



HIGHER HEALTH

Higher Education and Training
Health, Wellness and Development Centre

Protocol on Safety in Private Accommodation

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Protocol on Safety in Private Accommodation

1. Many students are unable to find a place in campus residences or cannot afford campus residential accommodation. In such circumstances these students take up accommodation at private establishments. Most often private accommodation is in the form of communal living. Some of the problems that occur in respect of private accommodation are:
 - a. Many private establishments do not fall under the control of the PSET institutions and therefore such institutions have no jurisdiction to police or monitor safety standards at those institutions, particularly risk factors relating to SGBV.
 - b. Certain private accommodation establishments are overcrowded which can enhance the risk of SGBV.
 - c. Female students in private accommodation are particularly vulnerable as there may be no security presence or protective measures.
 - d. Some private accommodation establishments are far from campus which makes female students vulnerable if they have to travel to and from campus in the dark, take public transport or walk long distances on their own, unprotected.
 - e. Many of the same risks associated with students living in campus residences are to be found in private accommodation institutions which may be further enhanced since there is no protective measures to protect students.
2. PSET institutions must require either the **RESPONSIBLE OFFICE**, campus protection services or any other suitable office to register or accredit private accommodation.
3. PSET institutions must require owners/managers of private accommodation to adhere to rules in respect of SGBV to protect students living at their establishments.
4. The rules must aim at:
 - a. Ensuring that all private rooms that students sleep in have locks.
 - b. Ensuring that the entrance to their establishment and common areas are well lit.
 - c. Ensuring the number of students in the establishment is managed in accordance with the amount of accommodation provided.
 - d. Where possible having separate ablution areas for male and female students.
5. Owners/managers of private residential establishments must be required to paste an information sheet in a visible place (for example kitchen, lounge or dining room wall) that provides the following phone numbers:
 - a. Campus protection services
 - b. SAPS
 - c. Campus counselling service
 - d. The **RESPONSIBLE OFFICE**
 - e. Nearby clinics and/or hospitals
 - f. NGOs that support victims of SGBV, churches, etc.
6. Off campus accommodation must, where possible, be located in areas that do not expose students to danger that may expose them to rape, sexual assault and other crimes, particularly when they walk to and from campus.
7. Off campus accommodation should be subject to an annual security audit by the PSET institution that identifies safety issues and should require these to be addressed by owners/managers.

8. A training course must be developed for managers and owners of private residential establishments to familiarise them with the context of SGBV, key concepts and the institution's SGBV implementation guidelines and protocols.
9. PSET institutions should prepare a SGBV resource pack for private residential establishments that consists of:
 - a. Pamphlets on SGBV that set out the institution's policy on SGBV.
 - b. Informative and educative pamphlets that provide content aimed at preventing SGBV. For example on consent, on gender equality, on toxic masculinities, on the danger of alcohol and drug abuse in relation to SGBV.
 - c. Posters that can be affixed to walls in visible locations that set out informative messaging aimed at raising awareness and prevention of SGBV.