

#StandByMe Partnership - Toolkit

Supporting Student Survivors

The #StandByMe campaign Partnership Scheme aims to bring together Rape Crisis centres, universities, and colleges to improve support for survivors of sexual violence.

Introduction

NUS Hidden Marks showed that 1/7 female university students have been a victim of serious sexual assault, but the quality of university reporting procedures and support processes are inconsistent and inadequate. The lack of clarity around the complaints and disciplinary procedures for victims of sexual harassment and assault on campuses is reflected in our [Lad Culture audit report](#) and our recent [Lad Culture and sexism survey](#),

For much too long universities and colleges have offered very little in terms of support most of the time the help comes in the form of signposting students to local services which are often under-funded and inadequate. Students want to see their institutions invest in long term and emergency support for victims of sexual assault. #STANDBYME aims to bring together Rape Crisis centres, universities, and colleges to improve support for survivors of sexual assault and rape.

This toolkit aims to provide institutions, students' unions and rape crisis centres with more detailed overview on potential activities and outputs that your partnership could engage in, working towards providing accessible and high quality support services for survivors of sexual violence.

If you have any queries or want to find information about the local rape crisis services online please visit: <http://rapecrisis.org.uk>

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#StandByMe Partnership Scheme

The #StandByMe campaign aims to improve reporting procedures as well as services available to support student survivors of sexual assault whilst at university or college. The Lad Culture Audit recommends that institutions and SUs should work together to provide and promote the following:

- **Clear care pathways** - accessible modes of reporting which is linked to a specialised support for victims of sexual harassment and assault.
- **Clear signposting** - to local police stations, sexual health services, counselling and other services available for victims of sexual harassment and assault.
- **External Partnerships** - seek to improve links with third party organisations which can provide support to victims.
- **Safe Spaces** - implement safe spaces and support groups to improve the support services available to victims of sexual harassment and sexual violence.

The NUS #StandByMe Partnership scheme aims to bring together Rape Crisis centres, universities, and colleges to improve support for survivors of sexual assault / violence.

Rape Crisis

Rape Crisis England & Wales is the national umbrella body for a network of autonomous member Rape Crisis organisations across England and Wales and was set up to support their specialist work. They also raise awareness and understanding of sexual violence in the wider community and with local, regional and national government. Rape Crisis organisations are women-led and offer a range of specialist support, advocacy, counselling and information in a women-only safe space. Some also provide separate space and services for male sexual violence survivors. Rape Crisis Scotland (RCS) is the national office for the Rape Crisis movement in Scotland. They support the work of local centres and develop new centres in areas where there are no or few specialist services. Rape Crisis Network Ireland is the representative body for member Rape Crisis centres, the RCNI role includes the development and coordination of national projects.

The partnership scheme is divided up into four key trends.

Strand	Objective	Outcome
Care Pathways	Creating an accessible and effective system for student survivors that enables them to report their experiences and access support services	Increased awareness and capacity amongst all university/college staff to provide information and guidance to survivors of rape and sexual assault
Fundraising	Fundraising initiatives to enhance the financial capacity of Rape Crisis to provide services for student survivors of rape and sexual assault	Increasing the financial capacity of Rape Crisis to provide services for student survivors of rape and sexual assault
Campaigning	Campaigning to raise awareness about support services for student survivors of rape and sexual assault	Improved support services for survivors of rape and sexual assault.
Training and development	Training for campus and SU staff and campus counsellors to provide quality and adequate support for survivors of sexual violence and rape	Increased number of campus counsellors capable of providing quality and adequate services for survivors of rape and sexual assault

Project Elements

Below is a logic framework which outlines the different activities and outputs which feed into the outcomes of the for key strands (care pathways, fundraising, campaigning and training) and towards the long term goal of accessible and high quality support services for student survivors of sexual violence.

