

LAUNCH OF THE UNISAFE TOOLKIT

Supporting higher education institutions and research organisations in ending gender-based violence

The EU-funded UniSAFE project is providing higher education institutions and research organisations with a comprehensive set of tools to develop, improve or implement effective policies and procedures to end gender-based violence. Available at <https://unisafe-toolkit.eu>

Nearly 62% of the over 42,000 respondents who took part in the survey on gender-based violence in academia and higher education carried out in 2022 by UniSAFE disclosed having experienced at least one form of gender-based violence. While research organisations and higher education institutions increasingly acknowledge their institutional responsibility in addressing gender-based violence, setting up effective policies and procedures remains challenging. Where to start? How can institutions promote cultural change? What key elements should a policy include? How should an institution respond to disclosure? How to better protect students and staff? What are some inspiring practices from other institutions in Europe?

The UniSAFE toolkit supports higher education institutions and research organisations in addressing gender-based violence: whether they are just starting to reflect on how to address this issue, designing a policy or are more advanced and seeking to improve an institutional policy or its implementation.

The materials available have been developed within the project or collected from European academic settings and are based on a holistic framework – the 7P model. This framework enables institutions to develop and implement comprehensive policies, covering all aspects including prevalence, prevention, protection, prosecution, provisions of services, and partnerships. The toolkit contents comprise:

- Key findings from UniSAFE's survey
- Information on legal and policy frameworks at international and national levels
- The 7P framework
- A guide to implementing comprehensive policies
- An action plan for institutions at the early stages of policy development
- Inspiring practices
- Resources and capacity-building materials, including step-by-step guides (to create awareness-raising campaigns, develop a protocol, run co-creation activities...), training materials, webinars, and additional resources to support institutions in their efforts to stop gender-based violence.

The materials developed are based on UniSAFE's research – a theoretical framework (Mergaert et al., 2023), two sets of policy mappings, a quantitative survey, in-depth interviews with victims/survivors, and institutional case studies. Additionally, nine workshops were run between November 2022 and June 2023 with researchers and experts to gather input for the development of tools to address and stop gender-based violence in higher education and research organisations.

Further information

UniSAFE Toolkit: <https://unisafe-toolkit.eu>

UniSAFE Project: <https://unisafe-gbv.eu/>

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