

Oireachtas Joint Committee on Education and Skills Review of **Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE)** meeting on Tuesday June 12th 2018.

Opening Statement from Dr. Aidan Seery, Senior Tutor, Trinity College Dublin, appearing on behalf of Ms. Patricia Murphy, College Counselling Service, TCD.

Good afternoon and thank you for the invitation to meet and speak with you today. I am appearing in the place of Ms. Patricia Murphy who is currently out of the country and could not appear. By way of introduction and explanation, I am the official College representative in the partnership project with TCD Students' Union on Sexual Consent Workshops in Trinity, and have chaired the Steering Group for the project since its inception in 2016.

You have received a submission from Ms. Murphy in relation to the provision of Sexual Consent workshops and training in higher education institutions. This proposal is based on our experiences of conducting workshops for the past two years in Trinity College, and more specifically in the College accommodation facility of Trinity Hall in Dartry that houses almost 1,000 new College entrants each year. As a result of our experiences, the immediate evaluation of students and facilitators involved, and the institutional reflection and assessment over two years, we believe that we have gained sufficient knowledge to be useful for you hopefully in your deliberations, and that can stand as the evidential basis for the proposals made here. In summary, the proposal envisages that

- 1) Annual Sexual Consent workshops are provided for identified groups in colleges, with supplementary online materials and videos available for whole college communities.
- 2) Bystander training workshops are provided on how to intervene safely when non-consensual activity is being observed, and,
- 3) First responder training is provided for specific identified individuals who are likely to be the first person told about instances of non-consensual sexual activities (e.g. tutors, Students Union and other non-professional staff).

I would be pleased to discuss any aspect of the proposal or our project or to answer any questions.

Thank you.