

**University of Connecticut Commitment Statement in support of
the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Action Collaborative on Preventing
Sexual Harassment in Higher Education**

May 3, 2023

The University of Connecticut is committed to excellence in all aspects of its research, teaching, and public service missions. Through freedom of academic inquiry and expression, we create and disseminate knowledge. Through our focus on teaching and learning, we help every student grow intellectually and become a contributing member of the state, national, and world communities. As our state's flagship public university and as a land and sea grant institution, we promote the health and well-being of Connecticut's citizens by enhancing the social, economic, cultural and natural environments of the state and beyond. In all we do, we embrace diversity and cultivate leadership, integrity, and engaged citizenship in our undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, staff, and alums.

Recognizing that academic and professional excellence can exist only when each member of our community is assured an atmosphere of safety and mutual respect, the University of Connecticut is committed to maintaining a safe and non-discriminatory learning, living, and working environment for all members of the University community – students, faculty, staff, and visitors. We strive to be a community where people are free to learn and work without fear of harassment or discrimination. Discrimination and harassment diminish individual dignity and impede equal employment and educational opportunities.

We are proud to continue our work in building a campus environment free from harassment and discrimination as a member of the NASEM Action Collaborative on Preventing Sexual Harassment in Higher Education. The Action Collaborative works to encourage and support system-wide changes across higher education to prevent and address sexual harassment experienced by all people in higher education and to deal with the issue in the context of other damaging behaviors including other forms of harassment (such as racial harassment), discrimination, bullying, and incivility.

As a community, we have a long history of fostering both grass roots and institutional action to combat sexual harassment and discrimination. For the past 50 years, our Women's Center has promoted anti-harassment and anti-discrimination in its work to educate, advocate, and provide support services to achieve equity for women at the university and within the community at large. Our Something's Happening Committee, which started in 2008 as a grass roots effort, engages a broad spectrum of staff and faculty from units across the university and advocates for efforts and resources that will create and maintain a respectful, civil, ethical, diverse and safe campus community. Our Task force for Combatting

Sexual Violence and Supporting Our Students, launched in February 2022, performed a comprehensive review of how UConn educates, prevents, and responds to sexual violence; reported on both strengths and gaps in the University's resources, and presented recommendations for improvement. Most recently, our Office for Institutional Equity hired a system-wide Title IX Coordinator to advance our efforts to cultivate equitable and inclusive work and learning environments.

We recognize that more needs to be done. In the coming years, the University of Connecticut plans to engage with the Action Collaborative to strengthen and coordinate our efforts to build a cohesive, multi-tiered infrastructure that centers the voices of students, faculty, and staff across all our campuses and attends to their nuanced, lived experiences. We aspire to move more boldly into the areas of assessment and accountability so that we can take informed actions that safeguard our community and move forward without fear.

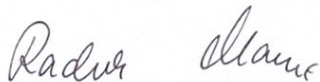
We are committed to ensuring that all members of our community are free from harassment, intimidation, and discrimination. A supportive community enables us to reach our full potential as educators, researchers, and professionals and helps ensure that our students can access the full range of opportunities they need to become fully prepared for life journeys.

This commitment is aligned with the Action Collaborative's shared goals, namely to:

1. Facilitate and inform action on preventing and addressing harassment;
2. Share and elevate evidence-based policies and strategies for reducing and preventing sexual harassment;
3. Advance research on sexual harassment prevention, and gather and apply research results across institutions;
4. Raise awareness about sexual harassment and its consequences, and motivate action to address and prevent it; and
5. Assess progress in higher education toward reducing and preventing sexual harassment in higher education

We hereby commit the University of Connecticut to working with the other members of the Action Collaborative to achieve these goals.

Signed:



Dr. Radenka Maric
President



Anne D'Alleva
Provost