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Zero Tolerance to Sexual Harassment

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The Union notes

The Hidden marks survey showed 68% of women experienced some form of physical or verbal sexual harassment whilst at university.

The survey shows that those experiencing sexual harassment had a significant negative effect on their mental health, academic achievements and interpersonal relationships.

43% of victims experiencing serious sexual assault had not told anyone about their experience. The main reasons being the victim felt too ashamed or embarrassed to report, that they would not be believed or taken seriously, and thinking that they would be blamed for what had happened.

Although the survey was for students identifying as women, a smaller percentage of male students will also be victims of sexual assault and violence during their time at university.

The Union believes

That all students deserve a university experience free of sexual harassment

That the University has a responsibility to help all its students perform at their best academic ability. Academic ability is often negatively impacted by sexual harassment

That the University has a duty to maintain a campus where sexual harassment is not tolerated.

That the University has a duty to treat all victims of sexual harassment with dignity and respect and make it clear that all victims will be treated seriously

The Union resolves

To provide yearly training for the liberation officers e.g. Women's and L.G.B.T. and the Community and Student Right's Officer.

To ensure that all Union and University staff understand what is meant by sexual harassment and what they are expected to do to maintain a safe campus. This may include, if people have been found to have committed harassment in the LCR, they will be ejected immediately.

To liaise with the UEA counselling services, Nightline and the Advice Centre to publicise their services better and encourage both men and women who have been victims of sexual violence or harassment to seek help.

The Union should lobby the University to ensure that victims of sexual harassment are treated with respect and dignity, and that the treatment of offenders reflects the fact that the victim is likely to know the offender.

Put up posters throughout Union House (in particular on the back of male and female toilet doors) that explain that alcohol is never an excuse for committing sexual harassment, and restating the Union's zero tolerance to sexual harassment .

To have a link on the Union website to the Hidden Marks website