

SUSI Grant Reform

Authors:

Niamh Doherty, AMLÉ

Abstract ID: 430

Event: USI/AMLÉ Comhdháil 2025

Topic: Welfare

Keywords: SUSI

SUSI GRANT REFORM

Welfare Working Group

Comhdháil Notes

This policy is not exhaustive and does not prevent additional policies or mandates regarding SUSI from being adopted by Comhdháil/Comhairle Náisiúnta.

Comhdháil Mandates

The adoption of the AMLÉ SUSI Grant Reform Policy 2025. [USI SUSI Grant Reform 2025.docx](#)

Comhdháil Further Mandates

The Vice President for Welfare, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Vice president for Postgraduate Affairs should update AMLÉ SUSI policy on a yearly basis to make sure our actions are informed.

Comhdháil therefore appeals: 2024 Wel 4, 2023 Wel 4, 2023 WEL 9, 2022 EQ 2

Gender-Based Violence Reform

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Abstract ID: 429

Event: USI/AMLÉ Comhdháil 2025

Topic: Welfare

Keywords: GBV

Gender Based Violence Reform

Welfare Working Group

Comhdháil recognises

That gender-based violence (GBV), including sexual assault, harassment, and intimate partner violence, is a pervasive issue that impacts students across Ireland, creating unsafe environments that affect well-being and academic achievement.

Comhdháil believes

That USI/AMLÉ must take a proactive stance against gender-based violence by adopting clear policies to support survivors, advocate for legal reform, and educate students on consent, healthy relationships, and GBV prevention.

Comhdháil mandates

The Vice President for Welfare and the President to work on creating a comprehensive policy and support for MOs on addressing GBV, which includes:

1. Developing intersectional education and prevention programs on GBV across campuses.
2. Working with student health depts so that students can access trauma-informed support services.
3. Lobbying for legal reforms alongside other organisations who specialise in this area, to improve the judicial process, including the end of use of character references and counselling notes in GBV cases, compulsory judicial training, and ensuring timely legal proceedings.

Comhdháil further mandates

The Vice President for Welfare and the President to lobby for the creation of a Domestic Violence Register, Jennie's Law, and implementation of Valerie's Law which seeks to remove guardianship rights for those who kill their spouses.

Drug Harm Reduction and the Decriminalisation of Drugs

Authors:

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Abstract ID: 428

Event: USI/AMLÉ Comhdháil 2025

Topic: Welfare

Keywords: Drugs

Drug Harm Reduction and the Decriminalisation of Drugs

Welfare Working Group

Comhdháil Notes

That if a student gets a conviction for personal use, this can have lifelong implications. It can prevent a student from accessing a visa to certain countries, a job which requires Garda vetting, and certain types of insurance. Beyond legal barriers, a drug conviction carries significant social stigma, which can affect a student's personal relationships, housing opportunities, and overall well-being. This stigma, combined with the barriers to employment and education, can increase the risk of reoffending and create cycles of disadvantage.

Comhdháil Further Notes

On July 1st, 2001, Portugal decriminalised drug use, acquisition and possession of illicit drugs when conducted for personal use as part of a comprehensive new . Several countries have followed Portugal's lead in decriminalising drugs and have seen positive outcomes in terms of public health, harm reduction, and criminal justice reform. While Portugal's model is one of the most well-known, other countries have also implemented successful decriminalisation or harm-reduction policies such as the Netherlands, Switzerland, Czech Republic and Germany.

Comhdháil Believes

Drug use cannot be tackled by policy measures which are only aimed at controlling the supply of drugs. It is futile to only have supply reduction strategies in place of more cost-effective and evidence-based investments in harm- reduction and education.

Comhdháil Mandates

The Vice President for Welfare to lobby for the decriminalisation of drugs in line with the Portuguese Model. The Vice President for Welfare should also lobby for investment into treatment and health facilities along with education about drug use and risk for young adults.

Comhdháil Further Mandates

The VP Welfare to provide appropriate information and support to MOs to help them implement harm reduction initiatives in their own institutions.

Comhdháil therefore appeals 2024 NA CN 2, 2022 WEL 7 and 2023 NA CN14

Medical Misogyny

Authors:

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Abstract ID: 416

Event: USI/AMLÉ Comhdháil 2025

Topic: Welfare

Keywords: Medical misogyny, welfare

Medical Misogyny

Proposed by the VP Dublin Region

Comhdháil Notes:

Medical misogyny is a phenomenon that acknowledges there is ingrained gender bias in the healthcare system. The impact of medical misogyny is widespread among those assigned female at birth who have experienced issues such as delayed diagnoses for serious medical conditions and dismissal of pain while trying to access healthcare services. This bias often leads to poorer health outcomes and/or inadequate support and treatment.

