

Ending Sexual Violence and Harassment in Irish Higher Education Institutions

SAFE, RESPECTFUL, SUPPORTIVE, POSITIVE



John McKenna

Vice President for Strategic Planning, Institutional Performance, Equality and Diversity



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Vice President Academic Affairs and Registrar

AIT espouses a culture that upholds the human rights of our students and staff & promotes equality and diversity. AIT therefore is actively engaging in an implementation plan to support the Government initiative of ending sexual violence and harassment (ESVH) in Irish Higher Education institutions. We know that all our efforts can ensure that our AIT community is protected from harmful behaviours that impede the safe, full, and active participation in college life. Our values of equity, inclusiveness, and professionalism, as outlined in our TU application to be designated as the next Technological University in the Irish Higher Education system, are the foundations on which we will build our Institution that equally respects and supports our staff and students. Our direct support and involvement in the implementation of the framework related to this initiative is clear evidence of developing equality, diversity and inclusivity in our new TU. It will directly ensure the safety and wellbeing of students and staff and empower them to stand up for themselves and others in challenging circumstances and in doing so foster our social and civic responsibility.

The first of the quarterly newsletters will provide information on the implementation of the framework through information sharing, training and activities. The framework that supports the implementation of Ending Sexual Violence in Higher Education (ESVH) can be located [here](#).

We encourage you to familiarise yourself with our moodle resources, [click here](#), so that through your role you can also foster the campus culture that is clear in the condemnation of unwanted and unacceptable behaviours and where people are treated with dignity and respect.

Your engagement and support is much appreciated

Sincerely,

John McKenna *Frances O'Connell*

John McKenna & Frances O'Connell
ESVH Steering Committee Co-Chairs

"AIT Students' Union warmly welcome the Ending Sexual Violence and Harassment initiative and are delighted to be a part of the steering committee and associated working group."

Niall Naughton, AITSU
Welfare Office



"It reinforced how important active consent is in a simple yet relevant way. Helps to hear that it's alright to say no as well" – AIT student, Female, aged 19

Active * Consent

This training was developed by the Active* Consent team in NUI Galway specifically for students in 3rd level in Ireland. It is a 30 minute workshop presented online for groups (10+ people) using pre-recorded content resources and live facilitation. The workshop uses humour, animation, voting and actors to talk about consent, what it is and why it matters. Most first years participated during induction but we would all AIT students to get the chance to join a workshop as well as any 1st years who missed it during induction. To book a workshop contact ghanlon@ait.ie or suwelfare.ie

The HEA have issued national surveys for staff and students on their experiences of sexual violence and harassment. Your voice matters and this survey can help us to make a change.

You can access the surveys here:
[Staff survey](#) [Student survey](#)

How to support yourself & your peers

This on-line session takes 30-45 minutes to complete and can be accessed through the ESVH moodle hub resources detailed below. It builds on topics that are explored in the Active* Consent online workshop including sexual violence, harassment, and the associated support services available to students who may have had negative sexual experiences.

43.6% students have at least one experience of sexual misconduct (Unwanted sexual touching, completed or attempted penetration) since beginning college.

(Student Experience Survey, 2020)

Start Here campaign

A social media campaign which empowers college students and staff with basic information to respond to disclosures of sexual violence and harassment. Developed by NUIG Active Consent, USI and Galway Rape Crisis Centre.



“We are committed to supporting this valuable initiative, which builds critical and reflective knowledge around consent, respect, dignity and safety for all in our community.”

Dr. Tony Johnston, Head of Department, Hospitality, Tourism & Leisure



ESVH Moodle Hub

Check out the new ESVH Hub on moodle which is dedicated to sharing all the information and resources for Ending Sexual Violence and Harassment for all AIT staff and students.

You can visit the page anonymously to find information on where to go to disclose and/or get support, learn about Active* Consent, How to support yourself and your peers, being an Active Bystander, what to say if someone discloses to you, healthy relationships, staying safe online and more. The page will be updated regularly.



To find the page on Moodle, [click here](#), login and go to Site Home, Resource Area and then General Resources.

Contact info

For Students

If you are affected by any of the content in this news letter or wish to disclose an incident and/or access support please contact one of our AIT supports below:

AIT Student Counselling Service

Email: counsellor@ait.ie

Tel: 090 6468063 press extension 2 for counselling

For more info visit the counselling section on AIT website: <https://www.ait.ie/life-at-ait/student-supports/counselling/>

AIT Student Health Service

Tel: 090 6468063

AIT Students Union

Tel: 090 646 8067

Vice President for welfare & equality: suwelfare@ait.ie:
086 8590998

For Staff

Staff who wish to disclose/report sexual harassment can speak to the HR Manager, Equality Officer, any manager in the workplace or a Trade Union Representative, as outlined in AIT's Dignity and Respect Policy

For Support

Employee Assistance Programme at no cost with Spectrum Life: You can call anytime (24/7, 365 days a year) for telephone advice & counselling:
email eap@spectrum.life
Freephone: 1800 814 243
Whatsapp/SMS: Text 'Hi' to 087 369 0010



Other organisations

Sexual Assault Treatment Unit: (SATU)

Mullingar SATU Phone: 044 939 4239 or
086 04 09 952 weekdays from 8am to 5pm.
Phone: 044 934 0221 after 5pm and
weekends, ask for SATU.

Athlone Midland Rape Crisis Centre:

<http://www.amrcc.ie/welcome.aspx>
Phone No. 090 64 73862 / Free phone:
1800 306 600
Email: amrcc@eircom.net

Gardaí

If you want to report an assault, call the
Gardaí – contact your local station
or call 999 or 112
Athlone Garda Station: 090 6492600.