



**CONSTITUTIONAL BY-LAWS OF S.A.R.A.H.  
(SEXUAL ASSAULT & RAPE ANONYMOUS  
HELPLINE) OF WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
PUBLISHED TO THE COMMUNITY**

**\*This document has been edited so that it protects the internal functions of the group, which are not currently public\***



## ARTICLE 1. NAME AND STATUS

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### Section A. Name

The name of the body shall be Sexual Assault and Rape Anonymous Helpline (herein referred to as S.A.R.A.H.).

### Section B. Status

S.A.R.A.H. is a student-run institutional resource operated under the auspices of the Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention (RSVP) Center.

## ARTICLE 2. PURPOSE

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The purpose of this body shall be:

- 1) To function as a 24 hour a day, 7 day a week helpline that offers counseling, resources, and referrals on rape, sexual assault, abuse, relationships and more
- 2) To be student-run, anonymous, confidential and open to all members of the Washington University community
- 3) To operate by consensus

The definition of consensus is: **80% majority of present members**

## ARTICLE 3. COMMUNITY PHILOSOPHY

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1. SARAH as an organization is committed to its values internally and in the Washington University Community
2. SARAH explicitly condemns all physical, emotional, interpersonal, or institutional violence or discrimination
3. This includes, but is not limited to:
  - a. A commitment to anti-racism, anti-ableism, active support of LGBTQIA+ identifying individuals, active support of socio-economic equity, and all additional anti-oppressive movements.
  - b. We believe survivors of sexual, interpersonal, and gender-based violence
  - c. We vow to hold ourselves accountable and continue to dismantle systemic oppression within SARAH
  - d. Believing and responding to harmful language or behaviors that demonstrate racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, victim-blaming, or are otherwise discriminatory
  - e. Believing and responding to instances of sexual violence or harassment
4. In the circumstance of documented or alleged instances of sexual aggression, a membership review will be conducted by the advisor(s), with any information regarding the case handled only by the relevant Student Affairs professional.

## ARTICLE 4. MEMBERSHIP & RESPONSIBILITY

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### Section A. Membership Selection

#### 1) *Eligibility:*

- a. S.A.R.A.H. is a student group that accepts applications for membership. Any currently enrolled, part-time or full-time student of Washington University, either undergraduate or graduate, shall be eligible for the membership selection process. Applicants of all identities are welcome.

#### 2) *Selection Process:*

- a. Membership selection will be based on the following criteria:
  - i. General interest and commitment to the goals of S.A.R.A.H.
  - ii. Available time for training and two semesters of active duty
  - iii. Peer-counselor skills or potential to be trained given the resources, time, and methods commonly used in our training
  - iv. Completion of application, individual interview, and group interview
  - v. 100% consensus selection by the group

#### 3) *Yearly Requirements:*

- a. Each member is required to train at least 60 hours annually including the mandatory membership retreats.

## ARTICLE 5. HARM PROTOCOLS

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A member may be expelled, suspended, or face other punitive action for the following:

### **A. Reports of conduct unbecoming:**

- 1) Conduct unbecoming includes, but is not limited to, any infraction of our community philosophy, such as physical altercations in or outside of our group, defamatory or insulting language towards others in or outside of our group, virtual or physical harassment that is not included in Title IX-related conduct, violations of a callers' anonymity, and reports of misconduct from Student Conduct to our advisors\*
  - a. Reports of conduct unbecoming should be made directly to advisor(s) and will be handled on a case-by-case basis.
    - a) Procedures for an internal report of conduct unbecoming:
      - (1) Possible repercussions include:
        - (a) Educational experience
        - (b) Suspension
        - (c) Expulsion

## **B. Reports of sexual violence or harassment**

(1) Procedures for internally originating reports:

- a) Reports of sexual violence or harassment should be made directly to advisor(s).
- b) Members of the group named as a respondent in Title IX investigations are expected to contact advisor(s) about the situation immediately
  - i) If a SARAH does not disclose their respondent status, the advisor may become aware of this information through consultation with the Title IX and Gender Equity office
  - ii) If a SARAH named as a respondent does not disclose that information to advisors, this could lead to immediate expulsion from the group due to ethical concerns
- c) Pending further adjudication by a University body, the advisor can do the following:
  - i. Encourage the SARAH to deactivate, effective immediately
  - ii. If the SARAH elects to deactivate, they will do so quietly for the good of the group
  - iii. If the SARAH elects not to deactivate, the advisor will do the following:
    - a) Suspend all duties and responsibilities of the SARAH pending the outcomes of any University investigation
- d) Members of the group named as witnesses or hearing panelists in Title IX investigations will go offline and can go back online only after the conclusion of the Title IX hearing for said case



## **ARTICLE 6. ADOPTION AND AMENDMENTS**

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### **Section A. Amendments**

The by-laws will be reviewed on a yearly basis by the group.

### **Section B. Adoption**

The by-laws will be adopted upon consensus approval.