

Policy: Supporting Students in Sex Work

Sex Work refers to but is not limited to; escorting, lap dancing, stripping, pole dancing, pornography, webcamming, adult modeling, phone sex, and selling sex. Austerity and services and support cuts have led to an increased risk level with engaging in this work and that online platforms such as OnlyFans have led to an increase in accessibility to sex work, but without correct supports. This can lead to instances of abuse.

Current legislation in Ireland has increased the risks of engaging in sex work, with Gardaí targeting sex workers and criminalising them. Sex Work is not a “bad” thing to engage with and that anyone who chooses to engage in Sex Work should be supported, with particular care to marginalised / minority communities that trend higher in sex work. Sex work is work and should be treated as such.

To support students who are sex workers, this policy’s intent is to achieve that by:

- the Students’ Union supports and campaigns for the full decriminalization of sex work and to support sex worker-led organizations such as the Sex Workers Alliance of Ireland.
- That the Students’ Union campaign against any attempted regression of rights for those who engage in sex work and to support and signpost effectively and meaningfully any student sex workers that may be outed, targeted, faced with prejudice, harassment, or discrimination as a result of their status as sex workers.
- That the Students’ Union lobby for a framework that is designed to allow anyone engaging in sex work engage in the industry safely, without fear of persecution, blackmail, or coercion.

Proposed By: Luke Daly, TU Dublin SU, Deputy President, Blanchardstown Campus

Seconded By: Moya Browne, TU Dublin SU, Deputy President, City Campus

Policy: Stand Against Image-Based Sexual Abuse & Revenge Porn

CW: Image-Based Sexual Abuse, Rape, Coercion, Abuse

Student Council Notes:

Image-Based Sexual Abuse is the non-consensual sharing of private or personal images that may be of a sexual nature. Revenge Porn is the sharing of media online used to coerce, abuse, or intimidate somebody, often done anonymously.

Student Council Notes with Concern:

Image-Based Sexual Abuse (often shortened to IBSA) is not just a hot-topic issue. This is an issue that has consistently shown gaps in legislation, which allows perpetrators to emerge scot-free. Women are primarily affected by this, and the lack of any routes to support and justice for them contributes to misogyny, rape culture, and victim-blaming in Irish society.

Student Council Believes:

That IBSA and Revenge Porn is unacceptable and feeds into a larger conversation around bodily autonomy, respect for privacy, how we treat women (or anyone affected by this) in society and gender-based violence.

Student Council Recognizes and Applauds:

Activists and Organizations such as Linda Hayden (Victim's Alliance), Dublin Rape Crisis Center, TENI, Women's Aid, Men's Aid, EndIBSAIreland, and endless more for their endless work to support those affected by IBSA and Revenge Porn.

Therefore Student Council Mandates:

TU Dublin Students' Union Executive to lobby for real, meaningful, and working legislative change to be enacted to make IBSA and Revenge Porn a criminal offense but to also lobby for supports for students affected by perpetrators.

Student Council Further Mandates:

To run an information campaign for staff and students to inform around issues such as gender-based violence, desensitisation, IBSA, de-platforming, and more.

Proposed By: Luke Daly, TU Dublin SU, Deputy President, Blanchardstown Campus

Seconded By: Moya Browne, TU Dublin SU, Deputy President, City Campus

Motion: De-platforming & Rejecting Fascism

Student Council Notes:

Fascism is a form of far-right authoritarian ultranationalism characterised by dictatorial power, forcible suppression of opposition, and strong regimentation of society and of the economy.

Student Council Believes:

That no student or citizen should live in fear and that freedom of expression is a core fundamental right of all citizens, does not morally permit somebody to actively oppress another.

Student Council Believes:

That TU Dublin Students' Union must fight for freedom for all students, meaning de-platforming harmful, oppressive, forceful, and/or violent acts that may hurt, intimidate, or actively oppress students. Affording racists and fascists a platform helps them in their search for credibility to promote their message of hate, which in turn can lead to violence against those that they target.

Student Council Therefore Mandates:

That TU Dublin Students' Union Executive actively de-platforms and challenges the rise of fascism and to engage in the rejection of this, whilst acknowledging differences on the political spectrum through supporting USI's Le Chéile campaign and other methods.

Student Council Further Mandates:

That TU Dublin Students' Union to reject any forms of fascism and counter-protest in a situation where fascism in any form arrives at any campus of TU Dublin through peaceful means, where it is safe, as directed by the executive and/or council's direction.

Proposed By: Luke Daly, TU Dublin SU, Deputy President, Blanchardstown Campus

Seconded By: Moya Browne, TU Dublin SU, Deputy President, City Campus