

Joint statement from the University of the West of England, University of Bristol, University of Bath, Bath Spa University and the Students' Unions

The Vice-Chancellors from each of the Universities, and The Students' Unions' Presidents and Officers, have agreed to the following joint statement on a zero-tolerance approach to sexual violence (i) and harassment (ii).

- **Sexual violence and harassment will not be tolerated by the Universities or Students' Unions, and those who commit such acts should be stopped (i.e. their behaviour challenged) and action taken**
- **No student or staff member is expected to 'put up' with sexual violence or harassment, and action must be taken where necessary to ensure all students and staff are able to enjoy the campus / student life without experiencing abuse**
- **The Universities and the Students' Unions will actively work to promote a zero tolerance and no harassment space for students both on and off campus through working with students, staff and other stakeholders including the Police, local councils and night clubs and taxi firms**
- **The Universities and Students' Unions, will campaign against sexual violence and harassment**
- **Students who report sexual violence and harassment will be supported, and the Universities will work to raise awareness of appropriate support mechanisms and organisations to aid the recovery of victims.**
- **Students will be supported to report and pursue perpetrators should they wish to do so.**
- **The Universities will provide targeted staff training and awareness raising on the issues of sexual violence and harassment, and will ensure a policy framework in which disciplinary action will be taken against alleged perpetrators with the view to embedding zero tolerance within institutional practice.**

The Universities and Students' Unions support Bristol Women's Commission Zero Tolerance initiative, promoting a city free from gender based violence, abuse, harassment and exploitation. Follow this link for further information on [Zero Tolerance Bristol](#).



For the purpose of this document, sexual violence and sexual harassment are defined as follows:

- i **Sexual violence** is any kind of unwanted sexual touching. It can happen within relationships as well as between strangers and it includes groping, penetration and other forms of sexual assault as well as rape.
- ii **Sexual harassment** is unwanted behaviour of a sexual nature. It can include catcalling, groping, following, wolf-whistling, derogatory comments or making somebody feel uncomfortable through displaying or sharing sexual material. This includes putting pornographic pictures on workplace walls or sending sexually explicit emails.

(V4, May 2018 (amended following April 18 Forum))