

16 Days of Action against Gender Based Violence

25 November – 10 December 2018

The student movement and the women's movement both have a long history of political campaigning. Campaigning during the 16 days of action against gender-based violence is a key time when students' associations and women's groups come out in force to take action.

16 Days of Action Against Gender Based Violence was a movement which began at the Women's Global Leadership Institute in 1991. Since 1991, 5,167 groups in 187 countries have contributed to promoting and supporting these 16 Days. Large organisations such as the world-renowned Amnesty International and World Health Organisation support and celebrate the 16 Days, as do many local and grassroots organisations.

As NUS our focus during the 16 days of Action is tackling gender based violence on campus.

A report published by the National Union of Students (2013) found that **1 in 4 female students reporting unwanted sexual behaviour during their studies** and **1 in 5 experiencing sexual harassment during their first week of term**. This followed on from research in 2010 which showed that **14 per cent of women students had experienced serious sexual violence**, the majority of which was **carried out by fellow students**. And of these only **4 per cent reported this to their institution**.

Lad Culture Research:

<https://www.nusconnect.org.uk/articles/61-of-freshers-unaware-of-sexual-harassment-reporting-procedures>

Hidden marks report:

https://www.nus.org.uk/Global/NUS_hidden_marks_report_2nd_edition_web.pdf

These statistics highlight the scale of the problem across colleges and universities and evidence the need for further action to be taken.

The [Equally Safe in Higher Education toolkit](#) produced by the University of Strathclyde through their government funded project has provided guidance and practical steps for universities in Scotland to tackle gender based violence on campus. During the 16 Days of Action last year we worked alongside the #EmilyTest Campaign to call on the Scottish Government for further funding for research and recommendations for Further Education, and to support the implementation of these toolkits within colleges and universities. As a result, the Scottish government has announced £396,000 million in funding to create a toolkit for Further Education and to support the implementation of the Equally Safe toolkits. We welcome the Equally Safe in Higher Education toolkit, which lays out the importance of student engagement in the development and delivery of the recommendations, and look forward to seeing the same principles applied to the Further Education toolkit. The NUS Scotland Women's Campaign will launch a guidance to support student's associations to fulfil this role. It will be available through NUS Connect.

We have created a list of 16 activities that students' associations can do to mark the 16 Days of Action. We are also issuing a call to action for all students' associations to raise

awareness and show solidarity with survivors of gender based violence. This call to action asks students' associations to host an on-campus rally or work in partnership to host a Fight for the Night Demonstration on December 10th. The Women's Campaign will provide resources to support students associations to take part in the call to action, and we hope that students' associations across Scotland respond. This will make a national statement to students and the wider sector that students' associations are there to support survivors and those at risk, and are prepared to work with their institutions to develop and deliver on the Equally Safe recommendations.

Statistics: what we know about gender based violence on campus

In 2010, NUS revealed the results of [extensive research](#) into students' experiences of sexual harassment, assault and violence. The research found that:

- **One in three** women students **felt unsafe visiting their college and university in the evening.**
- **34 per cent** of women students **had been physically harassed**, while **68 per cent** had been verbally harassed.
- **14 per cent** of women students **had experienced serious sexual violence**, the majority of which was carried out by fellow students. And of these only **4 per cent** reported this to their institution.

[Further research](#) in 2014 found that **one in four students had been inappropriately touched or groped**, which disproportionately affected women.

In 2016 the [Scottish Government reported](#) that there had been an **8.9 per cent increase in incidents of domestic abuse of women up to the age of 30**. Scottish Women's Aid warned at the time that whilst these figures are significant, the recording of domestic abuse as an 'incident' does not take into account that domestic abuse is experienced by many women and children as a constant pattern of intimidation and control.

For help or more information please contact Shuwanna Aaron, NUS Scotland Women's Officer on shuwanna.aaron@nus-scotland.org.uk

Sixteen things to do during the 16 Days of Action.

