Findings from a national study to investigate how British universities are challenging sexual violence and harassment on campus

Khatidja Chantler, Professor Catherine Donovan, Dr Jonathan Fotherby & Dr Sally Brenchley

Introduction

The UUK Sexual Violence (SV) Agenda was launched in 2015 to address the issue of SV in higher education. The agenda includes the following key areas: (a) Awareness and Awareness Raising; (b) Prevention and Education; (c) Support and Information for Survivors; (d) Accountability and Mandatory Legal Duty to Prevent; (e) Research and Evaluation.

Methods

A national survey was conducted among university staff and students to investigate how British universities are tackling SV. The survey was distributed to 178 universities in England and Wales, and 68 responses were received.

Results

A total of 37 out of 68 survey respondents indicated that their institution had not yet responded to the UUK SV Agenda.

- 20% of respondents reported that they had not yet arrived at any stage in the UUK SV Agenda.
- 12 reported that there would be a problem with sustainability without HEFCE funding.
- 6 respondents said that the end of HEFCE Catalyst Funding would not pose a problem for sustaining the agenda at their institution.
- 12 reported that there had been one review at their institution.
- 2016 (UUK, 2016). The UUK report identified seven key components for change (UUK, 2016: p59):

Factors Supporting Development of the Agenda

- A commitment from senior leadership (n=42);
- 2. Ensuring an institution-wide approach (n=40);
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- 2. Ensuring an institution-wide approach (n=40).

Who took part?

Professor Khatidja Chantler, Professor Catherine Donovan, Dr Jonathan Fotherby & Dr Sally Brenchley

Aims

To recommend ways to further the agenda.

Conclusions and Recommendations

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What Activities Are Being Carried Out?

- 1. Building an infrastructure to support the agenda (n=59);
- 2. Conducting research to understand and support work being carried out (n=57);
- 3. Working at: (n=55);
- 4. Developing policies to support the agenda (n=54);
- 5. Developing, producing or overseeing the production of training materials; and
- 6. Setting up systems that would allow work to be evaluated (n=53).

What is your institution's level of support?

- 1. Low (n=30); and
- 2. Medium (n=28).

Evaluation

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