

Press release

10. November 2023

UniSAFE Final Conference

From policy to practice: Pathways to end gender-based violence in academia and research

University of Namur, Belgium and streamed online

21. November | 12:30 – 18:00 CET

22. November | 8:45 – 16:00 CET

The UniSAFE project, funded by the EU, has worked for the past three years on generating knowledge on gender-based violence in research and academia and producing recommendations and operational tools for higher education institutions and research organisations to address this issue. As the project comes to an end, it is organising a final event 21-22 November 2023 in Namur to engage institutions and organisations in developing and implementing effective policies and measures to address gender-based violence.

As universities and research organisations are increasingly involved in tackling gender-based violence, they often lack guidance on where to start or how to ensure that their policies and measures are comprehensive enough to be efficient. Looking from a holistic perspective – using the “7P framework” (prevalence, prevention, protection, prosecution, provision of services, partnerships, policies), the conference will discuss the opportunities and limitations of existing frameworks at international and national level for institutional policymaking, while presenting practical recommendations based on UniSAFE’s research. It will also unveil the project’s brand-new [toolkit](#) for universities and research organisations intent on working towards a safe, violence-free higher education and research environments, and discuss its implementation in the context of institutions.

The conference is open to all stakeholders engaged in this topic and particularly addresses policymakers, decision-makers in university and research organisations’ and relevant actors for partnerships at all levels (university networks, research funding organisations), as well as gender equality officers.

UniSAFE

Over the past three years, UniSAFE has been investigating the prevalence of gender-based violence in academia and research, as well as institutions' responses and [existing policy frameworks](#). Its widescale survey – taken by 42,000 staff and students from 45 organisations in 15 countries – has provided [solid and comparable data](#), which has been [analysed and compared with results from interviews, policy mapping and case studies of institutional responses](#). This knowledge has been translated into concrete tools and recommendations:

- [“White Paper](#) for policymakers and institutional managers” contributes to building a common understanding of gender-based violence.
- A [White Paper](#) “From policy to practice: The evidence base for ending gender-based violence in higher education and research”: draws attention to the roles and responsibilities of higher education and research organisations in addressing gender-based violence.
- A [set of recommendations](#) highlight the role and contributions that specific stakeholder groups can play in addressing and ending gender-based violence.
- A [Toolkit](#) for higher education institutions and research organisations to improve, implement and assess institutional policies aimed towards ending gender-based violence.

// Press contact //

Communication Officer: Ms Colette Schrodi

+33 (0) 659 66 90 05

cschrodi@esf.org

// Additional information //

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

UniSAFE final conference: <https://unisafe-gbv.eu/events/final-conference/>

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