



# SACOMSS Supporters

## November Newsletter



Each month, we will send a list of upcoming events, highlighted resources, and recommended readings right to your inbox. If you have any feedback or inclusions for the next newsletter, please [let us know!](#)

### What About The Rapists?

An Abolitionist FAQ Series From Interrupting Criminalization  
By Mariame Kaba & Eva Nagao

**WE'LL HAVE SAFER AND MORE JUST COMMUNITIES WITHOUT POLICE & PRISONS.**

This is an essential contention of prison industrial complex (PIC) abolition. Safety is the ability to bring, be, and move through the world on your full self. Prisons and putting one another to true safety. The people who most understand this truth are survivors of sexual violence. How do we know?

**MOST VICTIMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE DON'T REPORT THEIR ASSAULTS TO POLICE.**

This fact should be the start of every conversation about responses to sexual violence. If as Malorie Brazzel theorizes, safety is "to 'not' to be displaced," then abolitionists want to increase the number of facts that one solitary and get rid of the tools that don't actually serve us.

We want more safety for everyone. "If what we tell people that we want to abolish policing and prisons, they inevitably ask, "what about the rapists?"

PIC abolitionists don't demand police and prison abolition in spite of the rapists. We demand abolition because the current system produces and reinforces sexual violence while using survivors to justify its existence.

A system should be judged based on what it actually does rather than on what it claims to be. PIC abolitionists aren't trying to fix a system which is not designed to produce safety for all of us. We're trying to support it with solutions that actually promote wellness, healing, and safety.

People ask "what about the rapists" because it is ingrained in us from a young age that police and prisons protect us from the worst imaginable people, despite all evidence to the contrary.

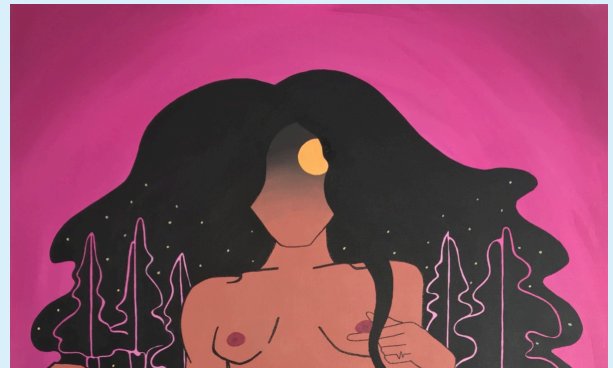
Fear of "the rapist" is weaponized as a justification for maintaining and reinforcing a system that creates significant evidence for many people while focusing very little time on addressing sexual violence for those who are harmed.

**"WHEN SOMETHING CAN'T BE FIXED THEN THE QUESTION IS WHAT CAN WE BUILD INSTEAD"**

**MARIAME KABA**

So, yes, "what about the rapists?"

What are we currently doing to keep people safe? What are we currently doing to support people who have been harmed? What are we currently doing to prevent people from being harmed?



## Sexuality, Autonomy, and Settler Colonialism

The author of this piece, Quill Christie-Peters, is an Anishinaabe artist. This essay explores self-pleasure and settler colonialism.

Our Political Coordinator writes "I LOVE this piece and I think it does a great job at talking about sexuality as a tool of self determination and autonomy."

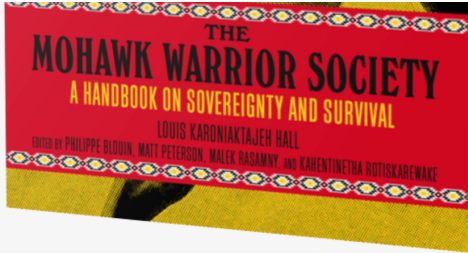
[READ](#)

## How does the justice system handle sexual violence?

At SACOMSS, we strive to offer support to people who have been harmed by sexual violence outside of the justice system. We understand that the justice system is not equipped to deal with humanity in these types of cases, and that material facts cannot be assessed more than a few hours or days after the harm. See numbers in "what about the rapists?"

[READ](#)





## Support the Mohawk Mothers

Sign [this petition](#) in support of the Mohawk Mothers and their demand that McGill stop construction and investigate unmarked graves.

Their book, *The Mohawk Warrior Society: A Handbook on Sovereignty and Survival*, can be found [here](#).

[MORE SUPPORT INFO](#)

## Resource Highlight

People who have been harmed deserve to be informed of their rights and what the legal process is intended to look like under Quebec jurisdiction.

Here is a reference guide created by Éducaloi in [English](#) and in [French](#).

## 2024 US Election

The 2024 American election will take place in just a few days. The results will have immense effects on the rights of women, the LGBTQ community, racialized groups, and foreign policy. However, the outcome does not solely rest on the winner of the presidential race. Ten states have [reproductive rights on the ballot](#), and civil rights groups such as the ACLU have been fighting hard to protect them.

This can be an extremely stressful time, regardless of whether or not you are American. Here are [suggested ways to take care of yourself](#) during this election season, and [specific tips for survivors](#).



## Free Yoga

We are offering free yoga classes in the Mind and Body Room on Thursdays from 1-2 pm! The remaining dates for this term are:



## Truth and Reconciliation Event

Join us on Thursday, November 7th from 5:30-7:30 pm in the SSMU Ballroom for this year's Truth and Reconciliation



## Consent Workshop

This year's consent and painting workshop will be held on Friday.

[November 7, 2024](#)  
[November 21, 2024](#)  
[December 5, 2024](#)

Event. Dinner will be provided by Midnight Kitchen. More info on our speakers below!

November 22nd from 3:30-5pm! Snacks and supplies will be provided.

[RSVP here!](#)

REGISTER

## Meet our Speakers



Kwetiio is a Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk) from the Bear Clan in Kahnawà:ke. A mother and a recent grand-mother, Kwetiio is also a businesswoman who worked to develop an autonomous Mohawk economy, and is involved in promoting her people's traditional sport, Lacrosse. She got involved with the Kanien'keha:ka Kahnistensera (Mohawk Mothers) in 2022, which resulted in the first injunction ever being granted to Indigenous plaintiffs not represented by lawyers, halting construction work on the site of Montreal's former Royal Victoria Hospital to search for unmarked graves. She will be speaking about the jurisdiction and responsibilities of Kahnistensera.



Dani Sherwood (they/she) is a 30-year-old Two-Spirit, femme-presenting queer, neurodivergent Master of Social Work graduate of mixed white settler Irish, Franco-Manitoban, and Indigenous Red River Métis ancestry.

Drawing from personal, professional, and Iskweu Project perspectives, Dani will delve into the realities of sexual violence and related systemic colonial harms impacting First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples, and the critical need for truth-listening and reconciliation in response to this ongoing violence.



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