

## **J. 19-3 A motion to combat Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), within the St Andrews Community.**

Owner: Isabella Smith

In effect by: 19 February 2019

Review Date: 19 February 2019

### **Notes:**

1. The UNHCR defines sexual and gender-based violence as “any act that is perpetrated against a person’s will and is based on gender norms and unequal power relationships”. [1]
2. A 2018 report from Revolt Sexual Assault found 62% of students and graduates have experienced sexual violence, as per the definition used by Rape Crisis. [2]
3. Of those who responded to the survey, only 6% reported their experiences to their University. Only a third of which felt both able to report and satisfied with the reporting process. Rape Crisis England and Wales notes 15% of those who experience sexual violence report it to the police.
4. A UK government survey of over 108,000 LGBT+ people found that “at least 2 in 5 respondents had experienced an incident because they were LGBT+, such as verbal harassment or physical violence, in the 12 months preceding the survey. However, more than 9 in 10 of the most serious incidents went unreported, often because respondents thought ‘it happens all the time.’ [3]
5. Testimony and high profile news stories show these issues of SGBV are present in St Andrews. [4]
6. Senior leaders at other high ranking UK universities have acknowledged the “ significant problem involving sexual misconduct ” within their universities. [5]
7. The ‘StAnd Together: Got Consent’ initiative in St Andrews has developed substantially since its creation - with 2018 marking the first year all captains of sports clubs received training, and the establishment of a full committee.
8. Due to increased demand for workshops, Got Consent has expanded its volunteer base from 11 in 2016 to 42 in 2018.
9. Many university residences label Got Consent talks compulsory. However, this practice is not universal and or consistently enforced.
10. The ‘Sexual and Gender Based Violence’ working group is co-chaired by Director of Wellbeing and Student Services’ Assistant Director (Projects and Residential). The group’s focus is on issues surrounding sexual and gender based violence within the St Andrews community. It is currently comprised of the Got Consent Convenor, the Director of Wellbeing, the Member for Gender Equality, and other relevant student leaders within the community committed to combating SGBV in St Andrews.

### **Believes:**

1. This to be ~~an ambitious~~ a **comprehensive** motion, the resolutions of which will begin to make a difference in the **continued** combating of SGBV within the St Andrews community.
2. The University of St Andrews, the University of St Andrews Students’ Association, and the student body have a duty to collaborate to reduce incidents of SGBV and to support survivors of SGBV.
3. With the support of the University and the Students’ Association, the Got Consent programme has the capacity to handle the requirements of our resolutions. The program’s student Convenor and the Student Services’ Assistant Director (Projects and

Residential) have developed a comprehensive action plan to support Got Consent's growth.

4. Good work has been done by the University and the Students' Association. The current collaboration, including on the Got Consent programme and the SGBV Working Group, must be supported, continued, and strengthened.

**Resolves:**

1. To continue to collaboratively find solutions that address the prevalence of SGBV in St Andrews and any culture that perpetuates it.
2. To lobby the University to make attending a Got Consent workshop a mandatory element of the official matriculation process.
3. To lobby the University to make engagement with the Sexual Misconduct Policy part of the online matriculation process, as is the case for the TGAP programme.
4. To encourage the attendance of the Principal and Vice-Chancellor, and relevant members of the Principal's Office, at a meeting of the SGBV Working Group.
5. To seek the public support of the Principal's Office in combating SGBV at the University.
6. To formalise the compulsory attendance of SRC members, SSC members and Students' Association staff at Got Consent workshops, to ensure this practice continues and becomes permanent within the Students' Association.
7. To lobby work with the Athletic Union to formalise the compulsory attendance of club presidents (or equivalent) at Got Consent workshops, continuing the policy enforced in 2018/19.
8. To mandate that executive members of union subcommittees attend a Got Consent training.
9. To support the welcome and ongoing efforts by the University and Students' Association to develop the Sexual Misconduct Policy.
10. To support a collaborative student-led awareness campaign that addresses SGBV in the coming academic year. This should be ensured by an effective handover between the current SGBV Working Group and the future group.

**Proposed:**

Isabella Smith, Member for Gender Equality

**Seconded:**

Zelda Tobias-Kotyk, Association LGBT+ Officer  
Camilla Duke, Rector's Assessor  
Avery Kitchens, SRC Member for First Years  
Robyn Wells, SRC Member Without Portfolio  
Lauren Davis, Association Environment Officer  
Morgan Morris, Community Relations Officer  
Lucy Allatt, Accommodation Officer  
Nicholas Farrer, Director of Wellbeing  
Adam Powrie, Director of Events and Services  
Jamie Minns, Director of Student Development and Activities

[1] <http://www.unhcr.org/uk/sexual-and-gender-based-violence.html>

[2] <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/mar/02/universities-rape-epidemic-sexual-assault-students>

[3] <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-lgbt-survey-summary-report/national-lgbt-survey-summary-rep>

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[4] <https://thestand-online.com/2018/04/20/experience-sexual-violence-st-andrews/>  
<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2018/jan/17/woman-sues-man-acquitted-of-in-scottish-court-trial>

<http://www.thetribeonline.com/2018/10/rape-culture-in-st-andrews-the-absence-of-education/?fbclid=IwAR08Z-heGo2>

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[5] <https://www.theguardian.com/education/2018/feb/05/university-of-cambridge-significant-sexual-misconduct-problem>