
Section One: Governance

Research governance was embedded into the project including a Research Advisory Group (RAG) that supported the project and the Strategy Group that guided the wider ESHE project.

The research project requires ethical and intuitional approval. Be prepared for both these stages to take considerable time.

DOCUMENT

1.1 RAG Terms of Reference

1.1 Equally Safe in Higher Education (ESHE) Research Advisory Group: Terms of Reference

Title

The Group shall be known as the Equally Safe in Higher Education (ESHE) Research Advisory Group.

Project

ESHE is a pilot project which will adopt a strategic approach to the development of resources aimed at the prevention and elimination of gender-based violence (GBV) at the University of [name]. [project details]. ESHE will support the implementation of Equally Safe, the Scottish Government's national policy for the prevention and elimination of Violence against Women and Girls (VAW&G). The ESHE Project will generate new data on attitudes to and the extent of gender-based violence (GBV) on campus, develop a coordinated response to GBV and produce an Equally Safe Higher Education Toolkit for dissemination to other Scottish Higher Education institutions (HEIs). ESHE will adopt a partnership approach involving [name] University students, staff and their representatives and key external stakeholders to implement measures which closely reflect the twin themes of the Equally Safe approach – Prevention and Early Intervention.

ESHE will use the definition of gender-based violence (GBV) outlined in Equally Safe which recognises that it is broadly a function of gender inequality. While it is

acknowledged that GBV mostly affects women and that men are the main perpetrators, it may impact individuals of any gender, sexual orientation, faith or ethnicity. GBV takes the form of actions that result in physical, sexual and psychological harm or suffering to women, children and young people, or affront to their human dignity, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life. These include:

- Domestic abuse
- Rape & sexual assault
- Child and childhood sexual abuse
- Stalking, sexual harassment and intimidation at work and in the public sphere
- Commercial sexual exploitation, including prostitution, pornography and trafficking
- Dowry-related violence
- Female genital mutilation (FGM)
- Forced and child marriages
- 'Honour'-based or dowry-related crimes

Purpose

The purpose of the Group is to comment on the development and implementation of the research tools (questionnaire survey, interviews and focus groups). Specifically:

- To share experiences and perspectives on gender based violence (GBV) so that the research team benefits from the wealth of experience that members of the advisory group bring.
- To share research expertise so that the research team can benefit from the advice the advisory members can offer-in terms of developing methodologies, research tools and data analysis.
- To comment on research design and data collection tools.
- To read and comment on initial findings.

ESHE Team

[name/s] Primary Investigator/s
[name/s] Research Lead
[name/s] Research Associates
[name/s] Administrator

Membership:

Membership of the Research Advisory Group include:

[name/s] [Scottish University]
[name/s] [Scottish University]
[name/s] [UK University]
[name/s] [UK University]
[name/s] [US University]
[name/s] Student Representative, [name] University
[name/s] Vice President Diversity, USSA
[name/s] Research Associate [project name]
[name/s] British Council Gender Equality Research Team
[name/s] [name] Research Unit
[name/s] NUS Scotland
[name/s] Rape Crisis
[name/s] Scottish Women's Aid

Schedule:

The Group will meet biannually, at six-monthly intervals:

- [date]
- [date]

Contact Details: