

1839 Stand By Me – Standing in solidarity for survivors of sexual violence

Proposer: Jo Swo (Welfare, Community and Diversity Officer)

Seconder: Jack Robinson (Non-Portfolio Officer)

This Union Notes

1. 1 in 7 women students (14%) has been the victim of serious sexual assault or serious physical violence while at university or college.
2. Approximately 85,000 women and 12,000 men are raped in England and Wales alone every year; that's roughly 11 rapes (of adults alone) every hour
3. The NUS Lad Culture Audit report revealed that there's lack of clarity around the complaints and disciplinary procedures in universities across the country.
4. In The NUS 2015 lad culture and sexism survey 61% of students stated that they were not made aware of any codes of conduct and 66% stated they were not aware of the procedure to report these incidents.
5. ueasu conducted their own survey and found that:
 - a. 78% had experienced unwanted groping, pinching or touching in a sexual manner
 - b. 50% were not aware of how to report an incident on harassment or assault on campus outside of Union settings
 - c. over 70% said "I didn't think any action would be taken" as a reason for not reporting incidents
6. The Zellick Report was created in 1994 to give guidance to universities about how to deal with sexual assault cases. It tells universities not to investigate cases and not to go through disciplinary procedures until the victim had gone through the police system.
7. Evidence shows that 82% of rapes are never reported to the police and of these, only 1 in 5 results in court proceedings. For the few cases which do enter the court system, the average length of the court process is 1 year and 4 months from report to verdict – at which point many victims may no longer be studying at the university. This means in practice, the

majority of victims of sexual violence would see no action taken by their university.

8. Approximately 75,000 men are victims of sexual assault or attempted assault a year according to data from 2012/13 while 9,000 men are victims of rape or attempted rape each year according to figures released in 2013, yet police figures show fewer than 3,000 offences of male rape or sexual assault were recorded in 2013/14.
9. NUS has launched a campaign called #StandByMe which calls for the repeal of the Zellick guidelines and for a national consultation which listens to the student movement and specialist services in order to develop new reporting and disciplinary guidelines and survivor support.
10. Neither Rape Crisis England & Wales nor any of their local member Rape Crisis centres has any central government funding confirmed beyond March 2016.

This Unions Believes

1. The quality of University reporting procedures and support services across the UK are inconsistent and inadequate.
2. That Universities need to have a clear, preventative strategy with dealing with sexual violence
3. That Universities need to fund and support support services for survivors
4. The Zellick Report is out of date and campuses provide proper support for survivors of sexual assault when institutions base the procedures on this guidance.
5. Universities should have accessible reporting procedures for sexual assault and provide access to specialist support for victims during their time at university.
6. Rape Crisis Centres provide vital support services for survivors of sexual assault.
7. The cuts to Rape Crisis centres are fatal and these organisations deserve to be fully funded through government money.

The Union Resolves

1. To support the NUS #StandByMe campaign calling for better support for all survivors on campus and sustainable funding for services across the country.
2. To call for the repeal of the Zelic Guidelines and for a national consultation to develop new reporting and disciplinary guidelines and survivor support.
3. To lobby the Vice Chancellor to support the statement and call for change at a national level.
4. To lobby the University to reveal and clear and comprehensive preventative strategy towards eliminating sexual violence at UEA
5. To lobby the University to fund and support student-led support services for survivors, as well as improving their own support services
6. To look into forming a partnership with our local rape crisis centre.