FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 23rd, 2012
The Center for Gender, Sexuality and Activism
Boston University
Contact: Michelle Weiser
Public Relations Coordinator
MWeiser@bu.edu // @MWeiser22

## TAKE BACK THE NIGHT MARCH AND RALLY TO ADDRESS SEXUAL ASSAULT AND EMPOWER SURVIVORS AT BOSTON UNIVERSITY

The Feminist Collective, a group that meets under the Center for Gender, Sexuality and Activism at Boston University is hosting a <u>Take Back the Night</u> march and rally on <u>Friday</u>, <u>March 30 at 7:00 PM</u> at the BU Beach with support from the university. Take Back the Night is a sex-positive, anti-violence and sexual assault awareness campaign. The goal of Take Back the Night is to empower students who have felt endangered by going out at night, especially survivors of sexual assault. The audience and participants will be comprised of all genders and from diverse populations of the BU community.

Students, administrators, faculty and community members will come together for a speakout, rally and march through BU's campus, ending in celebration back at the BU Beach with music and theater performances. The rally will include speeches by nationally <u>Certified</u> <u>Sexuality Educator Megan Andelloux</u>, an in-depth explanation of consent, what it means to be a bystander, and an emphasis on the importance of the entire BU community to ensure safety and support of peers and students.

The speak-out, an opportunity for sexual assault survivors to share their stories, will be facilitated by members of the Feminist Collective. Media will not be permitted to record these personal stories without the speakers' explicit consent.

Take Back the Night, a nation-wide campaign, comes after numerous sexual assault instances have been reported at BU. Take Back the Night intends to empower students to keep speaking out against sexual assault, and to explore the extent to which reported assaults are not isolated incidents, but possibly a university culture on campuses across the country, including BU.

Take Back the Night organizer Sasha Goodfriend (CAS, 2014) says, "Take Back the Night is an opportunity for healing, education and empowerment for the entire Boston University community. We hope to connect the diverse student population and prove that as a student body, we stand united against sexual assault."

###

The Center for Gender, Sexuality and Activism (CGSA) at Boston University strives to be a safe space for people of all genders and sexualities. Using a social justice framework, The CGSA aims to end gender oppression and violence, and advocates for the full equality and inclusion of women, queer and trans students. Our dynamic community fosters challenging and open discourse, promotes student activism, and provides resources and education for the Boston University Community <a href="mailto:bu.edu/cgsa/">bu.edu/cgsa/</a>/ @BUCGSA // cgsa@bu.edu