

Westminster Higher Education Forum policy conference

Tackling sexual harassment in higher education - policy, prevention and reporting

Timing: Morning, Friday, 16th October 2026

Taking Place Online



WESTMINSTER
HIGHER EDUCATION
FORUM

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **Sector priorities for tackling sexual harassment and misconduct in higher education**
Dr Aleata Alstad-Calkins, Director, Student and Library Services, Anglia Ruskin University; and Chair, AMOSSHE, The Student Services Organisation
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Strengthening institutional approaches to prevention, reporting and response under Condition E6**
prominence, accessibility and cohort-specific clarity of providers' single comprehensive sources of information | learning from implementation so far | developing accessible and proportionate policies, reporting routes and support pathways | arrangements for smaller and specialist providers, including shared resources and partnership working | building internal capability and access to specialist expertise | alignment of E6 implementation with student wellbeing, safeguarding and prevention strategies | approaches to trauma-informed practice
Julian Sladdin, Partner, Pinsent Masons
Avery Greateorex, Vice-President Liberation and Equality, National Union of Students
Spencer Davies, Head, Advice and Response, University of Manchester
Neil Henderson, CEO, Safeline
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.15 **Reporting, investigations and case handling under E6 - procedural fairness and implications of revised OIA guidance**
Jo Nuckley, Head, Outreach and Insight Team, Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.40 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.45 Break
- 10.55 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.00 **Institutional leadership, accountability and whole-university approaches to prevention and response**
board-level oversight, leadership responsibility and clear lines of accountability | institutional capability and resourcing under E6 | using complaints learning, OIA reporting trends and internal monitoring to support improvement | evaluating prevention activity and mandatory training | freedom of speech and the design of training and institutional policies, services and student-facing processes | staff-to-student misconduct, professional boundaries and power imbalances | implementing restrictions on use of NDAs | building transparency and student confidence
Zaid Altikriti, Co-President, Welfare and Liberation, SOAS Students' Union
Dr Wayne Mitchell, Associate Provost, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, Imperial College London
Professor Susan Lea, Managing Director, Sagewood Consulting
Gemma McCall, CEO, Culture Shift
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.45 **Developing multi-agency responses to sexual harassment and misconduct**
Stephanie Reardon, CEO, LimeCulture
- 11.55 **Student safety on and off campus - coordination across different settings, online abuse and student support**
safety in student accommodation, neighbourhoods and public spaces | coordination between universities, accommodation providers, local authorities, police, sexual assault referral centres and specialist support services | information sharing, safeguarding and escalation where incidents take place beyond university premises | safer routes, lighting, CCTV and night-time economy initiatives | local violence against women and girls strategies, Safer Streets measures and implementation of the Protection from Sex-based Harassment in Public Act 2023 | preventing and responding to online abuse, image-based offences and illegal online content | reporting, student support and disciplinary responses where misconduct takes place online | responsibilities where university-operated online services fall within the scope of the Online Safety Act
Dr Bridget Steele, Departmental Lecturer, Evidence-Based Intervention and Policy Evaluation, University of Oxford
Senior representative, local authority
Senior representative, police
Senior representative, university
- 12.15 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.35 **Policy priorities for tackling sexual harassment and misconduct in higher education**
Senior representative, policy
Questions and comments from the floor
- 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Higher Education Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Higher Education Forum