STUDENTS' UNION UCL

Policy Briefing – Submit an Active Bystander and I <3 Consent Certificate to Run for Elections

Welfare & Community Zone, May 2022

What is the current situation at UCL related to this proposal?

Report + Support

UCL's Report + Support (R+S) tool and accompanying Full Stop campaign provides students and staff with one place to find out about support, report anonymously, or contact an advisor about bullying, harassment, sexual misconduct, or domestic abuse. From February 2020 – February 2021, 166 students (<1% of the student body) made a report.[1]

Active Bystander Programme

The Students' Union and UCL have joined forces to run the Active Bystander Programme as part of the Full Stop campaign to continue tackling unacceptable behaviours, such as sexual misconduct, bullying and harassment, at UCL and beyond.[2]

The Active Bystander Programme consists of an online training module (30 mins) and a live online or face-to-face workshop (60 mins). It is considered mandatory for all students in their first term, with returning students needing to complete the online module as a refresher each year.

According to UCL's 2020-2021 Bullying, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct Report[3], nearly 10,000 students took part in the SU's online Active Bystander programme, representing approximately 22% of the student body. This is an increase of 400% from the previous year, when only 2,000 students (4.5% of the student body) participated in the training. The move to an online training programme (instead of in-person) during the Covid-19 pandemic meant more students were able to participate. Since 2015, nearly 33,000 students have received Active Bystander training.

I Heart Consent

As part of the Full Stop campaign, UCL and Students' Union UCL are working together on the I ♡ Consent campaign to promote sexual consent and put an end to sexual violence at UCL.[4] A short online module called Sexual Consent Training is available for students to complete on Moodle.[5]

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[1] https://d2gppjca7iyv2p.cloudfront.net/e1303899-3626-4c3d-9bd0-9ed0a16b14cc/2fda728e-78cd-4317-affa-e8c397a21ace

[2] https://studentsunionucl.org/active-bystander

[3] https://d2gppjca7iyv2p.cloudfront.net/e1303899-3626-4c3d-9bd0-9ed0a16b14cc/2fda728e-78cd-4317-affa-e8c397a21ace

[4] https://report-support.ucl.ac.uk/campaigns/i-heart-consent

[5] https://moodle.ucl.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=16709

Clubs & Societies

According to the Club and Society Regulations, all student organizations must elect a Welfare Officer, who must attend a yearly training.[6] Additionally, clubs/societies must abide by UCL's Prevention of Bullying, Harassment and Sexual Misconduct Policy.[7]

What is the relevant national/ international context to this situation?

Harassment and sexual misconduct are unfortunately prevalent in society, and among students at university. The National Union of Students (NUS) found in a 2019 report that 75% of respondents in higher education had had an unwanted sexual experience at least once.[8]

Studies have shown that workplaces in which employees perceive that sexual harassment is not taken seriously are those in which it is more likely to occur, therefore, equipping club/society leaders with skills and awareness could help alleviate these issues.[9]

Are there any legal implications to this policy proposal?

Yes, if passed, the Club and Society Regulations and Election Rules would need to be modified.

Does this relate to any existing SU policy?

Yes, it relates to the Club and Society Regulations and Election Rules. Additionally, the Students' Union has a zero-tolerance stance to any kind of sexual harassment.[10]

Are there any financial, resource or stakeholder/ public relations issues with this policy proposal?

Yes, if passed, the Club and Society Regulations and Election Rules would need to be modified.

What would the next steps be if the proposal passed?

The Union would need to ratify this policy at Union Executive, and if passed would need to make sure that the necessary changes are made to the Club and Society Regulations and Election Rules.

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https://studentsunionucl.org/sites/default/files/u210044/documents/clubs_and_society_regulations_19.20_final.pdf
7 https://www.ucl.ac.uk/equality-diversity-inclusion/dignity-ucl/prevention-bullying-harassment-and-sexual-misconduct-policy
8 https://www.nusconnect.org.uk/articles/report-on-sexual-violence-in-further-education
9 https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2378023118808617
10 https://studentsunionucl.org/advice-and-support/safety/sexual-violence-and-harassment