

September 13, 2021

Dear Brescia community,

You may be aware of recent incidents that occurred within the community this past weekend. Although these alleged events did not occur on Brescia's campus, I want to recognize and acknowledge the impact allegations like these have on our community.

At Brescia, we do not tolerate any form of gender-based violence. As Canada's only women's university, we want to ensure a safe, respectful community where we feel comfortable and secure while we study, work and live. Brescia has a Sexual Violence Policy and takes immediate steps when an incident is reported. I strongly encourage members of our community to report incidents of gender-based violence, along with incidents where you have reason to believe that violence may have occurred. Anyone can report an incident anonymously at:

[https://brescia.uwo.ca/safe\\_campus/sexual\\_violence/report\\_an\\_incident.php](https://brescia.uwo.ca/safe_campus/sexual_violence/report_an_incident.php)

You may already be aware that Western University is actively seeking information and investigating reports of violence from this weekend. Western has taken some immediate steps to protect the safety of the community, including increasing the presence of special constables across campus and in student residences.

News like this is deeply concerning. All of society is diminished by gender-based violence and it continues to affect each one of us—whether as a survivor, caregiver, support person, friend or family member. I am aware that these recent events may have an effect on Brescia community members and with the heightened concerns, we will amplify our security and counselling services during this time.

Some of the steps that we have taken at Brescia to ensure your safety are:

- Additional lighting on campus
- 24-hour secure access in Clare Hall, Brescia's residence
- Blue Emergency phones in parking lot C and the lower level parking lot
- Emergency phones in every lounge in Clare Hall and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the St. James building
- Safe, reliable campus [shuttle bus service](#)
- Access to [Western's Foot Patrol](#) to ensure no one walks alone

Based on the recent reports that have occurred over the past few days, we will offer additional supports specific to Brescia students:

- Drop-in support services starting today, **Monday, September 13**. This support service will be available between the hours of 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. in the Cypress Room (Clare Hall) for the duration of the week
- Brescia's [Wellness Peers](#) can be accessed on Brescia's campus both in the [St. James building and Clare Hall](#)

- Brescia's Campus Ministry team offers a safe and welcoming environment for students, staff and faculty to participate in pastoral counselling. To make an appointment please contact Catherinanne George, Director, Campus Ministry at [c.george@uwo.ca](mailto:c.george@uwo.ca)
- Brescia has recently signed on with a 24/7 virtual support chat called [TogetherAll](#)

There many resources offered to students who may be affected by the recent incidents or news of such events.

- [Western Health & Wellness](#) (health & wellness, counselling, sexual violence, peer support, as well as groups and workshops)
- Western Resources and reporting: Western's [survivor-focused procedures](#) to respond to sexual violence include a dedicated [gender-based violence and survivor support case manager](#) (Survivors have [support options](#) including [disclosure](#), [filing a complaint](#) and/or requesting support)t
- In emergencies, Western's Special Constable Service and [St. Joseph's Health Care Regional Sexual Assault Program](#) are available 24 hours, 7 days a week
- CMHA Middlesex: Brescia students can reach out to the CMHA Middlesex crisis team and schedule an appointment at [studentcrisisappointment@cmhamiddlesex.ca](mailto:studentcrisisappointment@cmhamiddlesex.ca). CMHA is providing virtual crisis support September 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

I fully appreciate the gravity of this situation, and while I can include resources here, I know this is not enough. We must continue to work tirelessly towards creating a campus culture that eliminates all forms of violence, so that all members of our community are safe.

Yours truly,  
Lauretta Frederking, Ph.D.  
President