

THE **CLOTHESLINE**  **PROJECT**
Bearing Witness to Sexual Assault
& Domestic Violence

UCSF



A photograph of a clothesline project. Numerous t-shirts of various colors (pink, white, yellow, purple, red, black) are hanging on a clothesline. Many of the shirts have handwritten messages in black or white ink. One prominent white shirt in the center has the text "I don't wash off what YOU did to me". Another white shirt to its right says "SURVIVE". A yellow shirt features a drawing of a flower. A red shirt on the right has the word "STUD" visible. The background shows a building with a window and a door.

Trigger Warning

This presentation contains information about sexual violence and assault.

History

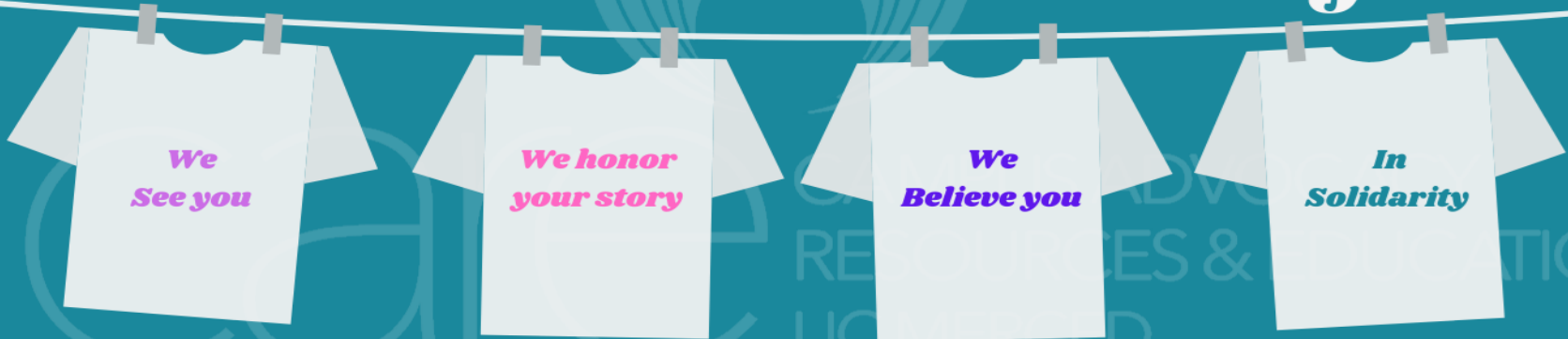
- The first Clothesline Project originated in Hyannis, Massachusetts, in 1990 when a member of the Cape Cod's Women's Defense Agenda learned that during the same time 58,000 soldiers were killed in the Vietnam War, 51,000 U.S. women were killed by the men who claimed to love them.
- This statistic motivated the women's group to create a program that would speak up and reveal the issue of violence against women. One of the women, visual artist Rachel Carey-Harper, thought of hanging color-coded t-shirts on a clothesline in a public place to gain recognition of the issue.
- The activists who first established the project in the early 1990's saw it as a way to "air society's dirty laundry". UCSF's first sponsored a clothesline project in 1995 when t-shirts were strung up in the Medical Sciences Library.

Purpose







The purpose of the Clothesline Project is to increase awareness of the impact of interpersonal violence, to celebrate strength and resiliency and to provide a means to break through the silence that often surrounds interpersonal violence.

Shirts are made by survivors and their families. Seeing the t-shirts is a visual representation of these tragic events.

The Clothesline Project



The Virtual Clothesline

COLOR MEANING	FEEL FREE TO BASE YOUR SHIRT OFF OF A MEANING LISTED BELOW OR SIMPLY CHOOSE ANY COLOR REGARDLESS OF THE MEANING
	WHITE represents people who have died due to violence.
	YELLOW or BEIGE represents battered or assaulted victims.
	RED, PINK, or ORANGE are for survivors of rape and sexual assault.
	BLUE or GREEN represent survivors of incest or child sexual violence.
	PURPLE or LAVENDER represents people attacked because of their gender identity or sexual orientation.
	BLACK represents people permanently handicapped as a result of violence or who were abused because they are disabled.

Our original plan for 2021 was to display the clothesline on campus again, but given current circumstances, we were unable to do so. Instead, we have created this virtual Clothesline Project.

Click on the color-coded categories below to explore the virtual Clothesline Project. Click a t-shirt to see it full size.

This year's project is brought to you by the [UCSF CARE Ambassadors](#).

