

1933 Standing Up for Survivors Abroad

Content Warning: sexual assault, rape

Proposer: Abbie Mulcairn (Women's Caucus)

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

Union Notes:

1. UUEAS has a no tolerance policy when it comes to sexual harassment or assault.
2. When a student is on a year or a semester abroad they are still considered a student of UEA and all relevant policy still applies that student
3. UUEAS is running a pilot scheme of the #StandByMe campaign to lobby the university for full and comprehensive guidelines for reporting sexual assault in line with our zero tolerance stance
4. Universities and educational schemes like ERASMUS have a legal and moral responsibility to safeguard their student's safety while away on a year abroad
5. A third of women students⁸ will be victims of sexual assault while on campus.
6. Only around 15% of victims report the incident to the police and only a tiny fraction of these end in criminal convictions

Union Believes:

1. Sexual assault is a deeply gendered issue and no student should be discouraged or restricted in opportunity because of their gender
2. Students on a study abroad year/semester often do not know how to go about reporting or seeking help after experiencing sexual violence or harassment
3. There are often different legal ramifications and procedures for victim's sexual assault while abroad. This information should be made aware to students by their study abroad coordinators before choosing their university/country of study.
4. Students on a study abroad programme can often feel lost, scared and intimidated when reporting sexual assault due to a lack of information

Union Resolves:

1. To mandate SOC to research into what reporting guidelines for harassment/assault are currently available for students on a study abroad year

⁸ <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/womens-life/11343380/Sexually-assault-1-in-3-UK-female-students-victim-on-campus.html>

2. To mandate the Women's Officer to research into how to provide a better system of support to victims of sexual assault while on a year/semester abroad
 3. To mandate the Women's Officer to provide the current relevant information to all students taking a study abroad semester
 4. To mandate the Women's Officer to lobby the University to provide this information to all students embarking on a study abroad course, and to make recommendations to the University about how to improve their sexual assault reporting guidelines
 5. That as a result, the Women's Officer should lobby the University, ERASMUS and other relevant study abroad schemes/organisations to adopt better and more comprehensive and consistent reporting guidelines for survivors abroad
-