

# BSA Medical Sociology Conference Code of Conduct

The BSA Medical Sociology Conference is known for being a friendly, welcoming, and collegial event, and we hope to maintain this. Our conference is dedicated to providing a harassment-free event for everyone regardless of gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, age or religion. We do not tolerate harassment of conference participants in any form. Conference participants violating these rules may be asked to leave or prevented from attending future conferences.

Harassment includes, but is **NOT** limited to:

- Verbal comments that stigmatise, victimise or discriminate against people based on the listed characteristics (e.g. gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, age, and religion)
- Inappropriate images during presentations or in public spaces<sup>i</sup>
- Deliberate intimidation, stalking, or following
- Sustained disruption of presentations or other events, including aggressive questioning of presenters or the chair
- Inappropriate physical contact, sexual harassment or intrusion into personal space
- Advocating for or encouraging any of the above behaviours, including online

Conference attendees are reminded to be aware of their position within power structures. Those with senior roles or established connections should not use their status to gain undue advantage over junior colleagues or newcomers. Additionally, attendees should not exploit any positions of power to make others uncomfortable during the conference.

If any participant engages in harassing behaviour during the conference, the organisers may take appropriate actions, including warning the offender and, in extreme cases, withdrawing a participant's right to attend the conference.

If you are being harassed, notice that someone else is being harassed, or have any other concerns, please immediately contact a Medical Sociology Group Committee or BSA staff member. Special badges can identify committee members or BSA staff. Harassment and other violations of our code of conduct diminish the quality of our event for everyone. Our priority is ensuring everyone attending our conference feels happy and safe.

This code of conduct applies to all BSA Medical Sociology Conference areas, including presentation spaces, accommodation, exhibitors, meal spaces, informal areas, and social events.

Medical Sociology Group Committee or BSA staff will be happy to help attendees contact campus security or local law enforcement, provide escorts, or assist those experiencing harassment to feel safe during the conference. We value your attendance, and your safety is our primary concern.

Contact Numbers: Co-Conveners, Victoria Cluley - 07546556804, Julia Swallows – 07896815788, Jaime Garcia Iglesias-07921061166

Northumbria Security: Call 0191 227 3999 – non urgent issues, Call 0191 227 3200 – in an emergency

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<sup>i</sup> If you feel that an image might be inappropriate but necessary for the content of a medical sociology presentation, we recommend contacting the co-conveners.