Thinking of Reporting Sexual Violence?

Choosing to disclose or report sexual violence and misconduct can be difficult. If you choose to disclose or report to the University, you can do so through your College. If you are considering whether to do this, here is some information you may find useful:

What is the difference between a ‘disclosure’ and a ‘report’?
A disclosure is where you speak to someone about your experiences without necessarily making a formal report. This is a way of accessing support and telling the University or Police what has happened without asking them to take action. You will be in control of what happens next, be given time to decide, and nobody will force you to make a formal report about your experiences unless you choose to do so.

A report is a way of officially lodging a complaint to be followed up with potential action against the Accused Party. This can be made to the Police, the University under the Sexual Violence & Misconduct Policy, or both. If you wish to report to the Police but not the University, you can do that. If you wish to report to the University but not the Police, you can also do that. For more information: [www.durham.ac.uk/sexualviolence/report/](http://www.durham.ac.uk/sexualviolence/report/)

Getting support outside of College

Police:
If you would like support from the Police you can call 999 in an emergency, or 101 in a non-emergency situation. You may request to speak to the Police Liaison Officer if you have questions. [www.durham.ac.uk/undergraduate/life/support/welfare/safety/pulo/](http://www.durham.ac.uk/undergraduate/life/support/welfare/safety/pulo/)

Sexual Assault Referral Centres:
The Meadows SARC: 0191 301 8554 or [www.theleafsduke.org.uk](http://www.theleafsduke.org.uk)
Helen Britton House SARC Teesside: 01642 516888 or [www.sarcesteesside.co.uk](http://www.sarcesteesside.co.uk)

Counselling:
Durham University Counselling Service:
Durham 0191 33 42200 / Queen’s 0191 33 40039 or [www.durham.ac.uk/counselling.service](http://www.durham.ac.uk/counselling.service)

Rape & Sexual Abuse Counselling Centre (RSACC): (female only) 01325 369933 or [www.rsacc-thecentre.org.uk](http://www.rsacc-thecentre.org.uk)
Arch North East: (Queen’s) 01642 822331 or [www.archnortheast.org](http://www.archnortheast.org)

Helpline & Online Support:
RSACC Telephone Support: 01325 369933, 18.30-21.00, Mon-Thurs
Rape Crisis Helpline: 0808 802 9999 or [www.rapecrisis.org.uk](http://www.rapecrisis.org.uk)
National LGBT Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0800 999 5428 or [www.galop.org.uk/domesticabuse](http://www.galop.org.uk/domesticabuse)
Survivors UK (male only): [www.survivorsuk.org](http://www.survivorsuk.org)
National Stalking Helpline: 0808 802 0300 or [www.suzylamplugh.org](http://www.suzylamplugh.org)
Revenge Porn Helpline: 0345 6000 459, 10.00-16.00, Mon-Fri or [www.revengepornhelpline.org.uk](http://www.revengepornhelpline.org.uk)

Rape & Sexual Assault Overseas:

Your Decision

Durham University takes sexual violence and misconduct seriously and will treat all disclosures with respect and empathy. You will be offered support no matter what your experience is, and no matter how big or small it may seem – what matters is the effect it has had on you. Choosing to disclose or report is a very personal decision, and whatever you choose to do is a valid response.
How will University staff respond to your disclosure or report?

If you choose to disclose or report to the University, you can do so through your College. All Senior Student Support staff in Colleges have received disclosure training to enable them to help you in the best way possible. There are 7 steps they follow when responding to a disclosure:

Listen
Student support staff will listen empathetically, without judgement, and will not blame you for your experiences.

Support
You are in control of what happens next. You will be given information about support options, and you will be allowed to choose whether or not you want them.

Explain Reporting Options
Student support staff will then explain reporting options.
It is entirely your choice whether or not you choose to make a report and you will be given as much time to think as you would like.

Refer
Student support staff will give you information about internal and external specialist services which you may want to engage with, such as the University Counselling Service and Sexual Assault Referral Centre in the local area. If you choose to engage with these, student support staff can help you make an appointment.

Record
Student support staff will then record a brief, factual, objective and non-judgemental note of what you have told them, as well as any actions that have been taken to support you. This record is confidential, and you may request a copy of the note if you would like one. This does not mean you have made a formal report, and student support staff may use your initials instead of full name or keep it anonymous if you prefer. This data will be anonymised and is only used to identify possible risks to the University community and ensure the most appropriate support is offered.

Inform the Student Support and Training Officer (Sexual Violence and Misconduct) (SSTO)
The record will be sent to the SSTO. No further action will be taken unless you request it through making a formal report, and the information will remain confidential.
You can decide if the anonymised information about the disclosure or the full disclosure can be shared with the SSTO.

Provide Ongoing Support
The support which will be provided will be tailored to you based upon what support you would like to receive.
You will tell the student support staff what you would find useful, and will not be forced to engage with services you do not want to engage with.
You can change your mind at any time and will be given time to think.

Updated: September 2017