1. Raise awareness of support services available to survivors or those at risk of GBV through your institution, locally and nationally.

* See Appendix A for suggested organisations.

2. Meet with your institution's lead on combatting gender based violence to establish the role of the students' Association, and communicate this to your students.

- The best point of contact will vary between organisations, however it's likely this may be a senior member of staff responsible for student experience, the Principal or the Equalities and Diversity Department.

3. Host a panel event with speakers from across the sector to raise awareness and educate students about gender based violence.

* See Appendix A for suggested organisations.

4. Launch or relaunch a campaign online or on campus which raises awareness about the students' associations' commitment to combating gender based violence. Some previous examples include:

- I heart Consent Report:
<https://www.nusconnect.org.uk/resources/i-heart-consent-pilot-report>
- I Heart Consent Campaign Resources:
<https://www.nusconnect.org.uk/liberation/women-students/lad-culture/i-heart-consent>
- Good Night Out
<https://www.nusconnect.org.uk/liberation/women-students/lad-culture/good-night-out>
- Reclaim your Campus
<https://www.nusconnect.org.uk/articles/nus-launches-reclaim-your-campus>

- #EmilyTest Campaign.
<http://emilytest.co.uk/>
- White Ribbon Scotland
<http://www.whiteribbonscotland.org.uk/node/275>
- NUS Connect
<https://www.nusconnect.org.uk/articles/five-ideas-tackling-sexual-harassment-on-campus>

5. Run workshops to raise awareness and provide training to students and staff. See Appendix A for a list of organisations that may be able to offer workshops, and Appendix B for other working and training options.

6. Organise an event to fundraise for your local Rape Crisis Centre, Women's Shelter, etc. Activities could include, bake sales, talent shows, variety nights, film screenings, exhibitions, conferences or setting up donation points.

7. Set up a collection point on campus to collect, clothing, toiletries and other items to donate to local women's shelters, food banks, etc.

8. Organise an event that highlights and addresses the experiences of people with intersecting identities and gender based violence. For example, a panel event focused on racialised abuse against women of colour, gendered islamophobia, gender based violence in the LGBT+ community, trans-misogynistic abuses, gender based violence against disabled people. It is important to do this with the input and leadership of those who self-identify into these communities, to ensure that events are respectful and dignified, that they do not criminalise or victimise certain communities and are not tokenistic.

9. Organise a drop-in session with local crisis and support centres for survivors or those at risk of gender based violence to be able to access professional support from local support centres.
*See Appendix A.

10. Work with a focus groups of students to better understands the needs and

experiences of support on campus. Ensure the experiences of students with intersectional identities is captured.

Refer here for support:

<https://www.strath.ac.uk/humanities/schoolofsocialworksocialpolicy/equallysafeinhighereducation/eshetoolkit/gbvinheresearchtools/>

11. Use your democratic structures of your students' association to pass policy on zero tolerance, combatting gender based violence, offering support to survivors, etc.
*See Appendix C.

12. Review and evaluate students' association policy on zero tolerance, combatting gender based violence etc. with students to ensure it is fit for purpose.
* See Appendix C.

13. Review and evaluate students' association reporting processes to ensure they are fit for purpose.
* See Appendix C.

14. Lobby your institution for specialist mental health care for survivors of gender based violence.
* See Appendix C.

15. Organise a vigil or moments of silence to remember those who have lost their lives because of gender based violence.
* See Appendix C.

