

Gender-based violence in the post-school education and training sector

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A short history

- In 1984 students at Rhodes, including the SRC start raising issues of sexual harassment and assault. In 1985 demand the establishment of a crisis centre.
- In 1989 UWC student undertakes research investigating sexual harassment on campus, triggering wider processes.
- In same year students at UCT distribute an anonymous pamphlet on campus naming 5 men as rapists. Investigation triggered.
- The 1990s witnessed a number of surveys on different campuses, coupled with the development of policies.

Now: how history repeats itself

- 2015 – protests at UCT
- 2016 - #RUReferenceList – a new round of policy-making is triggered
- TVET institutions remain invisible

The problem

- Different institutions may have different problems eg being asked to exchange sexual favours for marks (or something else) reported by 4% of both staff and students at one institution and up to 28% of female students at another. In the latter, 12% of students also reported being failed for refusing a lecturer's advances.
- Number of complaints/formal disciplinary proceedings appears low (CGE hearings)
- UniA: 2012 to 2015 – 4 cases
- UniB: 2014 to 2016 – 2 complaints (no sexual harassment campaigns)
- UniC: 2012 to 2015 – 9 complaints
- UniD: 2006 to June 2016 – 109 complaints, 25 referred to disciplinary tribunal
- **UniE: Feb 2014 to May 2016 – 216 complaints (76 university perps), 265 complainants counselled and supported, 6 disciplinary hearings (+ 2 in progress)**

The problem cont.

- Unwelcome touching reported as occurring 'sometimes' by 21.9% of students at one university, with 9.2% reporting that this occurred 'often' or 'very often'. At a different university 42% of students reported being fondled.
- Between 21.9% of male students and 33% of women students reported having 'sometimes' experienced sexist comments, with 11.5% of men and 28.2% of women reporting such comments as occurring 'often' or 'very often.'
- An experience of rape was reported by 2% of students and 3% of staff at one university

GBV: the problem more broadly

- In 2012, 10% of rapes reported that year involved students over 18. Where information about a perpetrator was available, 3.3% were recorded as students (RAPSSA study, forthcoming)
- Most rapes not reported and no data available for sexual harassment.
- Intimate partner violence most common form of violence experienced by South African women (South African Stress and Health (SASH) survey, Johns Hopkins University and the University of Cape Town) - reported by about one in eight women (13.8%) in the study and by 1.3% of men.
- SADHS 2016: 2 in 10 women (or 21%) ever physically abused and 8% in last 12 months.

What does this suggest?

- The focus on rape is important but needs to be matched by an equivalent focus on sexual harassment and intimate partner violence.
- Different forms of GBV are experienced by staff and students. However, some staff and students will experience violence prior to attending/working at a PSET while others' experience violence will be concurrent.