



Safety is our goal!

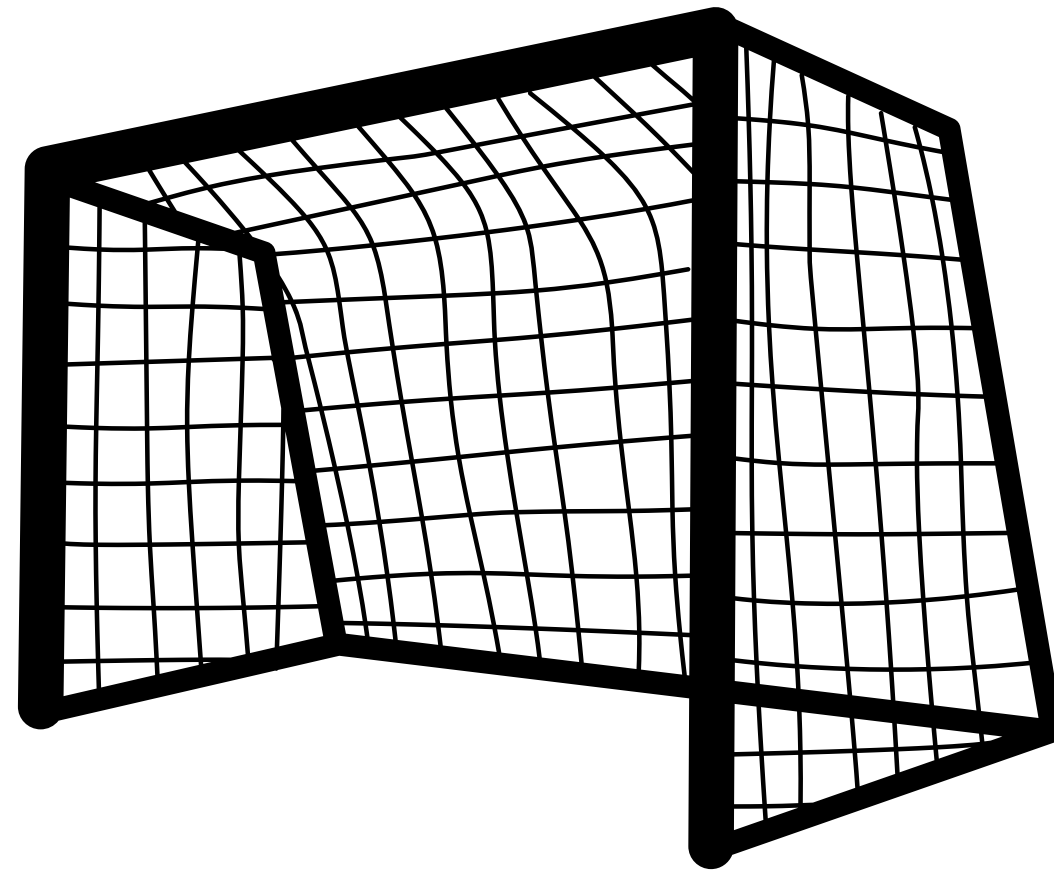
Pre-World Cup Training for
Nightlife Professionals

