



THIS ISSUE

Committee Meeting Updates
Professor Sarah McMahon
Dr Conor Hanly - Cuan
16 Days of Activism,



Pictured: Students at Shannon College of Hotel Management showing support for the peer to peer 'Start Here' campaign. August 2024

SHAREPOINT

Please visit our new committee SharePoint site for meeting minutes, Terms of Reference, updates, and more information.

[Available here.](#)

CONTACTS

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SUPPORTS

[A list of supports available to staff & students can be accessed here.](#)

If you would like more information or guidance on the supports available please email Rebecca / Niamh in confidence.

MEETING UPDATES:

- We enjoyed a presentation and discussion with Dr. Conor Hanly - Board member of Cuan, Ireland's new Domestic, Sexual and Gender -Based Violence Agency.
 - We looked at the prevalence and discussed the epidemic of Domestic, Sexual and Gender based violence in Ireland, and how it is predominately a war against women.
 - We learned about the lack of spaces in refuges for victim/survivors
 - In addition to telling us about the work of Cuan, Dr. Hanly illustrated how the HEI framework fits into and is a significant part of the national strategy,
 - We discussed legal definitions, conviction rates and the independence of the judicial system

Updates in line with National Framework for Ending Sexual Violence and Harassment in HEIs and related actions:

a. Policy: Our policy is before Governing Authority on the 23rd October for approval.

- Our updated policy was approved by Governing Authority on the 23rd October
- A modest budget for year 1 has been made available by UMT.
- A robust implementation plan is pending.
- The link to the codes of conduct need to be explored.

16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence 25th November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) to December 10th (Human Rights Day)

2024 is the inaugural year of marking this time at an Institutional level, we would welcome a coordinated approach to events and encourage all committee members to individually or collectively look at hosting some activity big or small.

An event could include, for example, a seminar, lunchtime talk, guest speaker, round-table discussion, awareness stand, or a showcase event highlighting Gender Based Violence. Please note due to exams the week of 25th November is the most appropriate for events that would include students.

To discuss an event please contact niamh.kavanagh@universityofgalway.ie.

STUDENT ORIENTATION



We started off the academic year strong with a heartfelt welcome to our incoming undergraduate, postgraduate, international and sports scholarship students at the University of Galway during orientation season. It's an incredibly thrilling time on campus, connecting with the new wonderful students where they learn about the SVHPR team, supports and reporting options, as well as an introduction to consent and Irish law from the Active* Consent team.

I'm genuinely appreciative of the chance to promote the array of initiatives and resources aimed at preventing and responding to sexual violence and harassment. It's a privilege to support and inform our campus community, special thanks to Active* Consent team for your ever extensive support on the ground.

Thank you to Ananda Geluk, Ennis Jane, Louise Kelly, Dónal Leech, Feargal O'Callaghan & all in the Student services, International Office University of Galway, University of Galway Sport for organizing.

DR CONOR HANLY - CUAN

At our October meeting, we had a presentation and discussion with Dr. Conor Hanly, a board member of Cuan, Ireland's new Domestic, Sexual, and Gender-Based Violence Agency.



Dr. Hanly, who has taught criminal law for over 20 years, also serves as Secretary to the GRCC board, where he provides a free legal information clinic for service users. He is the Principal Investigator and lead author of Rape and Justice in Ireland 2009.

During the meeting, Dr. Hanly presented a sobering overview of the recent CSO Sexual Crime Survey results, comparing them to national reporting figures. We also discussed the National Zero Tolerance Strategy 2022–2026 and its relevance to our work in higher education institutions.

He then introduced Cuan and provided a comprehensive overview of the agency's role and objectives in addressing domestic, sexual, and gender-based violence.

PROFESSOR SARAH MCMAHON VISIT

We were delighted to welcome Prof Sarah Mc Mahon of Rutgers University on campus to facilitate a seminar on 'Creating a whole campus approach to Sexual Violence and Harassment' and have individual meetings with the SVHPR Manager and the Active*Consent leadership. We learned a lot and will hopefully collaborate with Prof Mc Mahon in future.