Activity	Output	Short Term Outcome	Long Term Outcome
In partnership with Rape Crisis, universities and colleges are to design clear, accessible and effective care pathways for student survivors to access report and support services	X toolkits and guides to sexual violence support and reporting services X posters and markets to sexual violence support and reporting services	Increased number of student survivors receiving appropriate support and information.	Accessible and high quality support services for survivors of sexual violence
Universities/colleges in partnership with the Rape Crisis centre to plan and implement fundraising initiatives to enhance the financial capacity of Rape Crisis to provide services for student survivors of rape and sexual assault	X amount of fundraising activities X amount of money raised		
Universities/colleges in partnership with the Rape Crisis centre agree to campaign to raise awareness about support and services for student survivors of rape and sexual assault	1 campaign per year		
Universities/colleges in partnership with the Rape Crisis centre to plan and implement fundraising initiatives to enhance the financial capacity of Rape Crisis to provide services for student survivors of rape and sexual assault	- X amount of fundraising activities - X amount of money raised	Increased funding for local Rape Crisis services to run effectively	
Universities/colleges in partnership with the Rape Crisis centre agree to campaign to raise awareness about support and services for student survivors of rape and sexual assault with the aim of increased local funding.	- 1 campaign per year		
Embed sexual violence and rape support training into job/role descriptions for counsellors and officers to provide appropriate survivor support and information to students	X job roles reviewed to include capacity building to ensure counsellors and officers can provide sexual violence support services to survivors	Increased number of campus counselors capable of providing quality and adequate services for survivors of rape and sexual assault	
In partnership with Rape Crisis centres, universities and colleges are to train campus counsellors and staff to provide quality and adequate support services for survivors of sexual violence and rape.	X counsellors are trained to provide quality and adequate support services for survivors of sexual violence and rape.		
Ensure universities have appropriate number of campus counsellors needed to provide adequate support to their student population with regards to support for survivors of sexual violence.	X number of counsellors recruited at college and university institutions		
In partnership with Rape Crisis centres, universities and colleges are to train campus and SU staff to provide quality and adequate support for survivors of sexual violence and rape.	X staff/officers are trained to provide quality and adequate support services for survivors of sexual violence and rape.	Increased number of university/college staff with capacity to provide appropriate guidance and information to support survivors of rape and sexual assault	
Embed sexual violence and rape support training into job/role descriptions for SU staff, counsellors and officers to provide appropriate survivor support and information to students	X job roles reviewed to include capacity building to ensure staff and officers can provide sexual violence support services to survivors		

Case Studies

Care Pathways

University College London Union

We publicise information on support services on the Union website, and have got the university to include support information in their sexual violence guidance on the UCL website. As part of our Zero Tolerance campaign, we run anti-harassment workshops for UCLU staff, club & society committees, new UCL students at the start of the year, and soon for UCL staff - at every workshop, we discuss support options & give participants a list of support services available if they need to access support or refer someone else on (this is especially important for staff to know where to refer to for support, so students don't just get passed from one contact to another to another). The support services we advertise include external services like Rape Crisis & Survivors UK as well as services available within UCL.

University of Manchester Students' Union

We created a specific student support worker based in Manchester Rape Crisis. I set up a meeting with the counsellor and all of the heads of student counselling and advice services with the 3 local universities about how to refer and signpost to that service. The impact report shows that it's really working in terms of providing person centred specialist support and there are case studies showing how those people now feel more confident and safe in themselves to stay at university.

University of Sussex Students' Union

We've developed two care pathways, one for staff responding to an incident of sexual violence and one for staff responding to an incident of sexual violence on the weekends. They also have information sheet for students. They also have this information on their university website.

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/wellbeing/safety/sexualassault>

Health and Wellbeing

Sexual Assault: Important information for students

Emergency help

Deciding what to do next

Help and support

Continuing support

Training

Kings College London Students' Union

Worked with Rape Crisis (South London) to deliver training to University and Union staff, with the aim of understanding the impact of rape culture, recognizing harmful practices and approaches, and learning how to support survivors if they are disclosing to you. This training is also being delivered to the staff who Chair University Misconduct Committees, to help ensure that the committees dealing with misconduct relating to sexual violence have a clear understanding of rape culture, and the needs of survivors. Harassment Advisers, Students' Union caseworkers and University advisers have had training to ensure that they can provide appropriate support to survivors considering making a complaint, taking other action, or dealing with the impact of sexual violence.

University College London Union

We have organised several training sessions with Rape Crisis covering what sexual violence is, how to support those who have experienced it, and also the law & how CPS works in cases of sexual violence. This training is now part of the sabb induction process (for WO & welfare sabbs), and have offered it to our Rights & Advice staff as well as UCL staff in student support & wellbeing, psychological services, student disability services, and to our halls wardens. Prior to this, no counsellors at psychological services had received any training on dealing with students who have experienced sexual violence. Rape Crisis training is now in the job description for halls wardens and by next academic year, all wardens will have had to do the training.

We have seen a marked improvement in the approach of student support & wellbeing since they have been trained - and have now agreed to hire an ISVA to work with them part time from September 2016. They have also established a partnership with Camden Safety Net, a council service that offers counselling & support to all those who work, live, or study in Camden and have experienced sexual or domestic violence (this means all UCL students are able to use the service). Rape Crisis have also provided us with a written briefing about receiving disclosure and supporting survivors, which we use and refer to in all of our staff training.

Fundraising

University of Manchester Students' Union

The student support worker based in Manchester Rape Crisis funded by the fundraising the women's campaign has done (donations and t shirt sales at reclaim the night and ticket sales from the vagina monologues) and also the fares from the student shuttle bus that I set up this year which takes students from campus to their door during the night for cheap. We've really pushed the local services and also campaigned and raised awareness about the cuts to local and national women's services whilst also fundraising for them.

