

## **2239 Ask for Angela**

Proposer: Thai Braddick (Momentum Society)

Seconder: Jack Robinson (Campaigns and Democracy Officer)

### **Summary**

*The Ask for Angela scheme is an initiative that helps people who are on a date or who have met someone at a venue and feel unsafe get help from bar staff. The Ask for Angela scheme helps students who may not be able to find the words in the moment express their feeling of being unsafe and experiencing discomfort and get assistance.*

### **Council Notes**

1. The 2010 study by NUS, 'Hidden Marks', found that 1 in 3 women (and people read as women) felt unsafe in their university at night, and that 68% had experienced some form of harassment in their institution.<sup>1</sup>
2. Multiple unions across the country have brought the scheme onto their campus already, including Sheffield Hallam<sup>2</sup>, and it has been piloted and implemented in multiple county councils and police constabularies, including Yeovil, Bath and Bristol<sup>3</sup>, all of which have large student populations.
3. The Never OK program has done a lot of good work on campus already, and that Ask for Angela can be supplementary to Never OK. Whilst Never OK tackles a culture of harassment, Ask for Angela can help people during our process of changing the culture.

### **Council Believes**

1. The Never OK program means we already have the infrastructure to roll Ask for Angela to uea(su) partners in Norwich, as well as in our own campus establishments like the bar and the LCR.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.nus.org.uk/Global/NUS\\_hidden\\_marks\\_report\\_2nd\\_edition\\_web.pdf](https://www.nus.org.uk/Global/NUS_hidden_marks_report_2nd_edition_web.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.hallamstudentsunion.com/news/article/6013/Sheffield-Hallam-Students-Union-joins-the-Ask-for-Angela-campaign/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/newsroom/features/ask-for-angela/>

2. Ask for Angela will also massively help LGBTQ+ students, who experience harassment at similar or sometimes higher rates than heterosexual students.<sup>4</sup>
3. Ask for Angela gives students a discrete and scripted way of asking for assistance and can help students who might struggle to express themselves whilst stressed (including students who may have specific learning difficulties, like dyspraxia or autism) ask for help.

## **Council Resolves**

1. To roll out an Ask for Angela or similar scheme in all of our commercial outlets, including putting posters in all bathrooms in the bar and LCR<sup>5</sup>, and to put the Ask for Angela or similar posters which help bar staff<sup>6</sup> behind the bar and in staff rooms.
2. That the Ask for Angela posters should include the details for relevant organisations in Norwich, and information about the SU's Safe Taxi scheme including which companies are taking part.
3. To add information about the Ask for Angela scheme into future training sessions for Never OK and other anti-harassment programs we give training for.
4. That any club night that is affiliated with uea(su) must implement Ask for Angela alongside the implementation of Never OK and Good Night Out.
5. To work towards mass implementation of an Ask for Angela scheme or similar, with the Norfolk Constabulary, Norwich City Council, and Norfolk County Council.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.hrc.org/resources/sexual-assault-and-the-lgbt-community>

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/media/30463962/Ask-Angela-Poster\\_Supported-by-AS-v1.pdf](https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/media/30463962/Ask-Angela-Poster_Supported-by-AS-v1.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/media/30463956/Staff-suggested-guidance-for-Ask-for-Angela.pdf>