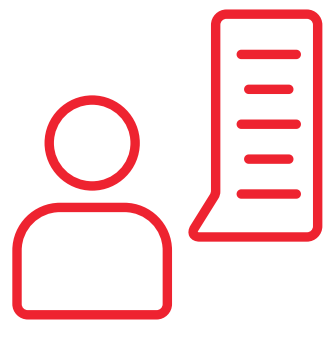


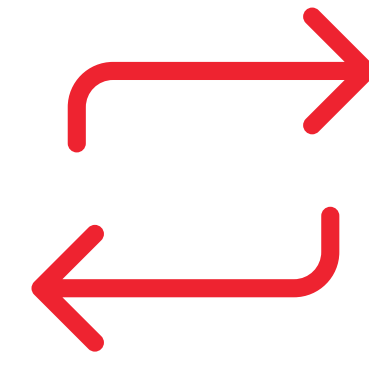
## Title: Bystander Intervention at UCC

Presenter: Prof. Louise Crowley, UCC School of Law



### Case Study Synopsis

College life is challenging. It is difficult to speak up as a perceived lone objector to the uncomfortable behaviour of others. In response to the University's capacity to engage directly with its students, the Bystander Intervention programme at University College Cork, developed by Professor Louise Crowley and modelled on the UK Intervention Initiative, seeks to effect cultural change through educating and empowering the student body, collectively demanding a zero-tolerance approach to all forms of sexual harassment and abuse.



### Intended Changes

The Bystander Intervention programme enables the development of a visible institutional culture of positivity and support. By developing a collaboration across the campus community, it provides the catalyst for crucial learning, allyship and empowerment, and influences behavioural change amongst staff and students, as evidenced by participant testimonials (*Figure 1*).



### Key Impacts

- Professor Crowley has recently developed a second level pilot programme with IRC funding, training 140 teachers to deliver it in 45 schools nationwide. This will empower and equip the next generation of third level students, at UCC and beyond, with the skills to demand a zero-tolerance approach to all forms of sexual harassment and abuse.
- In September 2020, UCC launched a bespoke online Bystander Orientation training for incoming students and made it available to all Irish Higher Education Institutions to adopt free gratis on their own Virtual Learning Environment, making it accessible to over 250,000 third level students and staff.
- On completion of the training and submission of a personal reflection, participants secure a UCC Bystander intervention Digital Badge, demonstrating the significance the University attaches to the programme.



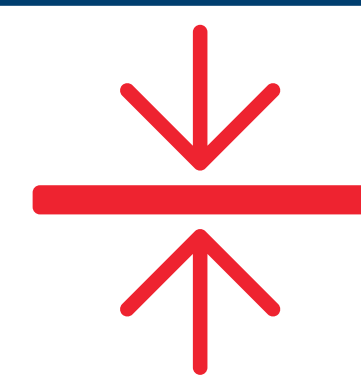
### Additional Information

The programme has captured the imagination of national media:

- Interview with Ryan Tubridy RTE Radio 1.
- UCC Educates Students About "Inappropriate Behaviour" on RTE Radio 1 This Week.
- Second Captains: Violence Against Women and Girls, and what Society can do about it.
- Matt Cooper Show Today FM (from 8 minutes).
- Oireachtas TV with Flor McCarthy.
- Irish Times Op Ed "It is 'All Men' Who Must Now Step Up and Speak Out."
- Irish Times: University shows Students how to intervene if a witness of sexual harassment.
- UCC Express – Bystander Intervention in UCC: How we can all stand against sexual assault, harassment and violence.
- Irish Examiner – Student will be taught to intervene in sexual harassment situations.



### Video Links | Graphics



### Area of Alignment

Learning & Teaching  
People & Culture  
Student Success

"I've been more frank with my discomfort at a couple of my friends making sexist jokes. It's gone down well, and they've copped on a bit."

"Although it wasn't a direct intervention, my friends and I walked a stranger home after a night out as she was alone. I felt this was a very responsible preventative measure."

"I wouldn't say it was much of an intervention, but I was coming back home from my shift when I saw a woman, sitting in the curb and I felt it was dangerous to leave her. So I asked her whether everything was fine. her phone was out of charge. I was able to help her by lending my phone for the call. I was able to both identify her need for help as well as successfully provide her with one."