



# RE:SET

## Universities

### RE:SET Universities Application Information Pack

#### Introduction

The RE:SET Universities Award supports universities and students' unions to prevent domestic abuse and sexual violence across campus. It embeds effective, sustainable messages and behaviours in campus culture; and empowers, supports and educates staff and students.

The RE:SET Universities Awards takes a whole university approach to preventing domestic abuse and sexual violence through a programme of training, campaigns, student engagement and policy support. Underpinned by an online toolkit and ongoing mentoring support from a key contact at Tender, senior leaders and frontline staff will be equipped with the knowledge and skills required to lead the sector in preventing gendered violence and developing a positive campus culture. When the programme is complete universities will be recognised with the **Excellence in Prevention Award**.





## About Tender

Tender is an arts and education charity committed to preventing domestic abuse and sexual violence by promoting healthy relationships. Founded in 2003, Tender has developed a wide range of award-winning projects which empower participants to actively prevent domestic abuse, sexual violence and harassment, and promote equality in their communities.

Tender uses drama and theatre to address these issues, enabling participants to engage in interactive workshops where they can develop knowledge and understanding of abuse and harassment in a safe space. We facilitate exercises which effectively challenge entrenched attitudes of tolerance towards harassment and abuse.

For 20 years we have worked with schools, colleges, universities and workplaces to promote cultures in which people can learn, thrive and work, feeling respected, safe and equal.

## Why complete the RE:SET Universities Award?

### **1. We know that sexual violence and domestic abuse are significant, widespread issues at Universities. RE:SET Universities helps you address this in your context.**

Office for National Statistics (ONS) data from 2021 shows that students were more than four times as likely to have experienced sexual assault within the last year than those with any other occupation type<sup>1</sup>. ONS data for the same period shows that 20 to 24 year olds are the age group who experienced the highest prevalence of domestic abuse, followed by 16-20 year olds<sup>2</sup>. Universities have a responsibility to respond to these issues, but it can seem like an insurmountable problem, which is where the structure and expert guidance provided by Tender can be invaluable.

### **2. The Office for Students requires Universities to engage in preventing domestic abuse and sexual violence in the lives of students.**

In April 2021 the Office for Students (OfS) published a 'Statement of expectations for preventing and addressing harassment and sexual misconduct affecting students in higher education'<sup>3</sup>. This outlines how universities should address domestic abuse and sexual violence on campus, including utilising a 'whole provider approach'. OfS are now consulting on regulatory requirements in this area. RE:SET Universities addresses many of the recommendations in the OfS statement and offers universities the guidance needed to take this work further and deeper to transform their university culture.

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/sexualoffencesvictimcharacteristicsenglandandwales/latest#occupation>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/domesticabusevictimcharacteristicsenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2022#age>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/student-wellbeing-and-protection/prevent-and-address-harassment-and-sexual-misconduct/statement-of-expectations/>



**3. Gaining the Excellence in Prevention Award demonstrates your commitment to current and prospective students, staff and partner organisations alike.**

Successfully completing RE:SET Universities offers tangible improvements in prevention of violence and outcomes for students and the Award is recognised for 3 academic years. Tender offers ongoing support and access to a network of Excellence in Prevention Universities as well as branding and logos which you can display online to showcase your success. Demonstrating this in turn makes students feel safer to report issues and creates a more positive university environment.



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### Background to the Programme

Since 2017, Tender has worked with over 65 UK universities offering domestic abuse and sexual violence awareness training. We have delivered creative, engaging training to students, student leaders, students' union and university staff with fantastic results.

Through this work we identified the need for a whole university approach (WUA) to preventing domestic abuse and sexual violence. From 2021 onwards we have been developing our WUA programme. In the academic year 21/22, 99% of trainee attendees on this programme said they would recommend our training and student leaders told us they would share the learning with other students after training.

Engagement for your university will span 12-18 months. You will have bespoke and ongoing support from a Tender mentor throughout the following programme journey:

- 1... Set up your **Project Delivery Team**.
- 2... The team complete a **self-audit tool**.
- 3... **Accomplish tasks** adapted for your setting with a suite of resources provided. (Tasks include Tender-led staff and student leader training and internal tasks such as completion of campaigns and policy reviews.)
- 4... During delivery, log evidence and keep track of your progress on the **unique online portal**.
- 5... **Complete the programme** and achieve the Award.



Due to the nature of the programme and the demographics we seek to reach, we require engagement in the delivery of the project from both Students' Union and university. It's important that staff from both organisations and staff who work at different levels are engaged in the programme and a project delivery team. We know that this joined-up approach will lead to a greater and more sustained impact.



## **Task building blocks**

### **Project delivery team**

Through creating an effective team and infrastructure in place to lead, motivate and support staff university's achieve the shared vision of prevention of domestic abuse and sexual violence. This team review the current approach, policy and processes to the prevention of domestic abuse and sexual violence.

### **Involving staff**

Through Tender training staff gain an increased knowledge, confidence and skills in the prevention and impact of domestic abuse and sexual violence. A sustainable plan for training is put in place and staffing approaches are reviewed and improved.

### **Working with students and student leaders**

Through Tender training, student engagement opportunities and gathering student feedback, students, and especially student leaders, are more aware of un/healthy relationships, sexual violence, consent and support available. They are therefore more confident to seek help and empowered to share learning and campaign.

### **Involving the wider community**

The university is connected with support services in the local area, and with the Higher Education sector nationally in order to improve the experience of all students by working together and sharing best practice.

### **Developing positive campus culture**

Increased and improved messaging to students in conjunction with the other outputs of the programme change and reduce attitudes and cultures on campus that minimise violence, blame victims and excuse perpetrators. Instead, messages of prevention, equality and respect are prevalent across the University.

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### What Tender provides

- Individual support from your Tender mentor
- Support for Project Delivery Team (PDT) meetings
- 1 Day Student Officer Training: Awareness and Managing Disclosures
- 1 Day Student Leader Training: Awareness and Healthy Culture
- 1 day Staff Training: Awareness and Managing Disclosures
- Staff 'Delivering Domestic Abuse Awareness Training' OCN Level 3 course
- Domestic Abuse E-Learning for PDT
- 2 RE:SET Universities Network events
- Resources including:
  - Policy, campaigns and services guidance;
  - Template and sample documents;
  - Marketing materials



### Cost

There is a fee per university of £5000 which contributes towards the costs associated with the programme, access to the online portal and use of the Award badge for three years after completion.

We are accepting applications and begin the programme on a rolling basis. Please get in touch if you are interested in applying and when ready apply using the form on Tender's website. Application requires input from university and students' union staff and senior leaders at the institutions to ensure they can support the programme throughout delivery and confirm financial commitment.

The information you share in the application helps us understand the context at your university. We are not looking for universities who have a perfect prevention approach, but we are hoping to work with universities who are aware of how the issues affect them and who are invested in creating a positive, healthy campus culture where domestic abuse and sexual violence are prevented.