

Motion: This MCR pledges to condemn any acts of sexual violence and to support victims of sexual violence and abuse.

Proposer: Julia Hamilton and Matilde Stefanini (Women's Officers)

Seconder: Ellya Kawecki (Welfare Officer)

This MCR Notes:

1. Students in this MCR are statistically likely to be affected by sexual violence and assault during their time at university:
 - a. In a survey carried out by the Oxford University Student Union (OUSU)¹:
 - i. 69% of female student respondents at Oxford reported having experienced sexual assault during their time at the University; a recent NUS survey of over 2,000 men and women students found almost one third of respondents—12% of men, 37% of women—said they endure unwanted sexual comments about their body.²
 - ii. In the OUSU survey, 88% perpetrators of sexual violence were known to the victim.³
2. Sexual violence causes serious suffering to its victims and all aspects of victims' welfare are likely to be compromised.
3. OUSU has confirmed that 25 common rooms ran workshops which discuss sex, consent, and sexual assault ("consent workshops") in 2014-2015; 10 graduate common rooms ran them as compulsory workshops or combination of compulsory seminar and non-compulsory workshop. The following college graduate common rooms confirmed this fact, independent of OUSU: New, St John's, St Cross, Wadham, Christ Church, Teddy Hall, Merton, Balliol, Hertford.

This MCR Believes:

1. This MCR believes in caring for the welfare of its students. As such, this MCR believes in supporting victims of sexual violence and assault.
2. That the MCR is a community in which sexual consent is respected and sexual violence is not tolerated.
3. That all MCR members would benefit from improved educational resources relating to issues of consent.
4. That consent workshops provided by OUSU (for graduates) are an appropriate and desirable way of highlighting these issues and providing methods for supporting victims and preventing further incidents.

This MCR Resolves:

¹ See: <http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/articles/how-an-app-is-helping-to-tackle-sexual-violence-at-oxford-university>.

² See: <http://www.nus.org.uk/en/news/nus-research-reveals-one-in-four-students-suffer-unwelcome-sexual-advances/>. For comparable statistics in Cambridge, see: <http://www.womens.cusu.cam.ac.uk/campaigns/speakout/CambridgeSpeaksOutReport2014.pdf>.

³ OUSU, *Sexual Violence Incident Resource Guide* (2016).

1. To mandate the committee to work with OUSU to promote and provide workshops relating to consent, first-response⁴, by-stander intervention,⁵ and peer-support for members of the MCR in college.
2. That all members of the MCR Welfare team must attend an OUSU training workshop as early as possible during their term in office.⁶
3. That all incoming MCR members should attend a compulsory consent workshop during Freshers Week; members will be informed before and during the workshop that they are free to leave at any time and for any reason.
4. That the MCR Welfare team will provide a safe space⁷ during an organised event if requested by a member of the MCR, such as when a student may suffer trauma as a result of past sexual violence during an MCR event in college.

⁴ **Defined as:** training for individuals in how to receive disclosures of acts of sexual violence and how to respond adequately with knowledge of college and university provisions.

⁵ **Defined as:** workshops for students encountering multiple situations where bystander intervention would be appropriate including alcohol abuse, sexual assault and discrimination; to be rolled out by OUSU possibly in 2016-2017.

⁶ **NB:** By the end of Hilary term three members of the Welfare Team (both Women's Officers and the LGBTQ+ Officer) will have attended consent and/or first-response workshops.

⁷ **Defined as:** a calm, neutral environment in a booked room outside of the common room, where individuals affected by incidents causing trauma/suffering or individuals experiencing from 'over-stimulation' (resulting from trauma, mental health or disability) might speak to a member of the Welfare Team in a confidential manner.