16. Organise a Rally or Fight for the night Demonstration. You can use the check-sheet created by the Women's Campaign to support this.
*See Appendix D

Appendix A – Useful Organisations

- Zero Tolerance
www.zerotolerance.org.uk/
- Rape Crisis Scotland
www.rapecrisisscotland.org.uk/
- Violence against Women Partnership
Google for partnerships in your local community
- Scottish Women's Aid
womensaid.scot/
- Scottish Women's Rights Centre
www.scottishwomensrightscentre.org.uk/
- National Violence Against Women Network
www.improvementservice.org.uk/tackling-violence-against-women.html
- Save Lives
www.safelives.org.uk/
- Amina - Muslim Women's Research centre
www.mwrc.org.uk/
- Hemat Gryffe
www.hematgryffe.org.uk/
- Shakti Women's Aid
shaktiedinburgh.co.uk/
- Galop- National LGBT Domestic Abuse Helpline
www.galop.org.uk/galop-to-run-national-lgbt-domestic-violence-helpline/
- LGBT Youth Scotland
www.lgbtyouth.org.uk/
- White Ribbon UK
<http://www.whiteribbonscotland.org.uk/>

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Appendix B – Educational Resources

Equally Safe in Colleges and Universities:

<https://www.strath.ac.uk/humanities/schoolofsocialworksocialpolicy/equallysafeinhighereducation/eshetoolkit/gbvprimaryprevention/>

NUS Scotland Women on Tour Workshops:

<https://www.nusconnect.org.uk/nus-scotland/campaigns/nus-scotland-women-on-tour-workshops>

I heart Consent Report:

<https://www.nusconnect.org.uk/resources/i-heart-consent-pilot-report>

White Ribbon Scotland

<http://www.whiteribbonscotland.org.uk/Workshops>

Massive Open Online Course - Understanding Violence against Women: Myths and Realities

<https://www.strath.ac.uk/humanities/schoolofsocialworksocialpolicy/equallysafeinhighereducation/moocunderstandingviolenceagainstwomenmythsandrealities/>

Consent Matters: Boundaries, Respect and Positive Intervention

<https://www.epigeum.com/courses/support-wellbeing/consent-matters-boundaries-respect-and-positive-intervention/modules/>

Power in the Academy: Staff Student Sexual Misconduct Report:

<https://www.nusconnect.org.uk/resources/nus-staff-student-sexual-misconduct-report>

You may also consider: Film screenings, plays and multi-media performances, art exhibitions, photography, history, conferences and seminars.

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Appendix C – Advice on policies, procedures and strategies

Equally Safe in Higher Education Toolkit (see Appendix A)

<https://www.strath.ac.uk/humanities/schoolofsocialworksocialpolicy/equallysafeinhighereducation/eshetoolkit/gbvcurriculumknowledgeexchange/>

- GBV Staff Policy Template:
https://www.strath.ac.uk/media/1newwebsite/departmentsubject/socialwork/documents/eshe/3.GBV_Policy_28Staff_29_Including_Response_Pathways_28Example_29.pdf.pagespeed.ce.h0gm8upXyX.pdf
- GBV Student Policy Draft:
https://www.strath.ac.uk/media/1newwebsite/departmentsubject/socialwork/documents/eshe/4.GBV_Policy_28_Student_29_Draft_.Including_Response_Pathways.pdf.pagespeed.ce.GtouYanCbA.pdf
- Staff Development and Training
<https://www.strath.ac.uk/humanities/schoolofsocialworksocialpolicy/equallysafeinhighereducation/eshetoolkit/respondingtobvinascottishhesetting/>

Pinsent Mason Guidance for Higher Education Institutions

<https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/policy-and-analysis/reports/Documents/2016/guidance-for-higher-education-institutions.pdf>

Creating Strategies for tackling Lad Culture

<https://www.nusconnect.org.uk/resources/creating-your-strategy-to-tackle-lad-culture>

Principles of tackling Lad Culture Bench Marking tool:

<https://www.nusconnect.org.uk/resources/5-principles-of-tackling-lad-culture-benchmarking-tool>

Guidance on tackling harassment and hate crime:

<https://www.nusconnect.org.uk/resources/briefing-report-to-tackle-harassment-hate-crime-and-violence-against-women>

Changing the Culture:

<https://www.nusconnect.org.uk/resources/changing-the-culture-report-of-the-uuk-taskforce-examining-violence-against-women-harassment-and-hate-crime-affecting-university-students>

