

NELSON MANDELA
UNIVERSITY



STAY ALERT



The Transformation Office

Our purpose is to promote institutional transformation and foster an affirming transformative institutional culture that promotes diversity and social inclusion through programmatic interventions focusing on the Constitutional principles of human dignity, equality, fairness, non-racism, non-sexism, and redress.



Gender-Based Violence and Associated Human Rights Violations

At Nelson Mandela University, we are committed to fostering a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment for all students and staff. We provide support, policies, and training to our students, student leadership, staff (academic and non-academic), peer educators and volunteers, ensuring they are equipped to offer the necessary information, support, and resources to those affected by Gender-Based Violence.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS, REPORT VIOLATIONS



It is essential to recognise and report violations that undermine the integrity and safety of our campus. Violations can involve any form of wrongdoing or infringement upon someone's rights, safety, or dignity.

- CAMPUS SAFETY
- MEDICAL SUPPORT
- PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT

Types of violations to be aware of:

1 Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

Sexual harassment

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favours, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.

Sexual assault

Any non-consensual sexual act, including unwanted touching or groping.

Rape

Non-consensual penetrative sex, regardless of the relationship between the individuals involved.

Extortion

Coercing students to provide sexual or material favours under threat or intimidation.

2 Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Favours

Sexual Exploitation and sexual favouritism include but not limited to:

- sex for marks,
- sex for admission into programmes or courses,
- sex for student accommodation and
- any other university related processes such as development opportunities, selection for sports, selection for bursaries and more



3

Ama-Blesser

Money, groceries, or goods / commodities

Offering commodities, gifts, money and groceries in exchange for sex.



“Ama-Blesser” relationships are often characterised by an imbalance of power due to age, socio- economic disparities, violence, and gender inequality

These arrangements often exploit vulnerable students.

Sex for Basic Needs. Due to unfavourable socio-economic status. Most students vulnerable for this include Unfunded students and NSFAS funded students.

Sex for materialistic needs. (Soft-Life). Students who tend to enter into the blesser relation for materialistic gain tend to be seeking out what is perceived to be soft-life.

4

Student on Student Violations

Renting out allocated rooms:

Students allocated rooms and charging other students rent for those rooms

Exorbitant micro-loans:

students lending money to peers at unreasonable repayment rates (e.g., borrowing R100 and repaying R150 or R200).



Squatter arrangements:

providing accommodation to unregistered students in exchange for sexual or material favours

- Prostitution on and off campus by students
- Sale of drugs and alcohol on and off-campus by students

WHAT CAN YOU DO AS A STUDENT?



Recognize the signs:

01 **Feeling coerced, threatened, or manipulated into an arrangement**

- **Emotional Pressure:** If you feel emotionally blackmailed or threatened into agreeing to something you're uncomfortable with, this could be a sign of manipulation. For example, being told that someone will harm themselves or others if you don't comply, or that you'll face serious consequences if you don't agree to something, is coercion.



- **Lack of Choice:** When you feel that you have no real option but to go along with a situation, even if it goes against your values or well-being, it may be a sign that you're being pressured. True consent comes when there is a genuine freedom of choice without fear or undue influence.

02 **Observing others being pressured into exploitative situations**

- **Witnessing Manipulation:** If you notice others being subtly or overtly pressured into making decisions that seem to put them at risk, it's important to recognize this behaviour as exploitative. This could include situations where others are being pushed to do something against their will or are being promised rewards or safety that seem too good to be true.
- **Isolation and Control:** Often, exploitative situations involve isolating the individual from their support network, making them more vulnerable to manipulation. If you see someone being kept away from friends, family, or other forms of support, this could be a red flag.



Being aware of offers that seem unfair or come with unethical conditions

- **Unbalanced Deals:** If an offer or agreement seems one-sided, with you or someone else receiving little in return for a significant sacrifice, it's important to consider the ethical implications. Exploitative situations often involve promises that sound too good to be true or deals that come with hidden conditions that could harm you in the long run.
- **Pressure to Accept Quickly:** If you are being rushed to decide without time to think or consult with others, especially when the offer seems unusually generous or enticing, it's a common tactic used by manipulators to prevent you from recognizing the unfairness of the situation.
- **Unclear or Ambiguous Terms:** When the terms of an arrangement are vague or intentionally misleading, it can be a sign that the situation is not what it appears to be. Always ask for clarity and make sure you understand the full implications of any agreement.

