

Tackling Sexual Harassment, a City Wide Approach

A Partnership Project:



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The context:

- **1 in 7** Women the victim of a serious sexual assault or serious physical violence whilst at University or College.
- **1 in 4** Students have received unwelcome sexual advances – inappropriate touching, bumping and groping



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It's a regular occurrence that when I go out in town I am touched inappropriately or face verbal comments about my appearance that are often sexually threatening.

I always challenge people who physically touch me without my permission and am often met with rebuttals such as 'stop being such a frigid bitch.' or 'calm down it's a compliment.'

I would appreciate it if security and bar staff were more understanding of how threatened this can make people feel but also it needs to be known that many men face this harassment too and they are often taken much less seriously.”

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3rd year female student

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In a club full of probably mostly 18 year olds, there was an older man on his own looking the girls up and down on the dancefloor. The next thing I know I see him walk up to a group of girls dancing and put his hand up one of their skirts, the girl obviously moves away but nothing is done about it. I was then at the bar buying a drink, when this guy came up behind me, stuck his hand up my skirt and literally stroked my vagina.

I moved away quickly and looked at him and he just smiled at me. I was disgusted and felt violated and my night was ruined.

After reporting this to security and pointing him out, they confronted him, he denied it, and the bouncer left him alone. This happened when I was 18, I am now 22 and I did not even realise that this situation was a sexual assault until a year ago.”

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The background:

- Partnership Project between key Stakeholders
- Discussions with Canterbury City Council
- Suggested changes to Draft Licensing Policy
- Tackling Sexual Harassment a key theme of draft licensing statement



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Behaviours:

- Unwelcome sexual gestures or innuendos.
- Groping, pinching or smacking someone's body without consent.
- Exposing sexual organs to someone.
- Entering the opposite sexes toilet.
- Derogatory comments or gestures based on someone's age, gender, race, orientation or ability.



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Canterbury Leading the Way:

- New Licensing Policy
- Proactive Partnership
- Outreach with Licensed Premises
- Training Package for Staff and Security
- Template Policies and Procedures
- A city wide marketing campaign



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Partnership Approach

- Starting with premises with a heavy Student Customer base
- Developing best practice
- Individual advice and consultation
- Premises attending training
- Venues proud to be Zero Tolerance venues



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