

Motion Name: Supporting Students who Have Experienced Sexual Misconduct

Proposer: Linlu Ye

Seconded: Lucy Pears

Background:

1. In previous years, the ELA Officer commissioned a research project on consent culture and sexual violence to be released later this term.
2. From previous research conducted in 2018 (Let's Talk About Sex): 40% of women felt safe walking home compared to 90% of men; 52% of students experienced harassment.
3. The death of Sarah Everard in March 2021, alongside the national increase in gendered and domestic violence, has resulted in issues of sexual misconduct on campus being on the agenda. Issues of lighting when walking home in residential areas was frequently raised by students.
4. Everyone's Invited – an organisation exposing rape culture and sexual assault at Universities – named Bristol University on their website - <https://epigram.org.uk/2021/04/18/bristol-uni-named-on-website-exposing-rape-culture-and-sexual-assault-at-universities/>
5. Some student groups and clubs have been raising issues with the SU in terms of care pathways being unclear.
6. The University has recently implemented (Jan 2025) Module on blackboard called 'Consent Matters' that they are aiming to make mandatory but have no concrete plans on how to do this.
7. The SU does not have any trained SVLOs who can take disclosures.
8. Balloon Bar staff used to receive Bystander training.
9. It is unclear if bar staff have Bystander training.
10. Preventing sexual violence and building a culture of consent take time and need to be research informed.

Purpose:

1. To promote the welfare of Bristol students through ensuring the Union has robust and accessible support for victims of sexual misconduct.
2. To ensure the SU is an effective representative channel for its members by conducting further research to make general and underrepresented student views known.
3. To promote the welfare of Bristol students as students in the City by campaigning for further public safety.

Actions:

1. The SU to work with the University of Bristol to deliver an Annual Climate Survey on Sexual Misconduct at UoB.
2. The SU should explore the creation of an SVLO team to work with the University and external organisations in supporting students reporting harassment or assault. Or be involved with the SVLO team at the uni.

3. The SU to lobby Bristol City Council and the University to improve lighting in student residential areas with high footfall.
4. The SU to lobby for all staff in university bars to be trained in being active bystanders.
5. The SU should seek to facilitate the creation of:
 - a. A student peer-support group for victim-survivors of sexual violence.
 - b. A campaigning student group on consent culture at Bristol University.
6. The SU to conduct further research into the experiences of sexual violence in historically oppressed identities by working with the Liberation Networks.