Violation of sexual boundaries and sexualised violence

Information – Support - Advice

The Kiel University of Applied Sciences provides this flyer in order to remove the taboos from the violation of sexual boundaries, sexual harassment, and sexualised violence.

Feeling a strong sense of responsibility towards its members the Kiel University of Applied Sciences is determined to inform, advise and support them.

This flyer shall not only inform the affected but shall help to sensitise all members of the university. We hope that the sensitisation will promote an environment in which all staff and students are treated with respect and dignity.

What is a violation of sexual boundaries and sexualised violence?

A violation of sexual boundaries is every sexually motivated behaviour which is disrespectful, encroaching and not welcomed.

- Everyday sexism/harassment (degrading, offensive remarks on physical features, appearance, clothes, resp. unwanted compliments or comments on appearance and body)
- Unwanted invitations, contacting a person via letters, emails
- Offensive language towards women/men, dedication of gender stereotypes
- Showing and hanging up pornographic pictures
- Offensive jokes containing discriminatory and sexist content
- Forced kissing and touching
- Forcing into performing sexual acts, sexual abuse and rape.

Where do such violations of sexual boundaries and assaults happen?

Most violations of sexual boundaries and assaults happen in familiar surroundings, e.g.

- Residential environment
- Work place/training place
- Home and Family

Therefore, institutes of higher education can also be a surrounding where harassments and assaults might appear.
Fundamentals in the handling of sexualized violence

- The feeling of the person, that is harassed is significant and leading.
- There is no justification for sexualised violence or violation of sexual boundaries!
- The harassed person is the victim NOT the offender!
- No means No!

Counter-strategies in border violating and threatening situations:
- Set boundaries
- Search for attention and help
- Show confidence in your appearance
- Be offensive
- Speak loudly and clearly
- Show aggression
- Fight back

Possible actions after a boundary violation or sexualized violence:
- Take your own feelings seriously
- Discuss the case with a trusted person (friend, acquaintances, colleagues, fellow students)
- Write down experience and key facts
- Get in contact with harassment advisor/a person that helps you

Where can persons concerned find advice?
- Equal opportunity commissioner at the Kiel University of Applied Sciences
- Staff representatives at the Kiel University of Applied Sciences
- Student Advisory Service

Advisory Services external of the Kiel University of Applied Sciences:
- Helpline - violence against women, phone 08000 - 116 016
- Advisory service for women and victims of sexual violence in Kiel, phone 0431 – 911 44
- Advisory service for male victims of sexual violence, Men's office Hannover, phone 0511 – 123 589 0

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