

Statement on Sexual Violence and Harassment - July 2021

Sexual violence and harassment is defined as any unwanted conduct or behaviour of a sexual nature, this includes:

- Rape
- Sexual assault
- Sexual harassment
- 'Revenge porn' or image-based sexual abuse
- Domestic abuse
- Stalking
- Coercive and controlling behaviour
- Unwanted sexual and/or derogatory comments

Sexual violence and harassment is experienced mostly by girls and women but can be experienced by boys and men. It does not necessarily have to occur in person, for example online, and means there is no consent. Consent means to agree to engage in a sexual act and you must have the freedom and capacity to make your own informed decisions, and you have the right to say no at any time. No means no.

At Hull College, we recognise that incidents of sexual violence and harassment can happen within our college community. That is why we are committed to promoting a 'consent culture' where consent is normalised. We want to support those who are involved in any incidents of sexual violence or harassment and that they are given the support and information that they need in order to move forward. Hull College ensures all reports are investigated thoroughly and ensures that we support victims, and preserve and promote a safe learning environment for all our students and staff to work and study.

Hull College supports all of those who suffer sexual violence and harassment and those who oppose it. The college has a responsibility to confront and challenge sexual violence and harassment within our college, and we are committed to doing so, by listening to, hearing, and supporting victims, and dealing robustly and appropriately with perpetrators.

We will respond to all reports of sexual violence and harassment, whilst recognising that some experiences may need the support of Police intervention, we will ensure that, in all cases, reports are carefully and thoughtfully addressed by our experienced safeguarding team through a process that is transparent and clearly communicated to the individuals involved.

We will respect the right of all adults disclosing an experience of sexual violence and harassment to choose how to take forward a disclosure. For those students under the age of eighteen we will always consider their wishes and feelings in such matters, alongside our safeguarding duty and responsibility for involving parents, carers, police, and other relevant local agencies.

We believe that no person should suffer the experience and effects of sexual violence and harassment, and will ensure that there is dedicated specialist support, including free and accessible counselling for all individuals involved. We will work with local partners and key stakeholder groups to forge positive relationships to support all our work in this area, from prevention to enquiry and post-incident care and support.

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