

2023 Public Description of Work for Action Collaborative on Preventing Sexual Harassment in Higher Education

The American University in Cairo

Videos on Anti-Sexual Harassment in Higher Education in MENA Region

Relevant Rubric Area(s): Audience-Centric Anti-Sexual Harassment Education/Training

Description of Work:

To provide audience-centric content for AUC's mandatory online and in-person training programs, AUC developed a series of three videos specific to the context of higher education in the MENA region. This series is intended to educate students about what constitutes sexual harassment and how they can speak up and take action against sexual harassment. AUC started this project at the beginning of AY2023 by establishing a focus group to identify the needs of the student community, the subject matter most important to address and the best format for providing that information. We concluded that a series of short videos was the best option. Next, we invited a group of students to collaborate with faculty and staff from many offices within the University (Office of Institutional Equity, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tomorrow's Leaders Programs) to develop ideas for characters and scenarios to use in the videos. Using these ideas, an alumna screenwriter then led the scriptwriting with the input of students, faculty and staff. After a detailed review of the scripts by many stakeholders, we filmed three videos that show fictional, dramatized sexual harassment scenes to help engage the student audience while educating them about realistic scenarios that they may encounter.

1. "What is Sexual Harassment," the first video, provides training on the types of conduct and behavior that constitute sexual harassment.
2. "What is Speaking Up?," the second video, demonstrates active steps toward speaking up when students experience or witness sexual harassment.
3. "What is Taking Action?," the third and final video, offers suggestions for taking action against sexual harassment.

The project has two features that are unique. The first is the active participation of AUC students in developing scenarios and writing the scripts for these training videos. The second is that the videos reflect the diversity of the student body at AUC and their setting within the context of the MENA region. By centering the videos around students' real-life experience and concerns, we expect a greater impact on students' awareness of sexual harassment and confidence in responding to sexual harassment. The videos are in Arabic with English subtitles to make it more accessible to the entire AUC community.

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