

# 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL SLUTWALK LUBBOCK 2013

On January 4, 2011 a member of Toronto's law enforcement commented on a sexual assault incident with the following quote "women should avoid dressing like sluts in order not to be victimized." In response to the comment, enraged community members organized an event titled "slut walk" to highlight the term that both enraged and inspired them to join together with a message that victims are never to blame for their sexual assault. SlutWalk has since become an international movement. It has now evolved into a body of community activists standing together to speak out against sexual violence. To read more about the original SlutWalk, visit [www.slutwalktoronto.com](http://www.slutwalktoronto.com).

SlutWalks are working to draw attention to societal norms about women and about sexuality that create an environment where sexual violence is more likely to occur. By bringing awareness to these norms and starting community conversations around them, we can all work to change these same norms and ultimately prevent violence from happening in the first place. SlutWalks can be used as an opportunity to engage the public, create new local partnerships and create awareness about rape myths ubiquitous in our communities. The enthusiasm behind the movement has successfully activated communities around the world to unite in support of sexual assault victims while challenging the negative stereotypes that hinder justice for victims of sexual assault here in Texas and around the world.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual SlutWalk Lubbock will begin at 4:30pm on Saturday, November 2nd. We will meet at the Buddy Holly Center parking lot on 19th and Crickets Ave., head West towards 19th & Ave. Q (we will cross the street at the light), then head North up Ave. Q to 14th Street. We will have an after party at Belly's Café, including a silent auction and t-shirt sales! Proceeds from the auction and t-shirt sales will benefit the Hope and Healing Fund which provides survivors of sexual assault confidential, short-term counseling sessions with a licensed professional counselor at a reduced rate or at no cost to the client. Donations may also be made through <http://www.gofundme.com/4ivys4>.

There are several reasons for keeping the word "slut" in the title of this event. It is something that we have discussed at length, knowing full well the word makes people uncomfortable. In fact, it makes *us* uncomfortable, and that, inherently, is the problem. It is not a word that we have created for ourselves. It is a word that we have been labeled with by a culture that blames the victims of sexual assault (who are certainly NOT limited to women but are typically thought of as women). So in continuity with the original SlutWalk Toronto, and in protest of victim-blaming, we continue to include "slut" in the title of our event. **We are not protesting for the right to be called slut.** We are protesting for the right to ownership of our bodies, our sexuality. We are protesting to take the word back, to say it is ours not "yours" to give. Certainly, we realize that one walk will not reinvent the meaning behind the word slut. It is ingrained, much as the culture surrounding sexual assault is ingrained. It is a fight and an ideology that one tiny walk in Lubbock cannot surmount. But it is a strong word, it is a word with power, and it is a word that will be noticed—and we will use it to show that WE have power over that word.

If you would like more information about this topic or event, please contact Brianna Bennett at 620-481-9989 or [brianna.bennett@ttu.edu](mailto:brianna.bennett@ttu.edu).

---

Brianna Bennett, M.S.  
Clinical Psychology Doctoral Student  
Department of Psychology  
Texas Tech University  
Lubbock, TX 79409-2051