



# **HIGHER HEALTH**

Higher Education and Training  
Health, Wellness and Development Centre

## **Protocol on Campus Safety and Security Minimum Standards**

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## Protocol on Campus Safety and Security Minimum Standards

1. Institutions must consider student safety both on campus, at residences and in respect of off campus student housing that institutions make available for student accommodation.
2. Campus security staff and any person receiving, investigating or prosecuting complaints of SGBV must be provided with comprehensive training prior to their involvement in SGBV complaints. Any such person must be informed of the danger of secondary victimisation and of any behaviour which is judgmental, ill-informed and blaming of complainants. Such responses not only do harm to complainants but may well act to deter any victims from coming forward in future.
3. On campus the following guidelines are recommended:
  - a. The campus must be well lit at night. Lighting must, as far as possible, not be restricted to certain areas, but be provided on pathways, outside all library areas, around all buildings and in areas where there is a potential for attacks to happen. If a security audit has been completed and has identified unsafe areas at night, the lighting of these areas must be addressed urgently.
  - b. Campus security staff must be visible, present or on call, so that any member of the campus community can call on them to assist should there be danger or if they feel unsafe.
  - c. Campus security staff must be willing and available at all times, particularly at night, to accompany students and staff to residences, their offices or other places if requested.
  - d. Campus security staff must be trained on the SGBV policy of the institution and must be trained on the implementation of orders made in terms of the Domestic Violence Act and Protection from Harassment Act.
  - e. Female campus security staff must be available at all times so that victims can call on a female security staff member if this is preferable.
  - f. A 24-hour help line must be in place that enables all members of the campus community to call security to assist.
4. A campus security audit must be conducted annually with security, the **RESPONSIBLE OFFICE** and the student community, which identifies issues of concern. An institution must respond to the annual safety audit by taking the necessary steps to address the issues of concern.
5. If need be, particularly in institutions where there have been a high number of SGBV incidents, community policing forums made up of students and staff, or other community policing structures should be put in place to address safety issues.
6. In the case of serious sexual violence such as rape or sexual assault, training on responding to such cases must be given to campus security staff, campus residence staff, clinic/wellness staff, and any other identified staff that might receive reports of such sexual offences. This protocol should be read with the protocol on Rape and Sexual Assault which sets out the steps to be taken in a case of rape or sexual assault.
7. Off campus accommodation that is not in a campus residence, but is in housing leased by the institution must, where possible, be located in areas that do not expose students to rape, sexual assault and other crimes, particularly when they travel to and from the institution. These off campus residences should be subject to annual safety audits.
8. Staff and students frequently have to travel long distances to reach campus and might be dependent on public transport to do so. Institutions need to bear this in mind and not schedule

activities at times that can expose staff and students to risk. Alternatively, they must provide transport or escorts to ensure that students reach their residences or student housing safely.

9. Around examinations, students spend time studying at night on campus, which may require them to commute home late at night. Institutions need to bear this in mind and ensure that additional security and safe transport is available to support students during examination periods.
10. Rape, sexual assault and other forms of SGBV might be committed by third parties not falling under the management of institutions. These include individuals entirely unknown to their victims, friends and family of students, as well as construction/maintenance workers (to name only a few). To reduce violence by this particular group, institutions must take steps to promote safety on campus by limiting potential opportunities for violence and should as far as possible exercise control over third parties such as visitors to the campus, as well as employees of companies contracted to provide services to the institution.