June 8, 2026

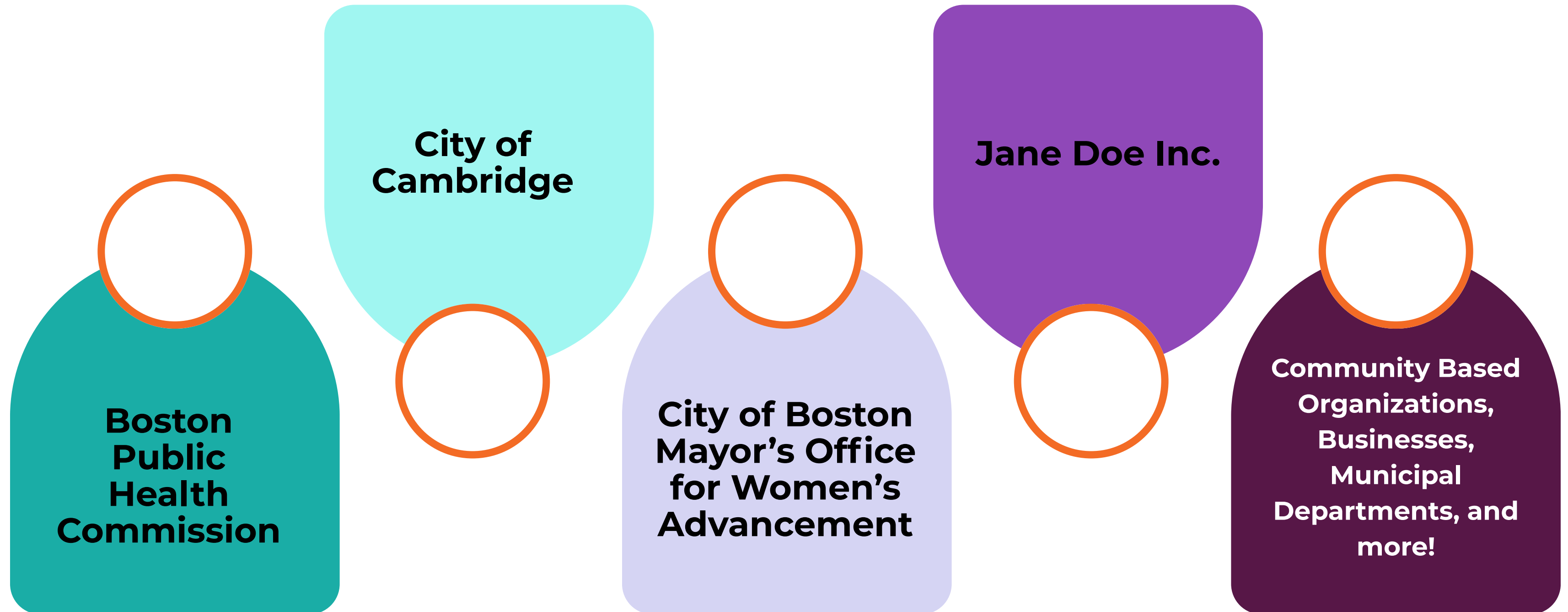


Agenda

- ✓ Welcome & Introductions
- ✓ Definitions
- ✓ Red Flags
- ✓ How to help
- ✓ Resources
- ✓ Q&A



Who we are



Project Outline

Coordination

**Public
Awareness**

**Capacity
Building**

What is gender-based violence?

