

Joint statement from University of the West of England and University of Bristol (including the Students' Unions at UWE and Bristol)

The Vice-Chancellors from both UWE and the University of Bristol, and the Students' Union at UWE's President and Bristol SU Officers, have agreed to the following joint statement on a zero-tolerance approach to sexual violence (i) and harassment (ii).

- **No student or staff member should be forced 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 this type of abuse**
- **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 disciplined as appropriate for their actions**
- **Both Universities and their respective Unions will actively work to promote a 'safe 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**
- **Both institutions will campaign against sexual violence and harassment**
- **Both institutions will work jointly to identify appropriate victim support mechanisms and organisations to aid the recovery of victims and build their confidence to report and pursue perpetrators, this will include working with Avon and Somerset Police and organisations such as Bristol Against Violence and Abuse**
- **Both institutions 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 may be taken against alleged perpetrators with the view to embedding 'zero tolerance to sexual violence and harassment' within the policy and practice of both institutions.**

Both institutions 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.](#)



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. From [Bristol Abuse Myths Booklet](#)

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. From [Bristol Abuse Myths Booklet](#)