

Year 1 Public Description of Work for  
Action Collaborative on Preventing Sexual Harassment in Higher Education

Harvard University

**Harvard University Resource for Online Anonymous Disclosures**

**This Action Applies to Rubric Item(s):** #10, #13, #15, and #26

**Description of Work:**

Consistent with the NASEM recommendations of *“improved policies, providing anonymous and non-mandatory reporting resources and tools, improved communication, increased transparency, and using climate assessments to inform action,”* in October 2019, the Harvard University Title IX Office launched its first university-wide, Resource for Online Anonymous Disclosures (“ROAD”) for incidents of sexual and gender-based harassment. The concept for the disclosure tool emerged from the feedback the University Title IX Office received from Harvard community members who wanted an alternative, web-based method for anonymously reporting concerns of sexual and gender-based harassment. From conceptualization to implementation, key stakeholders including students, staff, and faculty collaborated with the University Title IX Office at each stage of the project planning. The resulting disclosure tool includes a web-based form hosted by an independent, third-party vendor who provides secure, anonymous reporting services and is contractually committed to preserve anonymity and not pursue reporters’ identities.

To anonymously disclose a concern of sexual and/or gender-based harassment at Harvard, a reporter completes a form then submits it through the ROAD. Once submitted, the information in the form will be available only to certain members of the Harvard Title IX Office who can provide resources and supports. Via the ROAD, the Title IX Office provides a response which the reporter can then access and read at any time. In their response, the Title IX Office may provide information on resources, supports, and other options specific to the concerns that were disclosed. Whether or not a reporter chooses to reply, their anonymity is preserved during any and all correspondence made through the ROAD.

In October 2020, at the one-year mark, the Title IX Office will analyze and evaluate the first year of the ROAD’s effectiveness to inform next steps.

**Website for further information:** [titleix.harvard.edu/disclose](https://titleix.harvard.edu/disclose)

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