

## Consent Campaign Week Report

Consent Campaign Week ran from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> to Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023 with a core focus on encouraging positive consent and respect within our student community, alongside educating students and staff on all aspects of consent and the various situations in which it may arise. The week comprised of various workshops, pop-ups around campus and a social media takeover to spread the important message.

### **BBC Interview:**

Issy Price (Vice President Student Activities) was fortunate enough to be asked by BBC Hereford and Worcester to come on and talk about the campaign. It was great exposure for the campaign and the Students' Unions' work more widely, being broadcast across the region. You can listen to the [BCC interview here](#). Joining Issy in the interview was Dr Gill Harrop who would be leading her own talk during the campaign week - '*Consent on campus: Bringing the student voice into university consent training*'.

The session ran by Dr Gill Harrop considered student perspectives on consent, including how consent is defined by students, assumptions of consent in sexual settings, and perceptions of consent as a 'negotiated transaction'. Findings from a UW research study on student perceptions of intoxication and consent were presented, and strategies suggested for bringing the student voice into university consent training. The students and staff members in attendance found it extremely beneficial for themselves and to pass on to others. Dr Harrop also leads the university's bystander intervention programme. This programme aims to train students to recognise problematic behaviours, violence and abuse and give them the confidence to intervene as well as empowering the university community with the relevant knowledge and confidence to speak out against unacceptable behaviour and actions. You can find out further information about the [Bystander Intervention Programme here](#).

### **Other consent campaign sessions:**

Also providing valuable information within the week was University academic Holly Barnes-Bennetts who leads the Consent is Positive Project. This project is a research and activist project seeking to find out how we say yes across different groups in society.



The workshop sought to focus on the positive side of consent, as it can sometimes be perceived in a negative light, and through that, how we can also become more comfortable with expressing positive sexual consent in a way that feels comfortable. The workshop also discussed statistics of the way men and women expressed consent in a sexual way and how a more positive stance can occur. Six of our SU staff members attended and said that they found it extremely interesting and insightful. You can find out more about the [Consent is Positive Project here](#).

One of our most popular nights saw many students come along to our student bar, The Hangar, for the Consent Campaign Quiz Takeover. Over 100 students attended hoping to win the jackpot. It was interesting to see what student's thoughts were on certain consent questions and how it created food for thought within their quiz teams.

Smaller events during the week took place such as a game afternoon where some students came along to play some games in a quiet and safe environment to discuss consent and their thoughts on it. It is conversations like these, on a one-to-one basis, that are extremely beneficial for campaigns such as these.

### **Help and Advice Pop-up:**



Our Help and Advice Team also got involved in the conversation by doing a pop-up at St John's Reception about Housing Consent. The purpose of this activity was to get students to understand how to ask for help if they want to sign a tenancy agreement and to understand what you are consenting to when you sign a contract for a tenancy. One of the aims for this campaign was to

encourage conversations around consent that are sexual but also that stem from elsewhere, such as giving someone a hug, borrowing something, or consenting to a contract. Our Help and Advice Team offer a free contract checking service and help students feel supported if they need advice or someone to talk, whether that is personal or within their studies. You can check out what else our Help and Advice Team do [here](#).

### **Feedback Form:**

During the week, we also provided a feedback form which staff or students could fill out with their thoughts on the various activities taking place throughout the campaign.

One student said that they *"wish it was mandatory or could go to societies training and do a presentation before their session, it's such an important topic"* (NB: this comment was in relation to Gill Harrop's Research Presentation).

They continued to say that they *"learnt new terms, new statistics, learnt how to overcome barriers with consent and understand the problems we're facing with consent as a topic"*. We value students' feedback, and this clearly demonstrates how important it was for this consent campaign to take place.

### **Social Media Engagement:**

In addition, we reviewed our social media and website statistics around the time of the consent campaign. These stats were taken from 30<sup>th</sup> October through to 19<sup>th</sup> November.

#### **Facebook**

**Total reach of Consent Campaign posts - 1,689**

**Total engagements of Consent Campaign posts - 14**

#### **Instagram**

**Total reach of Consent Campaign posts - 9,900**

#### **Website**

**Total page views for Consent Campaign webpage - 185**

We are happy to see good levels of engagement across our social media platforms during this period and hope these sparked conversations surrounding consent further.

## Reflections from your Vice President Student Activities:

For any officer who is considering doing something similar in the future, I have a few reflections on this week that might help. Be proud of running this campaign and what it stands for but also do not be afraid to ask for help and feedback. It was the SU Team around me who cheered me on but also gave me feedback that led to changes to ensure that the campaign could be the best it could be! Get in touch



with any charities or anyone who would be good to take part, building a community is really important and signposting for support is crucial. Always could have a variety of options available to students to take part in. Have fun and show why you are doing this! As an officer you represent the student body and its good for them to see why you are passionate about this and engaging with them in person and online! 😊

## What are the next steps?

I have always been clear that this campaign is not just for the week, but it should be a catalyst for continuing the conversation which is constantly developing. Below are some useful links to SU and University services, and wider charities that you can contact if you need to speak to someone regarding anything discussed during the consent campaign. We will continue to keep our Consent Campaign webpage updated with useful links and contacts. Alongside this, our goal is to keep the conversation going, with any events that correlate with this topic to be put on the webpage for our students to access. We also ask that if any students have feedback that can be useful to contact Issy ([Isobel.price@worc.ac.uk](mailto:Isobel.price@worc.ac.uk)), or the Students' Union.

We hope the campaign week was a positive week filled with engaging and thoughtful conversations around consent and that this continues into the future!

**Useful Links and Contacts:**

SU Consent Web Page: <https://www.worcsu.com/yourvoice/campaigns/consent/>

Consent Campaign Week Feedback Form: <https://forms.gle/jqGv7AZZfSbJ8hYR6>

SU Help and Advice Service: <https://www.worcsu.com/helpandadvice/>

University of Worcester FirstPoint: <https://www.worcester.ac.uk/life/help-and-support/services-for-students/firstpoint.aspx>

Student Services STAR Appointments: <https://www.worcester.ac.uk/life/help-and-support/services-for-students/firstpoint.aspx>

The Glade: <https://www.theglade.org.uk/>

Brook Charity: <https://www.brook.org.uk/>

NUS I Heart Consent Campaign: <https://www.nusconnect.org.uk/liberation/women-students/lad-culture/i-heart-consent>

*(All workshops and pop-ups taken place were risk assessed and any student's taking part was notified of the subject matter and took part of their own free will. We provided measures in place beforehand for anyone who might have been affected).*

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