

HEA Advisory Group on Ending Sexual Violence and Harassment in Irish Higher Education Institutions

In April 2019, the Department of Education and Skills published [Safe, Respectful, Supportive and Positive – Ending Sexual Violence and Harassment in Irish Higher Education Institutions](#), more commonly referred to as the Framework for Consent in Irish Higher Education Institutions. The primary focus of this framework is to address issues of sexual violence and harassment on Irish higher education campuses. In August 2020, the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Simon Harris TD, expanded the remit of the HEA’s Centre of Excellence for Gender Equality to cover Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and to include oversight of the implementation of the Framework for Consent.

An Advisory Group was established to advise the HEA on policy relating to addressing sexual violence and harassment in Irish higher education institutions (HEIs), including but not limited to, the implementation of the Framework for Consent. Current membership of the Advisory Group is as follows:

Noeline Blackwell	<i>CEO, Dublin Rape Crisis Centre (DRCC) and RCC Forum</i>
Dr Anna Bull	<i>Lecturer, University of York; Member of the 1752 Group</i>
Dr Emer Cahill	<i>Programme Manager, Irish Research Council (IRC)</i>
Prof Louise Crowley	<i>Bystander Intervention Programme, University College Cork (UCC)</i>
Gearoid Hodgins	<i>Director of Corporate Affairs, Technological Higher Education Association (THEA)</i>
Marie Keenan	<i>Associate Professor, University College Dublin (UCD)</i>
Dr Pádraig MacNeela	<i>Active* Consent Programme, University of Galway</i>
Dr Amanda McCloat	<i>President, St Angela’s College, Sligo</i>
Aongus McGrane	<i>Assistant Principal, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Unit, Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science</i>
Tony McMahon	<i>Associate Director HR and EDI, Irish Universities Association (IUA)</i>

Gemma McNally (<i>since July 2023</i>)	<i>Student Counsellor, University of Galway; Psychological Counsellors in Higher Education in Ireland (PCHEI) representative</i>
Colette Murphy (<i>since July 2023</i>)	<i>Vice-President for Welfare, Union of Students in Ireland (USI)</i>
Róisín O’Connell	<i>Head of Communications, Technological Higher Education Association (THEA)</i>
Tom Reilly	<i>Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Manager, Atlantic Technological University (ATU) Sligo</i>
Dr Sinéad Ring	<i>Assistant Professor, Maynooth University</i>
Dr Jennie Rothwell (<i>Chair, since April 2023</i>)	<i>Senior Manager, Centre of Excellence for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, Higher Education Authority (HEA)</i>
Dr Cliona Saidlear	<i>Executive Director, Rape Crisis Network Ireland (RCNI)</i>
Suzanne Walker (<i>Secretariat</i>)	<i>Senior Executive Officer, Centre of Excellence for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, Higher Education Authority (HEA)</i>
Ivanna Youtchak (<i>since June 2023</i>)	<i>Violence against Women Coordinator, National Women’s Council of Ireland (NWCi)</i>