- **Trust your intuition:** If something feels off or too good to be true, it's worth taking a step back and considering whether the situation is in your best interest.



- **Be mindful of situations where there is a clear power imbalance,** whether it's in relationships, or social settings. Those in power may use their position to manipulate or coerce others into exploitative situations.



REPORT VIOLATIONS



Reach out to the Nelson Mandela University Transformation Office Team for guidance and assistance. The Transformation Office and Protection services - *find contact details on the last page of the booklet.*

If you are unsure whether you have experienced a violation or if you feel or believe there may have been a misunderstanding, mistake, or lapse in judgment regarding your safety in that situation, it is important to seek support and clarity.

HOW THE UNIVERSITY SUPPORTS YOU

Complaints filing assistance:

The university helps students understand how to file complaints and guides them on how to access additional support services if needed.

Student support:

The university provides academic support within reason to students who have experienced GBV, considering accommodations and academic concessions.

Counselling services:

The university helps students understand how to file complaints and guides them on how to access additional support services if needed.

Safe reporting channels:

Anonymity and confidentiality guaranteed.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Protection services/ Campus security: 041 504 2009

GBV Counselling services: Ulleta Marais - GBV Counsellor

Email: Ulleta.marais@mandela.ac.za

Telephone: 041 504 2326



Together, we can build a safe and equitable campus. If you see something, say something. By reporting violations, you contribute to a culture of accountability and respect. Let's stand united against exploitation and violence!

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO ADDRESS SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE



Nelson Mandela University expressly prohibits sexual harassment in its Sexual Harassment and Sexual Offence Policy. The policy applies to students, staff (academic and PASS) contractors, visitors, suppliers, clients, job applicants, including student applicants. Sexual harassment is unacceptable and will not be tolerated at Nelson Mandela University.

What should I do if I know someone who is being sexually harassed, experiencing GBV, bullying, or discrimination?

The University provides various reporting systems, including information disclosed via protected disclosures and/or other non-confidential reports by victims of sexual harassment, gender-based violence, and tending to the needs of the LGBTQIA+ community:

01 Report through the reporting page:

<https://onl.mandela.ac.za/PublicReportingPage/>

02 Anonymous reporting:

- disclosure via whistle-blowing mechanism [**24/7/365 Hotline:** 0800 438 737].
- **SMS:** 33490 (a caller using the SMS receives an automatic response advising that an Information Agent shall call them back).
- **WhatsApp:** +27 (0) 71 868 4792.
- **Email:** nelsonmandelauni@whistleblowing.co.za
- **Online Web Platform:** <https://www.whistleblowing.co.za/>
- **App:** Download the Whistle blower App from Google Play (Whistle blowers app) or the Apple App Store (Whistle blowers app)

Contact or Find Help

Protection services contact: 041 504 2009

Emthonjeni – Student Counselling Services:

- South Campus: 041 504 2511
- George Campus: 041 504 5051
- Missionvale Campus: 041 504 1106
- North Campus: 041 504 3222
- 2 nd Ave.: 041 504 3854

Campus health:

- South Campus: 041 504 2174
- George Campus: 041 504 5062
- Missionvale Campus: 041 504 1374
- North Campus: 041 504 3364
- 2 nd Ave.: 041 504 3869

SAPS: 10111

Higher Health: 0800 36 36 36

Contact the Transformation Office

For campus and community resources,

1. Visit our website at:

Transformation Office: <https://www.mandela.ac.za/Engagement-and-Transformation>

Anti-GBV: <https://www.mandela.ac.za/General/Gender-Based-Violence>

2. Or contact The Nelson Mandela University Transformation Office Embizweni Building, 16th Floor – Offices 1610,1611 and 1612, South Campus