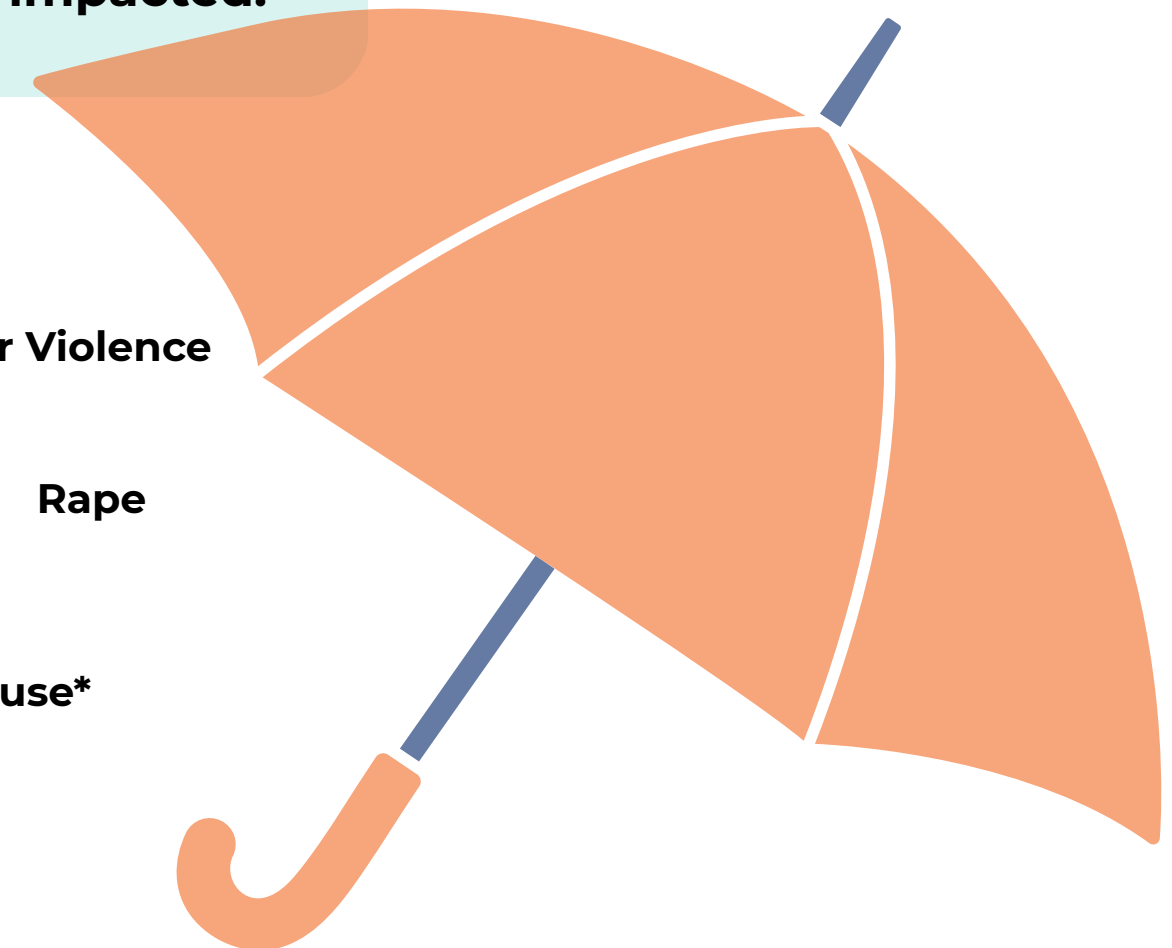
Gender-based Violence

any harmful action or threat directed at someone because of their sex, gender identity, or how society expects them to act based on their gender or sex assigned at birth.

This type of violence can include physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, spiritual, mental, financial forms of abuse or threats of abuse.

GBV can happen in both public places and at home. It is rooted in unfair power differences between genders and **predominantly affects women, trans-women, girls, and femme people, but anyone can be impacted.**

- Femicide
- Obstetric Violence
- Domestic Violence
- Child Sexual Abuse
- Female genital mutilation or cutting
- Technological Abuse
- Intimate Partner Violence
- Child Marriage
- Reproductive Coercion
- Teen Dating Violence
- Rape
- Sexual Assault / harassment
- Forced Marriage
- Elder Abuse*
- Commercial Sexual Exploitation



Definitions

Sexual Assault:

any unwanted sexual attention, contact or activity. It violates a person's trust, autonomy, and sense of safety. Sexual assault may have emotional, physical, financial, and social consequences. Sexual assault may be committed by a stranger, but it is much more common for it to be committed by someone the survivor knows.

Domestic Violence:

also known as intimate partner violence (IPV) or partner abuse, domestic violence is a pattern of coercive, controlling behavior that can include physical, emotional, psychological, spiritual, sexual, cultural, or financial abuse.

Trafficking:

human trafficking is the use of force, fraud, or coercion to get another person to provide labor or commercial sex. This can be done through the exchange of commodities (food, housing, other basic needs), not necessarily money. Individuals may experience both labor and sex trafficking. Trafficking and sex work are not the same thing, though sex workers may experience sexual assault and/or domestic violence.

