

**Item 16.4****Notices of Motion****The City of Sydney Council Condemns the Gender Based Violence at Sydney University**

By Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Maxwell

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) on 30 October 2024, University of Sydney students were filmed tearing up the Red Zone Report, which exposed a rape and sexual violence epidemic in universities. The incident occurred during a USYD Student Representative Council meeting, when two conservative club members destroyed copies of the report on sexual violence and hazing in university colleges;
- (ii) in response, over 100 students and community members attended a vigil hosted by the USYD Women's Collective. Speakers, including outgoing and newly elected Women's Officers, emphasised the need to abolish university colleges to prevent misogyny and violence towards women;
- (iii) reports of sexual assault and harassment at the University of Sydney more than doubled last year, with nearly 250 victims, according to the second Annual Report on Sexual Misconduct;
- (iv) National Survivors Day on 12 November commemorates the courage of survivors of sexual assault and institutional abuse, as well as their supporters and whistleblowers across Australia;
- (v) in April 2024, an international student from the University of Sydney tragically died in the Westfield Bondi Junction stabbing attacks;
- (vi) in August 2024, another University of Sydney student, Xiaoting, was also tragically killed as a result of gender-based violence;
- (vii) in 2023, another local university student from within the Sydney Local Government Area, Lilie James, was horrifically murdered in her workplace at St Andrew's Cathedral School as a result of gender-based violence;
- (viii) the critical need for the University of Sydney to be a safe space for all students and staff, and stress the importance of fully implementing the Red Zone Report to prevent future violence at the University of Sydney;
- (ix) the ongoing work required to prevent sexual assault and harassment by all universities, and the failure of the Sydney University Colleges to address these issues effectively;

- (x) the City of Sydney has continually supported efforts to combat gendered violence by working with local groups, key stakeholders, and governments at all levels to assist victim-survivors;
  - (xi) the City of Sydney's continued advocacy, in particular recognising the March 2024 Gender-Based Violence Lord Mayoral Minute, which emphasised the City's role in leading and supporting interagency networks to improve responses to gender-based violence and to promote gender equality; and
  - (xii) that tackling gender-based violence is a shared responsibility at local, state, and federal levels, with ongoing collaborative engagement and measures consistently taken to prevent such tragedies in the future;
- (B) Council reaffirm that the City of Sydney Council condemns acts of gender based violence in all forms and that this includes any gender-based violence at local universities; and
- (C) the Lord Mayor be requested to:
- (i) write to the Vice Chancellor, Chancellor and heads of all residential colleges of the University of Sydney:
    - (a) to express the City of Sydney's denunciation of gender-based violence and affirm its commitment to stand in solidarity with victims of gendered based violence alongside Sydney Universities in the City of Sydney Local Government Area;
    - (b) about the failure to make substantial changes to prevent and change attitudes towards sexual assault, sexual harassment, bullying, hazing, and alcohol abuse in the residential colleges. In addition to pushing for further commitments from the University to prevent gender-based violence and their causes in all colleges in the future; and
    - (c) requesting that the University implements the findings and recommendations of the 2018 Red Zone Report into Sexual Violence and Hazing in Australian university residential colleges undertaken by 'End Rape on Campus Australia';
  - (ii) write to the Women's Officer of the University of Sydney to thank them for organising the University of Sydney vigil to remember and recognise victims and survivors of gender-based violence; and
  - (iii) write to the Federal Minister for Education, Jason Clare and the NSW Minister for Education, Prue Car requesting a response on the actions that the Federal and NSW Governments will take to prevent these types of incidences occurring in future at the University of Sydney and at other universities, as well as the measures taken to address this issue at the University of Sydney specifically.