

Turning Point's Survivor Speaker's Bureau Guidelines

The purpose of the *Survivor Speaker's Bureau* is to increase awareness about sexual assault and domestic violence through public speaking and education. We have prepared the following guidelines to assist you in determining if the *Survivor Speaker's Bureau* is a right fit for you:

- We ask that you be at least 18 years old
- We ask that you are able to receive messages from Turning Point on your chosen method of communication regarding the details of a speaking engagement.
- Speaking should not be considered counseling or a substitute for counseling. We ask that you be at a place of healing prior to undertaking public speaking.
- The goal of the Speaker's Bureau is to educate the community, not to get even with an offender or to seek revenge or retribution. We ask that you consider your motives before considering public speaking.
- If you are currently struggling with a mental illness or a substance abuse problem, we ask that you wait to participate until these things become manageable.
- We ask that you not speak if you have experience sexually assaulted or sexually abused within the last year.
- We ask that you not speak if you are currently in an abusive relationship or have been in an abusive relationship within the last year.
- Speakers are ultimately responsible for their own health and well-being before, during, and after speaking engagements. We ask that you be honest with yourself about your limitations and safety.
- We ask that you not use the last name of your offender when sharing your story.
- We ask that you be open to feedback from Turning Point staff when writing your story.

For Non-Offending Loved Ones

If your loved one is still alive, we ask that you inform them of your intention to take this training and your reason for doing so.

- We ask that if the survivor is opposed to you speaking publicly about the violence that you respect their wishes and not take the training. We ask that you consider another form of volunteerism.
- We ask that you establish guidelines with the survivor about what they would like you to share and what should be kept confidential.
- We ask that you not use the last name of the offender or survivor even if they give you permission.
- We ask that you review the *Speaker's Guidelines* and your completed *Speaker Form* (which you will receive *after* completing the training) with the survivor so that they understand the program and can give their input on your choice of speaking engagements.

Thank you for helping us end violence in all its forms.