

## UA Center Provides Interpersonal Violence Support and Educational Opportunities

TUSCALOOSA, Ala.—The University of Alabama Women and Gender Resource Center provides on campus resources for victims of interpersonal violence and arranges leadership opportunities available to students, faculty, and staff.

The WGRC provides two main services to the University of Alabama: direct client services and educational leadership opportunities. These resources are open to everyone in connection to UA, whether a secondary victim, a victim of violence in a homosexual relationship, or someone who does not actively attend UA, but experienced interpersonal violence on campus.

“When asked who all we serve, I say we serve everyone in this room,” WGRC Peer Education Coordinator Jessica Ross Romine said.

Interpersonal violence is not just physical aggression but also can be psychological harm. Romine said that the WGRC includes “rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence, childhood abuse, secondary victims and more” in what interpersonal violence they supply resources for.

All services of the WGRC are free, confidential, and voluntary, providing a Victim Advocate to help victims explore legal options available for each personal situation. The WGRC is not only a place to seek legal help, but also emotional aid and privacy.

Some services provided for every client of the WGRC are “crisis intervention, advocacy, individual counseling, and group therapy” Romine said.

Outside of legal and personal services, the WGRC also strives to provide opportunities for people to get involved. If a student is interested in getting involved with the WGRC, Romine said students should consider “volunteering at events, joining the Student Leadership Council, serving as a mentor, applying for an internship, and exploring Work-study opportunities.”

Specifically, Romine encourages students to apply to be a WGRC Ambassador or Safe Sister, who are students trained by Romine once a month and are “available around campus to talk with and refer students to resources” Romine said.

Many of these opportunities can also provide students with connections to work at off campus centers such as the Tuscaloosa Safe Center or Turning Point.