Why the World Cup?



This summer, the Greater Boston and Foxborough areas will see a **huge influx of visitors**.

Add to that the **big emotions** that mega sporting events bring

Increased drug and alcohol consumption can fuel (though not cause) violence.

Together, these contribute to **increased incidence rates** of sexual assault, domestic violence, and trafficking. We all have a role to play to keep our families, businesses, and communities safer.

Red flags



Knowing the signs ahead of time help us understand what might be happening to us or to someone we know – or who is nearby:

- Is someone trying to control what you do or who you see? This could include controlling your access to money or your cellphone, or restricting where you go or who you talk to.
- Abuse may be physical (including unwanted sexual acts and other physical violence), and/or it can be emotional, including manipulation or coercion. Is someone trying to make you do something by using threats, lies, guilt, or intimidation?
- Is someone using their power or authority to make you do something you don't want to do?
- Has someone used technology (calls, texts, email, social media) to harass you or track your movements?

Safety is a team sport



Preventing violence and supporting survivors is a team sport. Be aware of myths. Let's bust some!

- *Only women can experience sexual assault, domestic violence, or trafficking. Only men perpetrate these intimate harms.* People of all genders can experience violence or cause harm.
- *Sexual assault, domestic violence, and trafficking don't happen in my community. They do!* These intimate harms are present in all communities, and some populations are more vulnerable than others.
- *Sexual or domestic violence are about loss of control.* It is about power and control and not motivated by lust, passion, conflict, etc.
- *A lot of victims lie about being raped, assaulted, or trafficked.* It's actually the same percentage as for victims of other felonies.
- *Sex workers cannot be assaulted because they are selling sex.* Sex workers have the right to give and withhold consent to any sexual activity, and therefore, can be raped just like anyone else.

Safety is a team sport



More myths:

- *Most sexual assaults happen in public or outdoors.* In reality, 55% of sexual assaults happen at or near the victim's home, and 12% occur at or near the home of a friend, relative, or acquaintance.
- *Beware of being trafficked from a parking lot.* Survivors are often abused/trafficked by people they know, not strangers on the street.
- *If it was really bad, they'd leave.* There are many reasons survivors don't leave a situation or relationship or seek help right away (or ever).
- *Calling 911 is always the first best step to take.* A survivor may want support contacting law enforcement or that might not feel safe to them. Trained hotline staff can share more about all the options and what those steps look like.
- *Sexual assault, domestic violence, and trafficking are private matters, not social issues.*
We all have a role to play.

What is an active bystander



Also called an “upstander”

A bystander is someone who witnesses interpersonal violence but is neither the victim nor the perpetrator.

Everyone is a bystander at one point or another.

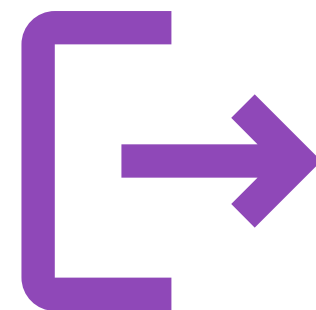
An active bystander is someone who responds effectively to harmful behavior and provides support to a person experiencing any type of harassment or assault

Safer Nightlife



Safer nightlife

it's about looking out for each other, so when someone is experiencing predatory, creepy, or violent behavior, it's everyone's problem!



Bystander and safe space tips inspired by Good Night Out Campaign's Bystander Guide and Safety Standards for Nightlife Spaces:
www.goodnightoutcampaign.org

Stepping Up



Is it safe?

Assess the scene. Is it safe to intervene? Is this a situation that requires security or law enforcement or does the situation need de-escalation? Avoid words or actions that could make the situation more dangerous for the victim.

Check in

Start by ignoring the harasser and checking in with the person being targeted first. This can be with eye contact or thumbs up if it's too loud to communicate verbally.

Be friendly and calm. Show that you are aware of the situation, but don't rush in or take over. If they don't need help, that's okay! Follow their lead.

