

Policy name: **Sexual Assault Protocol**
*Trigger warning: **Sexual assault***

Date Presented: **25/04/17**
Lapse Date: **May 2025**

STUDENT COUNCIL NOTES:

Discussion around Sexual Consent and Sexual violence is becoming increasingly prominent within Higher Education. Recent research by Ulster University and Queen's University Belfast in 2022 suggests 63% of students studying at universities in Northern Ireland have had an unwanted sexual experience.

Universities UK has previously urged universities to take a "zero-tolerance approach" to sexual crimes on campus and to improve the support provided to victims of these crimes.

Ulster University have begun work on a sexual assault protocol which UUSU has been part of. This work is ongoing and we plan to see it through to completion and implementation.

Ulster University have recently rolled out 'Report and Support', an online reporting mechanism for those who have been victims of sexual misconduct on and off campus. UUSU also welcome the use of the anonymous reporting feature, ensuring confidentiality where this would make a student more comfortable.

UUSU works to promote active consent principles during Freshers' and Sexual Health and Guidance week and at all other events that are appropriate and relevant.

STUDENT COUNCIL BELIEVES:

Not having a specific protocol in place to provide guidance to staff and the Students' Union on how to respond to reports of sexual assault greatly reduces the University's ability to appropriately support students who have been the victims of such incidents.

Furthermore, students who experience these crimes are less likely to report it to someone within the University if they do not feel that they are going to be appropriately support or that the incident is going to be adequately handled.

UUSU recognizes that anyone can experience these crimes regardless of gender identity or sexuality.

STUDENT COUNCIL RESOLVES:

The UUSU Student Executive should lobby the university to continue creating a protocol for dealing with incidents of sexual assault and sexual misconduct, ensuring that this protocol provides clear guidance on appropriately supporting those who report such incidents.

Name of Proposer: *Student Executive*

Name of Seconder: *Danielle Roberts*

Policy renewed on the 27th November 2024