



Inclusion, Diversity and Equality
Association of Swiss Universities

Someone who gets too close, goes too far!

23rd March 2020 – National day against sexual harassment at Swiss universities

“Someone who gets too close, goes too far” is the motto of the 23rd of March - National day against sexual harassment at Swiss universities. The aim of the campaign is to promote and demand a University culture of mutual respect. In addition, it wants to raise awareness about supportive measures concerning sexual harassment.

The prohibition of discrimination through sexual harassment is enshrined in Swiss law. Even so, sexual harassment is still a reality in the work and study environment at universities, as different incidents, including in Switzerland, have shown in the past year. With the hashtag #MeToo, which went viral in August of 2017, this issue gained in importance.

Any behaviour of a sexual nature which is not desired by both parties and which violates people's dignity is by definition sexual harassment. This can be using words, gestures or actions. The distinction between this and a flirt, which is mutually desired and done with respect, must be observed. Sexual harassment at universities can take place between fellow students, students and lecturers or between superiors and their employees. Over half of all employees have been confronted with potential sexual harassment at least once during their working lives.

Sexual harassment must not be tolerated! This is why it is so important to sensitise universities at every level and to show which contact points are available.

Under the motto “Someone who gets too close, goes too far” there will be different activities on 23rd March, the “National day against sexual harassment at Swiss universities”. Various events throughout Switzerland will give the opportunity to learn about and engage with the issue of sexual harassment. Universities should guarantee a non-discriminatory environment and respect the boundaries of the other. For an unmistakable message of a zero-tolerance policy!

Further information:

www.zu-nah.ch

www.approche-trop.ch

www.associations-ideas.ch