

Zero Tolerance – Sexual Harassment

Approved by Assembly: 13/11/2014



Assembly notes:

1. Sexual consent refers to the agreement to participate in sexual activity.
2. That the NUS definition of sexual harassment is as follows:

The defining characteristics of sexual harassment are that it is unwanted and/or persistent behaviour of a sexual nature. Examples of unacceptable behaviour include: -

- a. Unwanted sexual comments (including comments about your body or private life)
 - b. Unwelcome sexual invitations, innuendoes, and offensive gestures
 - c. Wolf Whistling, catcalling, or offensive sexual noises
 - d. Groping, Pinching or smacking of the body
 - e. Having your clothing tugged, pulled or lifted without your consent
 - f. Someone exposing their sexual organs to you without your consent
3. There have been several incidents involving sexual harassment and assault around the UK which have led to many campuses taking action against it.
 4. The Hidden Marks report, published by the NUS Women's Campaign, revealed that 68% of women students have experienced sexual harassment while a student at their institution.
 5. Compulsory consent workshops were part of induction for Oxford and Cambridge University students in September 2014.

Assembly believes:

1. Consent is a necessary part of any sexual interaction.
2. The Students' Union should be working to combat rape culture and sexual harassment.
3. Sexual consent education should be a normal part of every student's experience at University.
4. There is a culture of 'victim blaming' in society when it comes to sexual consent.

Assembly resolves:

1. To mandate Welfare, Equality and Diversity committee create a zero tolerance policy in regards to sexual harassment and lobby for it to be advertised and enforced in throughout the University campus including college bars.
2. To mandate the Community Officer to lobby pubs, clubs and bars within Durham and Stockton to implement and enforce the zero tolerance policy.

3. To state the need for the University to introduce compulsory consent workshops from September 2015 during induction.
4. The Students' Union to work with the University to develop training and support for students in positions of responsibility on how to enforce the zero tolerance policy".
5. For Welfare, Equality and Diversity committee to lead a campaign in response to this issue.