



National Council of Jewish Women, Los Angeles
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NCJW|LA The Talk Project, a Student-Led Program to Prevent Sexual Violence, Produces "Rise" Art Exhibition on Sexual Violence, Sexuality, and Gender; Kick Off Event on August 21

Los Angeles, CA- The Talk Project, a peer-to-peer sexual violence awareness program of the National Council of Jewish Women | Los Angeles (NCJW|LA), presents its first student led and featured art exhibition, "Rise" with a kick off event this Sunday, August 21, 2016 from 5-9 pm.

The Talk Project is a peer-to-peer sexual violence awareness program by and for high school and college-aged students. Designed to raise awareness about sexual violence and the cultural constructs that normalize it, "Rise" will be up for a week at SugarMynt Gallery followed by another week and a half at NCJW|LA. Featured artists include [Lucia Santina Ribisi](#) and [Franny London](#).

Kick Off Event: There will be a kick off event on August 21 at SugarMynt Gallery from 5-9 pm where you can meet the artists, contributors, founders and educators of The Talk Project. The exhibit and performances included cover the themes of gender, gender roles, sex, sexuality, sexual violence, and rape culture through diverse mediums.

Where: SugarMynt Gallery, 810 Meridian Ave., South Pasadena, 91030
When: Sunday, August 21, 2016, 5-8 pm
Media Inquiries and to RSVP: Maya Paley at maya@ncjwla.org or 818-571-3933

"The Talk Project's first student art exhibition 'Rise' represents a huge cultural milestone in fighting the normalization of sexual violence and rape culture; it is reflective of a new peer-led movement focused on identifying and working against the cultural roots which enable sexual violence," says Lauren Foley, Co-Chair of The Talk Project and current USC Student. "And by using student art, music, and poetry to educate and empower other students, The Talk Project is ensuring that these topics- sex, gender roles, sexual violence, and rape culture, which are often considered hard to talk about in typical educational settings-are actually getting talked about in a productive, inclusive, and inspiring manner."

Open House: We also invite you to join us for an Open House at NCJW|LA on Tuesday, August 30 from 6:30-8:30 pm to see The Talk Project's peer educators conduct the full

workshop they present in high schools throughout Los Angeles. The workshop has been presented to 1100 high school students since the program's launch in February of 2016. See below for information about our evaluation of the program and how it has shown effectiveness in changing attitudes about rape culture and sexual violence among participants. You'll also have an opportunity to see a selection of the art from the "Rise" Art Exhibit.

Where: NCJW|LA, 543 N. Fairfax Ave., Los Angeles, 90036

When: Tuesday, August 30, 6:30-8:30 pm

Media Inquiries and to RSVP: Maya Paley at maya@ncjwla.org or 818-571-3933



More information about The Talk Project:

What is The Talk Project?

The Talk Project is a program of the National Council of Jewish Women | Los Angeles, in partnership with *The Hunting Ground* film. The Talk Project is an interactive presentation delivered by teen peer educators on the topic of sexual violence. High school students who attend The Talk Project are introduced to definitions and concepts surrounding sexual violence, including:

- Statistics on the prevalence of sexual violence
- The systemic and cultural factors leading to sexual violence
- Sexual consent and what it does and does not look like
- An introduction to Title IX and an overview of how students who have been victimized can use the law to get support and legal justice

Since its launch in February 2016, the Talk Project has been presented at five high schools and one youth group in the Los Angeles area, for approximately 1100 students to date.

What is the goal of The Talk Project?

The Talk Project's ultimate goal is to act as an effective and engaging tool for reducing sexual violence among students. The Talk Project believes that, in order to change behavior, students need knowledge and a feeling of empowerment. Therefore, The Talk Project strives to educate students on the causes of sexual violence and the laws of consent, and empower them to speak out against sexual violence, engage in healthy sexual relationships, and make informed decisions about seeking legal justice if necessary. The Talk Project was created by teenage volunteers of NCJW|LA with the guidance and support of NCJW|LA staff members Maya Paley and Alexa Schwartz, NCJW|LA Program Assistant.

"The Talk Project is changing the way teenagers in Los Angeles learn about sexual violence. It is not only raising awareness and knowledge about sexual violence, rape culture, and consent amongst high school students; it is also empowering and inspiring them to stand up for themselves and others when they witness or experience sexual violence or rape culture. It is inspiring that this program was created by NCJW|LA's teenage volunteers for their peers. We are extremely proud of all they have accomplished as well as of the evaluation of The Talk Project, which has proven its efficacy."

-Maya Paley, Director of Legislative and Community Engagement, NCJW|LA

"It is important to talk about sexual violence because not enough people are aware of the repercussions and frequency that it occurs. We believe that it is so important for that knowledge to be available for people in a comfortable setting, which is what The Talk Project brings to a high school environment."

--Emma Matson-Maguire, age 18, Peer Educator of The Talk Project

Is The Talk Project effective?

NCJW|LA has conducted a rigorous evaluation of The Talk Project's effects on 188 students from three high schools. For this evaluation, students were surveyed before and after experiencing The Talk Project workshop. The evaluation has shown that compared to pre-surveys, students who saw The Talk Project reported being significantly less likely to adhere to rape myths, and significantly more likely to practice consent behaviors and intervene if confronted with a situation linked to sexual violence. Students reported that they found The Talk Project to be understandable and engaging, and said they would recommend The Talk Project to a friend. The evaluation was executed by Hannah Barth, a graduate student and MSW intern at NCJW|LA, under the supervision of Maya Paley, Director of Legislative and Community Engagement and Principal Investigator of The Talk Project. The report provides a quantitative and qualitative evaluation of The Talk Project, showing that the program is positively impacting and raising awareness about sexual violence among high school students who attend The Talk Project workshop through their schools or youth groups.

[Click here for the full evaluation report](#) of The Talk Project as an effective and engaging tool to educate high school students about sexual violence.

[Click here for a brief summary](#) of The Talk Project evaluation.

Interviews with the Talk Project Peer Educators as well as with NCJW|LA Staff Members are available. For media inquiries or to learn more about The Talk Project, call Maya Paley at 323-852-8536 (office), 818-571-3933 (cell) or email maya@ncjwla.org. Visit <http://ncjwla.org/thetalkproject/> to learn more.

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ABOUT NCJW|LA

The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) is a grassroots organization of volunteers and advocates committed to the welfare and well-being of the Los Angeles Community. Inspired by Jewish values, NCJW strives for social justice by improving the quality of life for women, children, and families and by safeguarding individual rights and freedoms. NCJW|LA serves more than 12,000 individuals through our Community Mental Health and Supportive Services, Scholarships, Talkline, Youth Educational Programs and Services, Back 2 School Store, intern training programs and our clothing assistance projects. NCJW|LA social justice programs provide education and legislative advocacy on issues that affect and impact women, children and families in the areas of children's rights, economic justice, healthcare, human trafficking, reproductive justice, LGBTQ rights, and gender related violence. All donations to our 8 Council Thrift Shops support the programs and services of NCJW|LA. NCJW|LA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization (Tax ID #95-1641433). Donate Today to Council Thrift (800)400-6259. To Get Help Call 877-655-3807 or for more info visit www.ncjwla.org, call 323-651-2930, or email info@ncjwla.org. Donate Today to Council Thrift (800)400-6259. To Get Help Call 877-655-3807 or for more info visit www.ncjwla.org, call 323-651-2930, or email info@ncjwla.org.