



Festif & Safe Presentation and Guide

1. Project overview

Objective

The Festif & Safe project led by the *Table de concertation féministe Gaspésie · Îles-de-la-Madeleine* aims to prevent sexual assaults and involuntary intoxications in festive environments.

The project consists of several key steps :

- **Team training:** raise awareness and equip organizers and volunteers to identify risky situations.
- **Awareness campaigns:** share messages before and during events (via social media, on-site signage, and communications).
- **On-site presence:** ensure direct intervention by trained professionals during events.

As an event organizer, you have the opportunity to prevent sexual violence in festive settings. Through the Festif & Safe initiative, we provide you with a set of concrete and accessible measures to ensure safer spaces for everyone.

Toolkit

This toolkit has been specifically designed for event organizers like you. It contains everything you need to implement preventive actions:

- **Is your audience safe?** A self-assessment guide to help determine whether you should implement safety measures.
- **Project presentation and guide:** understand the project and gain the tools needed to implement it.
- **Local resource directory:** contacts for professionals who can provide on-site support.
- **Intervention protocol:** guidance on when and how to intervene in different situations.

- **Festif & Safe visuals:** shareable content for social media and printable materials to display at your event.
- **Pre-recorded training:** designed for your event’s organizing team and volunteers, this training raises awareness about sexual violence, helps identify problematic situations, and provides intervention strategies.

Whether you’re organizing a festival, concert, any other gathering, or even if you own a bar, this toolkit offers the keys to educate your team, provide appropriate support to attendees, and create a respectful and safe environment.

Why Adopt Festif & Safe?

- **Enhance the feeling of safety:** create a space where everyone feels comfortable and respected.
- **Demonstrate your commitment:** showcase values of respect and inclusivity.
- **Build trust:** let your attendees know that their safety is your priority.

Together, let’s ensure that every event is a joyful, respectful, and safe celebration for all. By integrating Festif & Safe measures, you become an agent of change for safer and more inclusive events.

For any questions about the project, feel free to contact Charlotte Agostini at cagostini@femmesgim.qc.ca.

2. Guide for implementing Festif & Safe measures

This document aims to equip you with the tools to implement measures for preventing sexual violence and involuntary intoxications in festive settings.

Before moving forward, here is a definition of a safe space:

A safe space is a calm, judgment-free area where individuals in distress (due to alcohol abuse, panic attacks, sexual violence, or involuntary intoxication) can temporarily withdraw. This space should:

- **Provide privacy:** use curtains or set up the area slightly away from noise.
- **Have constant supervision:** ensure someone is always present in the space.
- **Offer resources:** provide business cards, pamphlets, or contact information for key organizations such as CALACS La Bôme-Gaspésie, CALACS l'Espoir des Îles, Info-Aide Sexual Violence, and outreach workers.

If setting up a dedicated safe space is not feasible, you can repurpose an existing area at your event site (e.g., first aid tent, welcome area) to serve this function.

A safe space can include various types of materials such as: information about local organizations and services, harm reduction materials (tools for promoting responsible consumption), condoms, drink covers. It can also include general well-being supplies to support attendees' comfort and safety such as granola bars, water bottles, menstrual products, earplugs for tents or loud areas, coloring books, and stress-relief toys.

The following tables outline the recommended actions for each phase of the project, with each phase corresponding to a year. If you wish to intensify your efforts from the outset, you may also adopt certain measures planned from Phase #2 (these are marked with an *).

Phase #1 (first year)		
Measures	Yes	No
1. Designate a Festif & Safe coordinator within your team.		
2. Safe space :		
- Have a specific location on your event site and share its location with attendees		
- Ensure the criteria described above are met.		
3. Présence of intervention workers :		
- Contact local resources using the “contact directory” document		
- If they are available, coordinate their presence and collaboration		
- If they are not available, inform your medical team about the project so they can handle interventions and follow-ups appropriately if needed		
- Discuss with the support workers what materials they could provide (e.g., business cards of local organizations, prevention, and harm reduction materials).		
4. Show your commitment: zero tolerance for sexual assaults:		
- Post on social media		
- Display printed materials at the festival/event site.		
5. Festif & Safe training The Festif & Safe training included in your toolkit aims to equip members of the organizing team and volunteers to identify problematic situations and know how to respond.		

Phase #2 (second year)		
Measures	Yes	No
<p>1. Phase #1 : Continue implementing the measures from Phase #1 (first year) to adequately prepare for Phase #2.</p>		
<p>2. * Security and medical teams : Raise awareness and inform the security and medical teams about the Festif & Safe project. This includes sharing the project's objective and its approach, which emphasizes active listening, non-judgment, and victim support.</p>		
<p>3. Safe space/awareness kiosk :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reflect on ways to improve the safe space, including its location, the presence of intervention workers, and the materials provided - Set up a awareness kiosk, which could be located at the same spot as the safe space or elsewhere, to provide festival attendees with information as soon as the event site opens. 		
<p>4. Volunteers : When recruiting volunteers, ask if any would be interested in participating in the Festif & Safe project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For prevention and awareness purposes <p>AND/OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For intervention purposes (if they have relevant qualifications). 		
<p>5. * Intervention and incident reporting protocol :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Follow the intervention protocol and modify it as needed to suit your event's specific context - Establish an incident reporting protocol to ensure that both your team and potential victims have a clear understanding of the intervention process and all important details. 		

Phase #3 (third year)		
Measures	Yes	No
6. Phase #1 et #2 : Continue implementing the measures from Phase #1 (first year) to adequately prepare for Phase #2.		
7. Reference Number : Have a phone number that could be published on social media and that would allow a victim to call if they do not feel safe going to the safe space or if your site does not have a safe space.		
8. Safe space : Continue the work of reflection regarding the improvement of the safe space, whether in terms of location, the presence of workers or prevention equipment.		

References and tools to go further:

- [Sexual health and safety at festivals](#), Penington Institutue
- [Project Lueur : acting against human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation in festivals and events](#), Phare des Affranchies (free program)
- [Sécurité of cisgender and trans women and girls at outdoor events in Montréal](#), Conseil des Montréalaises, 2017

