

## ***Seeking staff to take part in a focus group***

Are you interested in taking part in focus groups to help us develop campaign and training materials to tackle sexual violence and harassment? If so, read on...

The University of Glasgow is working in partnership with Rape Crisis Scotland and Glasgow Caledonian University on the *It Stops Now* project, funded by the European Union to help build a culture of zero tolerance of sexual harassment and violence (SVH) in universities. The project is led by the National Women's Council of Ireland with partners in Cyprus, Lithuania and Germany. We are keen to talk to staff to inform awareness-raising and campaigning tools, and training and policy resources for students and staff, which will be shared with universities across Europe. (A separate focus group is taking place with students.) The project will work to ensure there is a coherent framework driving clear reporting and disclosure mechanisms, resourcing strong support services and ensuring long-term, sustainable interventions. The *It Stops Now* project is just a small part of the work that The University of Glasgow is doing to tackle gender based violence.

### **Why focus on sexual violence and harassment?**

SVH affects all parts of society, not only universities. However an NUS survey found that 68 % of women students surveyed had experienced some kind of verbal or non-verbal harassment in and around their institution, including groping, flashing and unwanted sexual comment)<sup>1</sup> and further analysis found that lesbian, bisexual and transgender women faced increased levels<sup>2</sup>. The majority of SVH is directed towards women and trans people, and men are also affected. Everyone should have the right to study and work without facing harassment or violence, and universities across Scotland and the UK are taking action to tackle the problem.

### **Who, when and where?**

We are seeking staff at the University of Glasgow to take part in a focus group to discuss your perceptions and ideas about future education and awareness campaigns, policies, support services, training for staff and students. The focus group won't be directly discussing experiences of sexual harassment or sexual assault, it will focus on discussing issues in general. Please see the attached Participant Information Sheet for further details.

The focus group will take place on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March from 10 am till 12.15 in the Students' Representative Council, McIntyre Building, University Avenue (precise venue to be confirmed). There will be tea and coffee on arrival, a break partway through and lunch provided at 12.15 to thank you for your time.

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<sup>1</sup> NUS. (2010). *Hidden Marks: A study of women students' experiences of harassment, stalking, violence and sexual assault*

<sup>2</sup> NUS. (2011). *Hidden Marks LBT: A report on LBT female students' experiences of harassment, violence and sexual assault*