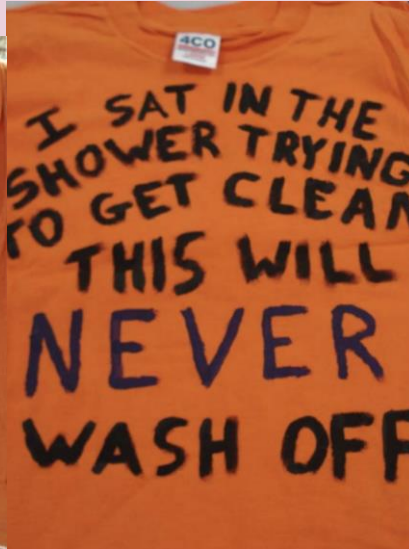
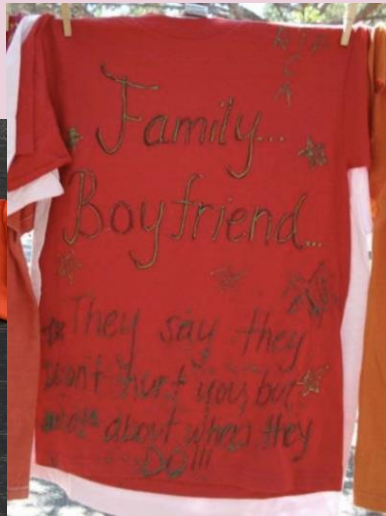
Yellow or Beige

Represents
battered or
assaulted victims



Red Pink or Orange

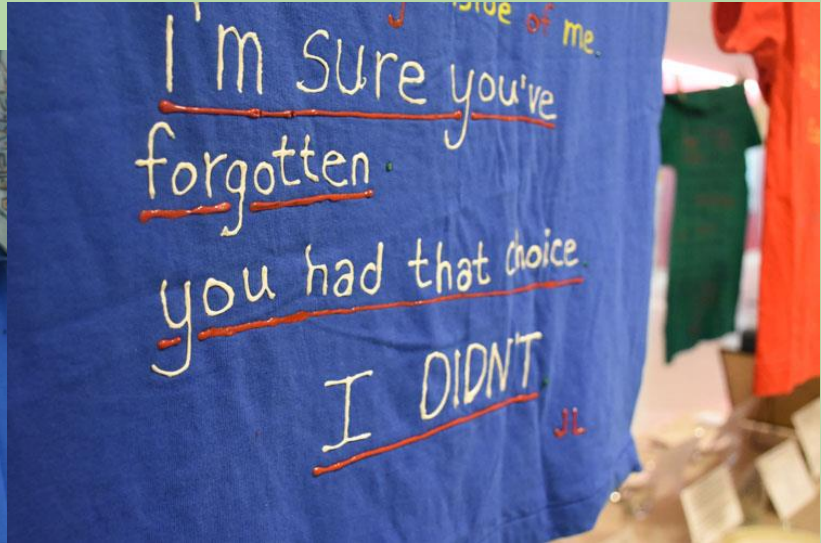
Are for survivors of rape and sexual assault



Src:
<https://careadvocate.ucsf.edu/clothesline-project>
Src:
<https://www.usu.edu/inclusion/events/clothesline/index>

Blue or Green

Represents survivors of incest
or child sexual violence



Src: <https://careadvocate.ucsf.edu/clothesline-project>

Src: <https://www.psuunderground.com/2017/10/24/in-photos-penn-state-clothesline-project-empty-place-at-the-table/>

Purple or Lavender

Represent people attacked for their gender identity or sexual orientation



Src: <https://careadvocate.ucsf.edu/clothesline-project>
Src: <https://www.kvrr.com/2017/03/27/clothesline-project-giving-a-voice-to-victims-of-sexual-assault/>

Make your own T-shirt Design

The making of a t-shirt can be a very liberating event. To create and submit a t-shirt for this year's Virtual Clothesline Project, please contribute your designs using this form.

https://ucsf.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7ZMBcrhVE0gBCWa?fbclid=IwAR1QkS6dprL5UwrsDOyZ5f8UZIFKRLQ1MxrS0AGZb2e1Cyt9BdBEKEzG1lc



Spread Awareness

Educate others and bring awareness about interpersonal violence, how to honor survivors by having open and honest conversations with your loved ones, friends, co-workers etc. Share this information flyer on your social media platforms and get the word out about the Clothesline Project.



THE CLOTHESLINE PROJECT

COLLECTIVE EXHIBIT OF T-SHIRTS CREATED BY SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE/ONES WHO HAVE LOST A LOVED ONE TO VIOLENCE.

JOIN US IN THIS EMPOWERING EVENT DESIGNED TO PROVIDE HEALING FOR SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE, EDUCATION ABOUT VIOLENCE, AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION.

RAISE AWARENESS THROUGH

- CREATING A T-SHIRT
- OBSERVING THE CLOTHESLINE PROJECT
- SHARING THE EVENT

FOR MORE INFO AND T-SHIRT SUBMISSION VISIT:
[HTTPS://CAREADVOCATE.UCSF.EDU/CLOTHESLINE-PROJECT](https://careadvocate.ucsf.edu/clothesline-project)



Testimonials



“It is important to hang the dirty laundry and expose the rampant rape culture in America perpetuated by media. Victims need to feel and know they are supported.” (1)

“Clothesline is a craft project that is about exposing the norms of rape culture; instead of calling out specific individuals, it aims for a critique of systemic and sanctioned misogyny.”

1) Dr Jebaroja Singh, Visiting Assistant Professor, Departments of Sociology and English and Women and Gender Studies Program, email correspondence
2) Dehoff and Swiencicki

Resources

- [UCSF Resources](#)
- [UC Campus resources](#)
- [Community resources](#)
- [Additional resources](#)