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Appendix D – Check sheet for organising a rally/Fight for the Night demonstration

- Identify and bring together a working group to organise the event.
- Identify available resources (funding, etc) and avenues for other funding options.
- Identify some principles for planning and reviewing your event plans to ensure the event is accessible, inclusive and intersectional.
- Decide who is going to do what. Appoint one or two people as team leaders in charge of overall organising of the protest. Divide specific responsibilities to other participants.
 1. Agree what you want to achieve by hosting the rally/demonstration
 2. What is the main message you want to get across?
 3. Identify a theme, e.g. anti-domestic violence, intersectionality, sex workers rights, no theme, etc.
 4. What audience do you want to reach?
 5. Who are your desired attendees on the march? Women only, all genders?
 6. Do you want to organise different blocs? E.g. Women only bloc, child friendly blocs, non-chanting blocs, etc.
 7. Who will be the main spokesperson/s and organisers?
 8. Contact other stakeholders who may be interested in supporting the march, e.g. clubs and societies at your university or college, local community groups, women's centres, local rape crisis centres, women's aid, etc.
 9. Identify legal support (if necessary), you may be able to get help from your students' association, NUS or local/ community organisations and stakeholders.
 10. Identify potential speakers for the rally before and/or after the march. Consider inviting influential policy makers with a good track record relating to your theme/main message; speakers from your students' association, women's group, college or university and/ or speakers from stakeholder organisations – local women's centres, rape crisis centres, community groups etc.
- Book Venues if necessary for the rally before or after the march (if necessary), and a Head-Quarters during the march for those unable to march and to co-ordinate communication, press or social media.
- Discuss and plan a route for the march. The march should start and end in easily accessible places which are safe for public gatherings. The route should go through busy areas to draw maximum public attention.
- Once you have a route planned, contact your council to book the march. Details of this will be on your council website.
- Discuss and agree design ideas for posters, flyers and/or sharing information online. Appoint someone to pursue this with a designer. Include the date, address of the rally or information on the route your march will take, as well as the starting time. If you want to draw huge crowds, start advertising several weeks before the event.

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- Inform the media (e-mail a press release and digital photographs of eye-catching displays or banners). Consider filming your own footage (e.g. by using digital video) to publicize it via the internet.
- Appoint one or multiple people for communication and social media. Schedule posts for each day announcing speakers, march route, providing other information to audience and driving interest in the event.
- Recruit stewards, including one head steward that will communicate to the police and council. Stewards will guide participants along the route. Plan for at least one steward for every 50 participants. Brief them on action in case of emergencies, e.g. someone getting hurt or conflicts with troublemakers. Stewards should be easily identifiable, e.g. by wearing bright t-shirts or hi-vis vests. It's a good idea to recruit stewards from among those interested in attending the event, perhaps by making public call through the platforms you use to advertise the event.
- Organize equipment, such as megaphones, public address equipment (loudspeakers, microphones) and digital cameras as needed.
- Look up or chants for the march, ensure to have a number of chants, which are easy to follow and reflective of your theme/s.
- Organise a time to create banners/placards.
- Consider integrating other campaign tools into the demonstration, e.g. collecting e-mails for participants who wish to stay in touch, or signatures for a petition. Ensure some participants take specific responsibility for these extra tasks and plan plenty of time for them.

During the demonstration...

- Respect your time-plan so that participants stay enthusiastic.
- As in all societies, there are people who resist "breaking the silence" on violence against women and girls, you are likely to appear "provocative" to some even if you communicate in a sensitive manner – be prepared for that.
- Be prepared for challenges from bystanders, including "identity-bating", i.e. comments that try to discredit the campaigners as individuals or as a group. Stay calm and do not get embroiled in a fight; if needed, remind other participants to remain peaceful.
- Stay in communication with your stewards to ensure the event runs smoothly and attendees are safe.
- Keep the chants going through the march to ensure the march is lively and engaging for those attending and captures the attention of bystanders.

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