Comhdháil Notes with Concern:

The oppression of people assigned female at birth plays a specific role in patriarchal, capitalist society. When it comes to medical research, most studies are conducted with male participants, meaning most symptom checklists, treatment options and clinical guidelines are not tailored to meet the specific needs of those assigned female at birth. Overall, this has resulted in issues that primarily affect those assigned female at birth being severely under researched.

In the case of cardiology, studies have shown that there is less research involving those assigned female at birth and cardiovascular disease. This includes their risk of stroke, with symptoms often being attributed to migraine. It is also worth considering, the medical risk facing those who regularly take hormonal contraception and the ties between such medication and the risk of stroke.

In addition to this, autistic girls often face significantly delayed diagnosis, the same situation is seen in girls with ADHD.

These, unfortunately, are just a handful of examples that illustrate the impact of gender bias

in healthcare.

Comhdháil Further Notes:

As per data from the Higher Education Authority in 2022/2023 54.5% of students in the Republic of Ireland identified as female, increasing from 51.9% in 2016/17. Based on this figure, this is now and will only continue to be an issue faced by women throughout their time in education.

From an academic perspective, this issue presents several knock-on impacts, including but not limited to;

- Extenuating circumstances not being granted due to lack of significant evidence from a medical professional.
- Students waiting on an autism or ADHD diagnosis not being provided reasonable accommodations.
- Absences on placement or from activities with mandatory not being excused attendance due to inaccurate diagnoses.

Comhdháil Therefore Mandates:

The Vice President for Welfare and the Vice President for Equality and Citizenship to advocate for all medicines associated with reproductive healthcare to be free, including but not limited to; treatment for PCOS, endometriosis, pregnancy, abortion and menopause.

Comhdháil Further Mandates:

AMLÉ to define “health” in line with the WHO’s definition: ‘a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity’ and to maintain this position in their dealings with officials from relevant departments or organisations.

Motion Re: Active* Consent training for Students' Union Officers

Authors:

Faye Ní Dhomhnaill, Comhaltas na Mac Léinn, Ollscoil na Gaillimhe

Abstract ID: 415

Event: USI/AMLÉ Comhdháil 2025

Topic: Welfare

Keywords: active consent, training, welfare*

Active* Consent training for Students' Union Officers

Comhaltas na Mac Léinn, Ollscoil na Gaillimhe

Comhdháil Notes: The importance of Active* Consent as distributors of accessible sexual health, guidance and consent information

Comhdháil Believes: Training surrounding sexual health, guidance and consent is paramount for Students' Union Officers across the country

Therefore, Comhdháil Mandates: The Vice President for Welfare to collaborate with Active* Consent and other external organisations where appropriate to develop a bespoke annual training day to be made available for all Students' Union officers. The training shall encompass sexual consent, sexual health, contraception, and other topics pertaining to sexual health and guidance where appropriate.

Safe Gigs Charter and Spiking Hub

Authors:

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Abstract ID: 397

Event: USI/AMLÉ Comhdháil 2025

Topic: Welfare

Keywords: gender-based violence, nightlife, sexual assault, sexual violence, spiking, welfare

Safe Gigs Charter and Spiking Hub

Proposed by the Southern Region Working Group

Comhdháil notes

The continued prevalence of “spiking” among Irish students, whereby an aggressor adds additional alcohol or a drug to a victim's drink, or physically injects a drug, usually a sedative into the victim's body, usually with intent to physically or sexually assault them.

Comhdháil notes with concern

That despite efforts in the past few years to raise awareness about and combat the issue of spiking, it is still prevalent in Irish nightlife, and as spiking itself is not a specific offence, this hampers the ability of law enforcement to quantify spiking incidents and convict those committing it. In addition, spiking is underreported due to the prevalence of victim-blaming and apathy on the part of venues.

Comhdháil commends

Work by the student movement, and community groups such as the Cork Sexual Violence Centre and Safe Gigs to highlight and combat the issue of spiking among young people, in particular through the rollout of the Safe Gigs Spiking Hub to collect data on the prevalence of spiking, and the Safe Gigs Charter, a guiding document to inform on and prevent discrimination and sexual violence in Irish nightlife for venues, event organisers, artists and attendees.

Comhdháil therefore mandates

The Vice President for Welfare, and the Vice President for Equality & Citizenship, in conjunction with the Regional Vice Presidents to encourage Member Organisations to both adopt the Safe Gigs Charter for their own events, and to work with venues who support the

Charter. In addition, the Coiste Gnó should incorporate the Safe Gigs Charter into planning for all USI/AMLÉ events.

Comhdháil further mandates

The Vice President for Welfare to work with the Regional Vice Presidents and Member Organisations to promote the Safe Gigs Spiking Hub both on campus and digitally, so as to collect data on spiking incidents for use in lobbying for stronger legislation surrounding spiking, and for campaigning efforts for the prevention of spiking and ensuring the safety of students attending and working at late night events.

Comhdháil therefore repeals 2022 WEL 6: Night-Time Safety