

Tackling sexual violence in further education activity fund

Information and guidance 2018/19

NUS Women's Campaign is pleased to announce a funding pot to support students' unions and student groups/societies to campaign and run initiatives to tackle sexual harassment and violence in further education.

Sexual violence in further education

We undertook research in 2018/19 to better understand the experiences and perceptions of further education students on a range of unwanted sexual behaviour. We found;

- Overall, 75 per cent of respondents to our survey had had an unwanted sexual experience at least once.
- One in seven respondents (14 per cent) had experienced attempted rape/unwanted sexual intercourse.
- One in three experiences of sexual harassment took place at college, of which 87 per cent occurred outside class.
- Only 14% of those who had experienced any form of unwanted sexual behaviour reported it.
- Friends, acquaintances, romantic partners and other further education students were commonly responsible for incidents of sexual violence and harassment.
- Students often cited fear over someone else's reaction as a reason for not challenging unwanted sexual experiences.
- Students demonstrated a good understanding of consent but struggled to put it into practice

The full findings can be found in our report ["Sexual Violence in Further Education"](#)

One of the report's recommendations for NUS was to create activity funds for student groups in further education colleges to deliver campaigning and education to prevent and tackle sexual harassment and violence.

This funding pot is our response to that.

The Activity Fund

NUS Women's Campaign is making £1000 available to further education students' unions to tackle sexual violence. £250 will be awarded to four of our further education members in total.

Eligibility and requirements

- Any students' union or association in further education across the UK can apply.
- The applicant must be an NUS member.
- The funding must be used for a new activity or project which would otherwise not be taking place
- The activity or project must be delivered between July 2019-March 2020

- All recipients of the funding will be required to provide NUS with a short report by spring 2020. This will outline activities, impact, successes and challenges and learning will be shared with other members and develop our collective knowledge on the issue. A report template will be provided.

The activities we will fund

Our research highlighted a number of issues facing students in further education when it comes to dealing with sexual harassment and navigating sexual and romantic relationships. We are keen to support projects that help students to **identify and respond** to unhealthy sexual behaviours; develop students' understanding of **consent** and how to put that into practice; encourage students to **take action** if they see or experience unwanted sexual behavior; focus on the **specific challenges** faced by women, LGBT+ and disabled students that are outlined in our report, or projects that address any of the issues highlighted in our [report](#).

To give you an idea of the type of work we are interested in, some of the recommendations from our [report](#) are provided below. These may give you some ideas for initiatives to tackle sexual violence at your college. Your proposed activity **does not** need to be limited to these;

- Support students' unions or associations to campaign on campus, providing first responder training where possible to students and staff who may receive disclosures of unwanted sexual behaviour.
- Provide workshops on consent and healthy relationships that fully incorporate domestic abuse, working with local higher education institutions where possible to share resources and access a pool of trainers.
- Develop specific support for vulnerable groups identified through this research, notably bisexual and disabled students, including broader education and campaigning across the student body to challenge harmful stereotypes.
- Publicise institutions' policies and the available range of responses internally, and

signpost to appropriate external services. While this should be outlined as part of students' induction, reminders and refresher information should be provided throughout the year.

Timeline

- 20 June 2019 – application process opens
- 27 June 2019 – application process closes
- 28 June 2019 – successful applicants informed
- July 2019 – March 2020 – project delivered
- April 2020 – report due

To apply, please complete this [form](#) before the deadline Thursday 27 June.

Good luck! We look forward to receiving your application.

Sarah Lasoye, NUS Women's Officer 2018-19