“...correctly navigating the issue of consent at university.”
Law
- Consent
- Sexual offences

Society
- Attitudes towards sex
- Influences

Social Media

Case Studies
“Consent is agreement or permission expressed through affirmative, voluntary words or actions that are mutually understandable to all parties involved, to engage in a specific sexual act at a specific time.”
SEXUAL CONSENT

VALID
- communicated
- both in mutual agreement
- An affirmative “YES”
- a “NO” is a “NO”
- Consent can be withdrawn at any time, as long as it is clearly communicated

INVALID
- “assumed”
- body language indicating “YES”
- If the consent is influenced by:
  → Threat (blackmail)
  → Additional substances (alcohol, drugs etc.)
  → An earlier “YES” if their current communication is “NO”
LAW ON
SEXUAL OFFENCES

Sexual Offences Act (Scotland) 2009

- rape
- assault by penetration
- sexual assault
- causing a person to engage in sexual activity.
Attitudes towards sex: influences?

- **Pornography**
  - A poll published in March 2019 revealed that 45% of 18-25 year olds Brits claimed pornography was their main source of sex education.

- **Alcohol or drugs**
  - Involved in 80% of rape cases according to a study

- **Hook-up culture**
  - “Gender based power balance”
  - “Peer culture”
STATISTICS from 2018

- 81% of 18-34 year olds actively use Instagram world-wide
- 77% of Snapchat users in the UK are under 25
- the 2nd largest demographic group of Facebook users are 18-24 year olds in the UK (3.7 million)
- 33% of Twitter users are 15-24 year olds
- 97% of all 18-24 year-olds use YouTube actively
SEX & SOCIAL MEDIA
Disclosing private sexual photographs and films without consent and with intent to cause distress was made a criminal offence in 2015.

If a person discloses the image with the intention of causing distress to the person in the image” - this behaviour could be captured by section 33 of the Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015 as the ‘revenge porn’ offence”
LACK OF CONSENT IN SOCIAL MEDIA?

...in practical terms:

- Distributing video/picture/screenshot- material of a person without their consent
- Taking a picture/filming without the person being aware and hence without their consent possessing this material
- Law around non-consensual taking, making and sharing of sexual images is being reviewed
CASE STUDIES

• Cambridge University
• Edinburgh University
• University of Essex
• Heriot-Watt University
• Strathclyde University
• Warwick University
THANK YOU!
RESOURCES

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bbcthree/article/bb79a2ce-0de4-4965-98f0-9ebbcfc2a60
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zSXSfPfGLQ
https://studentaffairs.indiana.edu/violence-prevention/consent/index.shtml
https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1077801219844606
https://1752group.com/
https://www.psychologytoday.com/gb/blog/fulfillment-any-age/201303/how-casual-sex-can-affect-our-mental-health