Keep Going!



Step in

Distract the harasser. Disrupt their behavior by interrupting it:

- Start a conversation with the victim about anything!
- Get in the way. Clear the table, tidy up the chairs in that area – create a distraction.
- Pretend you recognize or know the person being targeted
- Offer to walk away with them, call them over to a different area
- Give the person being targeted an “out” to leave the situation



Step up

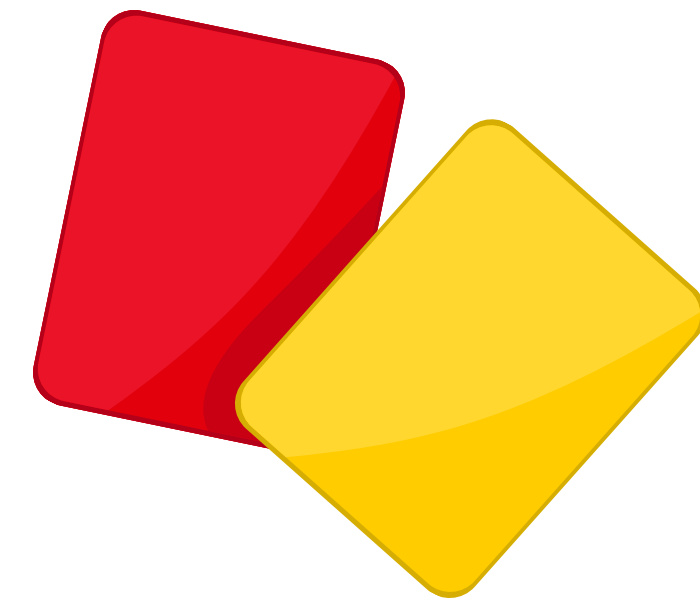
Use calm body language and words (some call it “neutral” or “objective”) if directly challenging someone who is harassing:

“That’s not okay.” or “Stop.”

Keep it short and clear. This is not a debate. **Aggressive bystanders don’t diffuse a situation, so stay as calm as you can.**

Let the person being targeted take the lead on what happens next. If they want to be left alone, respect that! If they want help connecting with law enforcement, supportive services, etc., have those numbers ready.

Safe Spaces



Policy: set one for prevention and dealing with violence in your establishment. Make sure this is clear to customers and staff.



Practice skills: get trained and practice to build confidence. * Consider connecting with your local program to build a long-term training relationship.



Start the conversation: let your customers know about your values and what accountability looks like in your space. Let survivors know they will be believed and supported.



Keep a record: Staff should know about your incident book and logging process and should have access to local resources.



Be practical: is there a space where people can go for a quiet/er time out? Do staff know about it? Do staff know about a policy for calling a cab or ride share for a customer?



Champion access for all



Promote consent culture: we all have a role to play and our spaces do, too. Creating safer spaces is more than a marketing campaign!

At Work and In Life



Here are some tips and tools to guide you:

- Be non-judgmental. Follow the survivor's lead.
- Asking, "Why didn't you leave?" or "What were you wearing?" are never helpful.
- Instead of saying, "You should...", focus on letting the survivor share what they want to about what happened.
- Ask if they want you to listen and/or help with resources.
- Don't try to physically intervene or be a hero. Being an active bystander – and upstander – does not mean putting yourself in danger. That behavior may also escalate a situation.

You don't have to handle this alone.

Resources



Boston Area Rape
Crisis Center
Sexual Assault Hotline

(800) 841-8371



SafeLink
Massachusetts Statewide
Domestic Violence Hotline

(877) 785-2020



Rhode Island
Statewide Confidential
Helpline

(800) 494-8100



Online Searchable
Resource and
Services Map



Social Media
Toolkit



Printable
One-Page Fact &
Resource Sheet



Find these and more Massachusetts and
Rhode Island based resources at janedoe.org.





Questions?

Let's get into it!

Thank you!

We're proud to have you on our team,
now and for the months and years to come.