Some key points from the seminar:

- The Whole School (University) approach understands how the various systems and factors within a University environment can address interpersonal violence.
- The role of policies, classroom settings, teaching staff and University culture are considered rather than focusing on changing individual behaviours.
- The approach is based on bystander 'actionist' models.
- Sarah aligned the approach with the national framework and demonstrated how the approach aligned with the statement in the national framework "Every stakeholder has a role to play in promoting positive behaviours around sex and in creating a community of responsibility where everyone is responsible for addressing sexual violence and harassment." (Department of Education and Skills, 2019, p.21)
- At the core of the Rutgers Model of Violence Prevention and intervention are intentional efforts to build a culture of care and respect. Rutgers University offers a variety of training programs and opportunities for consultation issues related to campus interpersonal violence. These initiatives aim to mobilize individuals and the campus community to take action and demonstrate that interpersonal violence is not tolerated on campus.
- Interventions:
 - Workshop: Supporting Students impacted by violence
 - Bystander Intervention
 - Ally Development
 - Workplace Civility
 - Consultation
 - Summit for staff - You set the tone.
 - Environment Survey
- We talked about Institutional Courage and how that is needed to move forward in this area
- [Further information available here.](#)



Pictured L-R: Aoife Cooke, Clarissa DiSantis, James McCorkmack, Kathleen Maher, Gemma MacNally, Maria Healy, Catherine Corbett, Liam McBrearty, Sarah McMahon, Niamh Kavanagh



SPEAKOUT

Speak Out is an online anonymous reporting tool available to all students and staff to disclose incidents of bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, discrimination, hate crime, coercive behaviour / control, stalking, assault, sexual harassment, sexual assault, and rape.

The information you provide using this tool is valuable as the data collated will help inform initiatives aimed at addressing bullying, harassment and ending sexual violence and harassment at the University of Galway.

It is important to remember that as the Speak Out reporting tool is completely anonymous, there is no way of identifying or contacting any member of the university community who uses the tool.

SAFEZONE APP

The safety and wellbeing of students and staff is our top priority at the University of Galway. We have introduced a free smartphone app that promotes staff and student safety across all of our campuses.

SafeZone enables users to call for help and assistance when they need it most, giving you fast access to security whenever and wherever you are on campus, and allows the University to send notifications to users, e.g. in the event of severe weather or building closure.

SafeZone also allows you to easily check in and share your location on campus.

The app is now available to download from the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#).



SAVE THE DATE:

November 8th

Sheehy Skeffington Annual Distinguished Lecture 2024 with Diane Byrne.

- Date: Friday 08 November. Time: 1.00 – 2.00 pm
- Location: O'Donoghue Theatre, O'Donoghue Centre, University of Galway and online

[Sing up here](#)

November 26th

COFFEE MORNING in aid of Cope Galway,

- Date: Tuesday 26 November. Time: 10.00 – 11.00 am
- Location: Corrib Room, University of Galway

[Sign Up here](#)

November 29th

The Intersection of Technology and Sexual Violence, Workshop with Lorrie Hayman,

- Date: Friday 29 November. Time: 11.00 – 12.00 pm
- Location: Aula Maxima, University of Galway

[Sign Up here](#)

December 4th

Building Healthy Relationships Online.

- Date: Wednesday 4 December. Time: 11.00 – 12.00 pm
- Location: Online.

December 10th

Launch of the COSHARE & First Point of Contact: Disclosure Management Training Reports.

- Date: Tuesday 10 December. Time: 10.00am -3.00pm
- Location: Dublin

For Further info email activeconsent@universityofgalway.ie



UPDATES:

Trinity College Dublin are hosting the National office for Speak Out.

The University of Galway SVHPR Team hosted the Galway Sexual Health Forum on 9th October. We learnt about the work being done to provide sexual health and prevention services to our wider community. It's a privilege to work so closely with these incredible teams.

[Learn more about the forum and members here.](#)



IN THE NEWS

These stories contain distressing details

The trial of Dominique Pélicot continues in France. He is accused of drugging and raping his wife (Gisèle Pélicot) and inviting dozens of other men to sexually assault her while she was unconscious. 50 other defendants are also accused of sexual assault or attempted sexual assault. See mainstream media of your choice for more.

Stark new Irish research finds that the consumption of mainstream pornography is fuelling high levels of violence against and degradation of women and girls. The research report is Facing Reality: Failure to tackle the harms of pornography is undermining equality and putting new generations of young people at risk. [See more:](#)