

MEDIA RELEASE

Contact: Kylee Roberts, co-event planner

Email: kroberts@ithaca.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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When the Silence Stopped: Community Event for Sexual Assault Survivors

ITHACA, NY - On December 14, 2018 the Sacred Root Kava Bar will be hosting *When the Silence Stopped*, an artistic showcase dedicated to creating a safe space for survivors of sexual assault.

In a time where our world is filled with an immense amount of bigotry and hate, we as a community must come together to proactively make a change. While it might be easy to be a bystander, *When the Silence Stopped* will be an evening filled with love and support for survivors of sexual assault. The evening will feature song, dance, artwork, and meditation from community members, students, and outside organizations who stand in solidarity with sexual assault survivors.

Survivors have recently been strong enough to share their stories to let others know that they are not alone. As allies it is now our turn to let you know that we are here for you. Sara Gutierrez (Ithaca College '19, Acting BFA) conceptualized the event the morning after Judge Brett Kavanaugh was confirmed for the United States Supreme Court.

“A lot of people in my life have been affected by sexual assault,” Gutierrez says. “I find that we don’t talk about it as much as people need to. So here we are, creating something positive: Let’s start with a public support system.”

Gutierrez is accompanied by four senior Ithaca College students - Alisar Awwad, Kylee Roberts, Jacob Stuckelman and Calvin Yohannan - in planning the event, which encompasses communicating with the Ithaca community off campus. In between performances of soloists, dancers and poets, organizations from all over Ithaca will be invited to share words of care and unity.

When will your voice be heard? *When the Silence Stopped* will provide a safe space for all walks of life.

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***When the Silence Stopped* is taking place at Sacred Root Kava Lounge and Tea bar, located at 103 South Geneva Street, Ithaca NY.**

Interested in representing your organization in solidarity with *When the Silence Stopped*? Contact Kylee Roberts at kroberts@ithaca.edu about tabling and representation information at the event.