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## Original URI Safe Zone Campaign Description

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# “URI Safe Zone” Campaign

The “URI Safe Zone” symbol shown below is meant to convey a message to lesbians, gays, and bisexuals (as well as to the rest of the community!) at the University of Rhode Island. The intended message is that the person displaying this symbol is one who will be non-judgmental, trustworthy, and understanding should anyone need help, advice, or just someone with whom to talk. In a campus environment that may often seem like a desert of hatred and intolerance, this symbol will demarcate an oasis of understanding and support. Anyone seeing this symbol will know that, whatever the attitude toward gays, lesbians, and bisexuals may be elsewhere on campus, here at least is a “Safe Zone.”

Anyone who sincerely wishes to participate in this campaign and genuinely commits to embodying the symbol’s meaning can obtain one from the Affirmative Action Office, Police Headquarters, or the Office of Student Life. Please display the symbol at your own office, room, or other appropriate space to announce your creation of another “Safe Zone” at URI.

*The symbol is a green circle surrounding a pink triangle, and bearing the words “URI SAFE ZONE.” The pink triangle was used by the Nazis to label gay men but has been adopted as a symbol of gay and lesbian identity and self-esteem. The green circle, the opposite of the familiar red circle with a slash, signifies that it is okay for these issues to be discussed in the area where the symbol is displayed.*



“The University of Rhode Island prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion, age, color, creed, national origin, handicap or **sexual orientation** (emphasis added) ... in the recruitment, admission, access to, or treatment of students, the recruitment, hiring, or treatment of faculty and staff, and the operation of its activities and programs...”

*A project of the URI Committee to Eliminate Heterosexism and Homophobia*