Those three things have worked really well doing them at the same time. We've raised about £7,000 this year for the student support worker at Manchester Rape Crisis as a result of it.

Campaigning

University College London Union

As part of our Zero Tolerance campaign we have talked about support services and are moving our focus toward pushing for improved support on campus. I have used our fundraising to raise awareness of the funding crisis for sexual violence services.

We ask for donations at big, open to everyone events - our feminist club nights, panel discussions, 'zine launches, etc. I've used these opportunities to raise awareness of the funding crisis for sexual violence services, which I feel has been positive as so many people are unaware - and we've raised a fair bit of money (must be over £100 in total during my year) for the Rape Crisis Helpline.

Memorandum of Understanding – template

We've developed a template Memorandum of Understanding for Students' Unions and local Rape Crisis centres to adapt and sign together.

Partnership Memorandum of Understanding

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

(Rape Crisis centre name)

and

(Students' Union partner)

1. Rationale/Scope

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is entered into by (insert Rape Crisis centre name here) and (insert college or university name here). The MoU formalizes the commitment of the parties to work together to provide trauma-informed services and support for student survivors of sexual assault and rape. The parties to this MoU share the goal of preventing sexual assault on campus and in the community, and responding appropriately to students who have been victimized.

2. Goals and objectives

The main objective of this partnership is to improve the support available for student survivors of sexual assault and rape by;

- a. Through training, building the capacity of SU staff and officers to deliver appropriate support and information to all students including victims of sexual assault and rape.
- b. Providing information about Rape Crisis centres and how to access them, and information on sexual assault and rape.
- c. Engaging in fundraising activities to ensure Rape Crisis centres and their partner institutions are appropriately funded to deliver support services and information on sexual assault and rape for students.
- d. Working in partnership to create support pathways for student survivors of rape and sexual assault.

3. Description of the Partner Agencies

Rape Crisis England & Wales is the national umbrella body for a network of autonomous member Rape Crisis organisations across England and Wales and was set up to support their specialist work. Rape Crisis organisations are women-led and offer a range of specialist support, advocacy, counselling and information in a women-only safe space. Some also provide separate space and services for male sexual violence survivors and/or for men who are supporting a survivor. They also raise awareness and understanding of sexual violence in the wider community and with local, regional and national government.

Roles and Responsibilities

4a. (Rape Crisis centre name) agrees to

Care Pathways

- Insert information on the role Rape Crisis centre will play here
-
-

Fundraising

- Insert information on the role Rape Crisis will play here
-
-

Campaigning

- Insert information on the role Rape Crisis will play here
-
-

Training and Development

- Insert information on the role Rape Crisis will play here
-
-

4b. College/University/Student Union agrees to

Care Pathways

- Insert information on the role College/University/SU will play here
-
-

Fundraising

- Insert information on the role College/University/SU will play here
-
-

Campaigning

- Insert information on the role College/University/SU will play here
-
-

Training and Development

- Insert information on the role College/University/SU will play here
-
-

4. Confidentiality

Rape Crisis centre name and College/University/SU affirm the importance of providing students with options for confidential services and support. All services provided by *Rape Crisis centre* name to students and College/University/SU will be kept confidential except in the following circumstances:

- a. If the student or employee wants information shared with College or campus security, campus or local law enforcement, *Rape Crisis centre* will obtain informed consent for release of the information. When releases of information are required, they will be written, informed, and reasonably time-limited.
- b. *Rape Crisis centre* will provide College aggregate data about incidents of sexual violence and other reportable offences to help the College identify patterns or systemic problems related to sexual violence. *Rape Crisis centre* and the College/University/SU will consult with victims regarding what information needs to be withheld to protect their identity.
- c. If the law requires disclosure as a result of safeguarding issues or an imminent terrorist threat'

5. Governance structure and reporting

- Information here on who the point of contact will be for this agreement (ideally this will be defined by a position rather a specific person (e.g Programme officer/assistant/Union welfare staff) as this allows for continuity if someone leaves the organisation)
- What reporting duties will be in place, do any of the partners need to share information/statistics/progress of work? Specify these and who is responsible for each aspect.
- How often does each partner need to send progress reports and if so what will these need to show and how often will each partner need to share this information?

6. Conflict resolution

In this important section, describe the process for resolving disputes that may arise amongst the partners to the agreement.

7. Review and evaluation

Set out plans and methods to determine whether the partnership has met its objectives. Include how to get feedback from partners and any other key players who can provide information on the effectiveness of the partnership. Include a strategy to regularly review operational processes and identify issues of concern. Collect data on success rates and re-assessments.

8. Authorisation

The signing of this MoU is not a formal undertaking. It implies that the signatories will strive to reach the objectives stated in the MoU to the best of their ability.

Partnering Organisation: _____ Name: _____

Date: _____ Title: _____

Partnering Organisation: _____ Name: _____

Date: _____ Title: _____