**Collaborative Working Agreement (Sample)**

**between**

**Rape Crisis Centre and the University of [ ]**

**Aims**

The aims of this Collaborative Working Agreement (CWA) is to specify:

1. The parties to the agreement
2. the benefits of the collaboration
3. The definition of GBV to be used
4. the areas of collaboration and activities
5. the duration of the CWA
6. how and when the CWA will be reviewed
7. **Parties to the Agreement**

**1.1 [ ] Rape Crisis Centre**

[ ] Rape Crisis Centre was established [ ] and offers a range of services to survivors of rape and sexual assault, their partners, family and carers. GRCC is located at [ ]

RCC aims are as follows:

* To respond to and promote the needs of survivors of sexual violence
* To reduce the impact of sexual violence by supporting, educating, informing and advocating for survivors.
* To challenge oppression of women and girls in all its forms.
* To challenge attitudes that condone or collude with sexual violence against women and girls through prevention education and training

RCC are continually working to improve access to their services for survivors and by making use of emerging technologies to extend the ways survivors and others can contact their series. The Centre works with a diverse population and is developing services to ensure as all survivors can find accessible, relevant and appropriate support which meets their needs.

 **1.2 The University of [ ]**

The University of [ ] is committed to promoting gender equality, both in and outside the workplace. The University recognises that certain types of violence have a disproportionate effect on women, as they result from gender inequality in wider society. The University recognises it responsibilities as a public body to promote equality, raise awareness of and challenge GBV within the campus community. The University’s GBV Prevention Strategy [ ] outlines its priorities and actions for addressing GBV across campus.

**Benefits of collaboration**

1. **Gender-based Violence**

The term gender-based violence (GBV) outlined in Equally Safe will be used in this agreement. This term recognises that GBV 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. It is acknowledged that homophobia, biphobia and transphobia are forms of GBV. 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. Examples of GBV include domestic abuse, sexual violence, stalking, harassment, harmful cultural practices and commercial sexual exploitation.

1. **Areas of collaboration and activities**

The areas for collaboration reflect four of the University’s key GBV Prevention work streams as follows:

1. Responding to GBV on campus
2. GBV Prevention
3. GBV Research
4. GBV Early Intervention.

The University will collaborate with RCC and draw on its expertise to ensure models of good practice and national standards in the support of survivors of GBV are incorporated into the University’s strategy for implementing Equally Safe across the University community.

1. **Benefits of the CWA**

The University recognises its duty of care to those staff and students affected by GBV. RCC is a publicly funded specialist agency committed to supporting survivors of GBV and increasing its visibility and accessibility in the [ ] area. The numbers of survivors reporting and/or disclosing their experiences of rape and sexual assault continues to rise. The need for specialist services for those affected is well documented elsewhere. Both parties have made a public commitment to the national approach outlined in Equally Safe focussed on prevention and early intervention. This CWA will benefit both parties by

* enhancing the contribution of both parties to the national strategy for implementing Equally Safe
* ensuring the experiences of GBV survivors inform the University’s GV Prevention Strategy
* making RCC services more visible and accessible across campus community
* building capacity with the University’s existing support and service framework for staff and students affected by GBV.
* Contributing to the local areas’ wider coordinated response to GBV
* Support RCC’s need to attract to additional investment to support its work at a time when demand for its services continues to rise.
1. **Duration of the CWA**

This agreement will be for one year in the first instance and reviewed annually thereafter.

1. **How and when the CWA will be reviewed**

Outcomes for the areas of collaboration will be agreed by both parties and progress will be reviewed six monthly.