to hear from folks in your life that you feel accountable to. This could include close friends or family, someone who turns to you for support, someone you deeply trust, someone you care for, etc.

Name: Phone:

Relationship:

Name: Phone:

Relationship:

*“I understand that I must attempt to attend all of the volunteer training sessions, abide by staff decision regarding the selection process prior to, and following, training, and fulfil my commitment of volunteering with AVP. I will attempt to inform AVP in a timely manner of any anticipated or sudden changes in my ability to volunteer at AVP. I consent to the AVP staff contacting my references.”*

Signature: Date: