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## Press release : 2016 : 10 : 10 : USFSP Continues 'It's On Us' Pledge to Stand Against Sexual Violence

University of South Florida St. Petersburg. Office of University Advancement.

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### USFSP Continues 'It's On Us' Pledge to Stand Against Sexual Violence

The USF St. Petersburg Student Government organization takes a stand against sexual assault and violence with a Week of Action on Oct. 24-29. The effort will follow the "It's On Us" 2016 Fall Week of Action, which will be held nationally Oct. 9-15. The purpose of the event is to reframe the conversation surrounding sexual assault in a way that empowers, educates, and engages college students to help prevent it.

"We will be encouraging people and organizations to take on this challenge to show the survivors of sexual assault that we will not allow their experiences to be silenced, and that we, too, will speak up when we see these acts occur," said David Thompson, Student Government secretary of Communication and a sophomore Political Science and History double major.

Starting Oct. 10, Thompson said students will be encouraged to participate by [signing an online pledge](#) stating that they will take a stand against sexual violence. They also are encouraged to have their photos taken with a piece of tape over their mouths to signify the voiceless struggle of sexual assault victims and to post the photos on their social media accounts. At the end of the campaign, students then can post a photo of themselves with the tape removed.

"It is saying that although the campaign is over, our commitment to this issue does not end," Thompson said.

- **Monday, Oct. 24, 12 p.m.:** Official kickoff event will be held on Harborwalk Lawn
- **Monday, Oct. 24, 6 p.m.:** The Purple Dot Yoga organization will be doing a yoga session followed by a talk and mediation
- **Tuesday, Oct. 25, 1 p.m.:** Multicultural Activities Council (MAC) will host "Real Talk: Break the Silence"
- **Tuesday, Oct. 25, 6 p.m.:** Evening event will be a panel discussion on resources for survivors and for those who want to help survivors
- **Wednesday, Oct. 26, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.:** Community Resource Fair on Harborwalk
- **Wednesday, Oct. 26, 6-7 p.m.:** The Career Center will host a workshop about sexual assault and sexual harassment in the workplace, as well as what to look for in the hiring process in SLC 2101
- **Thursday, Oct. 27, 7-9 p.m.:** A screening of "The Hunting Ground" will be held in USC Ballroom 3

USFSP students can participate in the campaign and have their photos taken to share via social media Oct. 10-13:

- **Monday Oct. 10, 1-5 p.m.**
- **Tuesday, Oct. 11, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.**
- **Wednesday, Oct. 12, 1-3 p.m. and 5-8 p.m.**
- **Thursday, Oct. 13, noon-6 p.m.**

Learn more about the crisis services and resources that are available on the [USFSP Wellness Center](#) website.



*In Fall 2015, USFSP students covered their mouths with tape as representation of the sexual assault victims who say they often feel silenced about their victimization.*

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