Respect and Consent
Introduction to themed session
Sarah Bustard, Student Services Manager.

Background.

- NUS Hidden Marks , NUS 2010. 1 in 7 women experiments sexual violence whilst at university. Only 10% of students who were sexually assaulted reported to the police and 4% reported to their institution – fear of blamed and shame. Some students reported that they knew the perpetrators and that they were often students.

- That's what she said – Women students' experiences of 'lad culture' in Higher Education, NUS 2012.

- National Summit: Confronting Lad Culture in HE, 2014 NUS.

- Media coverage – Lad Culture and sexual offences.

- US experience: In February 2015, the White House released a video of President Obama speaking about "It's On Us," a campaign to end sexual assault on college campuses. (The White House).

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Healthy Universities.

- A multi-faceted issue which includes alcohol, sexual health, mental health, inclusion, access to health services, behaviour, community safety and more.

- Safe and inclusive communities promotes health for all.

- This issue affects all students and staff.

- Retention, progression, student success can be negatively affected by discrimination and harassment.

- Students and staff are crucial to behaviour change and challenge.

- Prevention and response.

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Changing the Culture.
Report of the Universities UK Taskforce examining violence against women, harassment and hate crime affecting university students.

- The recommendations are the result of a taskforce set up by Universities UK last year to examine these issues. The taskforce consisted of university leaders, student representatives and academic experts. The group considered harassment in all its forms but focused particularly on issues of sexual violence and harassment.

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Recommendations – universities should...

- Universities, working with students' unions, should take an **institution-wide approach** to tackling violence against women, harassment and hate crime and carry out a **regular impact assessment** of their approach.

- Universities should **embed a zero-tolerance approach to sexual violence, harassment and hate crime**, highlighting up-front the behaviours that are expected from all students, as well as ensuring staff understand the importance of fostering a zero-tolerance culture.

- Universities should develop **a clear and accessible response procedure and centralised reporting system** for dealing with incidents of violence, harassment or hate crime, **working with relevant external agencies** where appropriate

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- **Existing guidance available to universities on managing situations where a student's disciplinary offence may constitute a criminal offence should be reviewed**. Such guidance can be critical in assisting universities to manage cases and provide appropriate support to students. This review has been carried out and new guidelines are published alongside the report

- **Universities develop and maintain partnership working as a fundamental component of preventing and responding to violence against women, harassment and hate crime.** Partners – including the police, community leaders and specialist services – can be vital in supporting students, ensuring staff are well-trained and assessing the nature and scale of the issues affecting students at a given time.

Recommendations – UUK should

- Universities UK should hold an **annual national conference for the next three years** to facilitate the **sharing of good practice** on matters related to the work of the taskforce

- Universities UK should work with relevant bodies such as the NUS, JISC and Reclaim the Internet to assess what further support may be needed to tackle the growing prevalence of online harassment and hate crime.

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