

Web template developed in project College and University Responses to Forced Marriage, funded by the Forced Marriage Unit. (2012–2013)

Suggested language to put up on website of post-secondary education institution, inserting appropriate local information:

“Violence against Women and Forced Marriage (VAW/FM) are social problems that can affect the university community in different ways.

[Name of university] takes a proactive approach to addressing these issues. National and international research has shown that VAW/FM affects students and staff, whether as victims, loved ones, or service providers, and regardless of whether abuse occurred at the university or elsewhere (NUS, 2010; Feltes, Balloni, Czapska, Bodelon, & Stenning, 2012; Fisher, Cullen & Turner, 2000). While some men experience sexual and domestic abuse and forced marriage, young women are disproportionately affected. The majority of perpetrators of sexual harassment and sexual violence are men.

From the expert communities of researchers and the VAW specialist sector we know that everybody in society must contribute if VAW/FM is to end.

[Name of university] believes that the post-secondary education sector needs to become more proactive and that we as institutions need to take a close look at what we can do and not shy away from difficult questions or uncomfortable realities.

[Name of university] is in the process of overhauling its response to VAW/FM. We want to have a comprehensive strategy of leadership support, designated policies, staff training, community relations and information. This is work in progress and must be reassessed and refined as we learn more about the issues and integrate feedback from the university community. At the moment we have the following in place:

University VAW/FM specialist services [only if university has specialist services]

Local VAW/FM specialist services [insert names and links as appropriate]

- Local rape crisis centre
- Local domestic violence project
- Local project addressing forced marriage, honour-based violence

National and regional VAW/FM specialist services [sample selection]

- <http://www.rapecrisis.org.uk/> [England and Wales]
- <http://www.rapecrisisscotland.org.uk/about/> [Scotland]
- <http://www.hennafoundation.org/>
- <http://www.karmanirvana.org.uk/>
- Forced Marriage Unit, <https://www.gov.uk/forced-marriage>
- Women’s Aid, <http://www.womensaid.org.uk/>

Other University Services [insert titles and links as appropriate]

- Counseling centre
- Faith community
- Students’ union
- Health centre

University Policies [examples given; insert titles and links as appropriate]

- Policy against VAW/FM
- Annual report on university strategy against VAW/FM
- Policy against sexual harassment
- Policy against harassment, bullying
- Equality and equal opportunity policies
- Single equality scheme
- Annual equality report

Research references

- Feltes, T., Balloni, A., Czapska, J., Bodelon, E., & Stenning, P. (2012). Gender-based violence, stalking and fear of crime. Final report to European Commission, Directorate General Justice, Freedom and Security, Project JLS/2007/ISEC/415. . <http://vmrz0183.vm.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/gendercrime/index.html> [last accessed 9.8.2013]
- Fisher, B.S., Cullen, F.T., & Turner, M.G. (2000). The sexual victimization of college women. Research report. U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. <http://www.nij.gov/pubs-sum/182369.htm> [last accessed 9.8.2013]
- Freeman, M. & Klein, R.C.A. (2012). University responses to forced marriage and violence against women in the UK: Report on a pilot study. *International Family Law*, September 2012, 285-299.
- Freeman, M. & Klein, R. (2013). College and university responses to forced marriage. Final report to the Forced Marriage Unit.
- NUS (2010). Hidden marks: A study of women students' experiences of harassment, stalking, violence and sexual assault. National Union of Students. <http://hiddenmarks.org.uk/2010/> [last accessed 9.8.2013]"