**University of Worcester Students’ Union Students’ Council**

WSU Women’s Officer Report – 06/10/14

By Chantal Vinyard

**Priorities**

**Zero Tolerance to Sexual Harassment on Campus**

I have met with Wesley Hudson, and I am now in the process of forming a working party who will work to create an inclusive zero tolerance charter and policy that is written in consultation with the relevant stakeholders. I have contacted Ruth Jones OBE, Principal Lecturer and Director of The National Centre for the Study and Prevention of Violence and Abuse (NCSPVA) at UOW, I hope to have the benefit of her expertise and experience in this area, as well working in collaboration with the University on this project.

I have received a number of ideas from other SU Women’s Officers. Manchester’s Women’s Officer has run an incredibly successful zero tolerance campaign called ‘We Get It’. She has provided me with a range of resources designed to help other SU’s implement the campaign on their campuses. I am hoping that these will help WSU to develop a range of events and materials to promote and launch our zero tolerance campaign possibly in Worcester Week 2.

**Inclusion, representation and welfare**

I am pleased to say that all of the potential candidates for the part-time officer roles in the recent by-elections were women. This is bucking the national trend for under representation of women in officer positions within SU’s. I hope this will lead to more women becoming involved in all levels within WSU.

I have been in touch with Asha Women’s Centre which is a women only community project offering a safe, non-judgmental environment for vulnerable women in Worcestershire to access a wide range of community resources that will improve both social and economic proficiency and participation, as well as raise levels of emotional competence. They aim to enable and empower women to tackle problems that may contribute to isolation and social exclusion. They are keen to come in to WSU and give a talk about their services and work with women. They are also able to offer volunteer opportunities, and have provided me with a range of literature for any students or their families who may benefit.

**Training and events**

I am very happy to announce that WSU was selected by NUS as one of only twenty Universities nationwide to be chosen for the I Heart Consent pilot scheme. NUS women's campaign and Sexpression UK have come together to create a consent educational programme which aims to facilitate positive, informed and inclusive conversations and campaigns about consent in universities and colleges across the UK. The campaign will be launched on our campus during Worcester Week 3 with the support of a Sexpression UK ambassador who will facilitate a number of I Heart Consent events and workshops.

**Student engagement**

I am starting to recruit a Women’s Campaign Team who will support, promote and help deliver campaign activities and events.

**Plans before next meeting**

I would like to hold the first meeting of the working party for Zero Tolerance Policy.

I intend to confirm plans for women’s activities during the first two Worcester Weeks.

I will continue to keep abreast of the latest developments within the national women’s campaign and bring best practice to WSU.

I continue to will make links with appropriate organisations, locally and nationally.