



# **INNOVATE' S SYMPOSIUM ON CAMPUS CLIMATE POLICY.**

**Theme: “The challenge of reducing sexual harassment and violence in Universities”.**

**Presented by:**

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# I. ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF RWANDA.

## 1. AN OVERVIEW.


- The University of Rwanda (UR) was established by the Government of Rwanda through the law no 71/2013 of 10/09/2013.
- It resulted from the merge of the nation's seven public Higher Learning Institutions into a consolidated entity governed by the Board of Governors.
- Academic Senate with strong staff and student representation, along with the Vice Chancellor who is the University's chief executive officer.

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UR's Titular Head is the Chancellor, and it consists of the following academic entities:

- ✓ College of Arts and Social Sciences (CASS)
- ✓ College of Agriculture, Animal Sciences and Veterinary Medicine (CAVM)
- ✓ College of Business and Economics (CBE)
- ✓ College of Education (CE)
- ✓ College of Medicine and Health Sciences (CMHS)
- ✓ College of Science and Technology (CST)

The University of Rwanda is the only University in Eastern and Southern Africa to host four (4) African Centers of Excellence funded by the World Bank.

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- ✓ Academic Year 2015/2016, the total number of registered students was 31,760 distributed in all the above Colleges.
  - ✓ Most students (67.6%) are male and 32.4% are female.
  - ✓ 85.0% of our undergraduate students are financially supported by the Government of Rwanda

### 3. Vision and Mission

- ❖ **Vision:** By 2020 the UR will have educated the next generation of leaders in Rwanda who are prepared and dedicated to building a more just and sustainable world.
- ❖ **Mission:** The UR will support the development of Rwanda by discovering and advancing knowledge, committed to the highest standards of academic excellence, where students are prepared for lives of service, leadership and solutions.

## 4.Objectives (to include):

- Develop interdisciplinary, problem-based academic programmes aligned with Rwanda's development needs.
- Integrate IT-based resources from around the world. Ensure students have the leadership, entrepreneurship and management skills needed to create employment.
- Prepare students for service to their communities and country through applied service learning programmes nationally and internationally.

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- Create applied, evidence-driven, research centers focused on problem solving, aligned with Rwanda's development needs.
- Develop continuous education programs for upgrading skills and knowledge.

# Programmes offered.

UR programmes are offered in the following three categories:

- ❖ **Undergraduate programmes:** Bachelor degrees with Honours and Advanced Diploma.
- ❖ **Postgraduate Programmes:**  
Postgraduate Diploma and Certificates.  
Masters Programmes.  
PhD Programmes.
- ❖ **Short and Professional courses.**



## II. SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND VIOLENCE IN THE UNIVERSITY OF RWANDA.

- ✓ There is no policy on sexual harassment and violence in the University, neither is there any scholar who has done research about this topic. However, the institution is governed by National laws and values as stipulated below:
- ✓ *In the official gazette N° 13/2009 of 27/05/2009 Law regulating labour in Rwanda Section 3: Protection of workers against violence or harassment Article 9: Prohibition of Gender based violence*

# Cont'd

## **Moral harassment at work:**

- Abusive behavior of any origin, external or internal to the company or institution, made evident by behavior, speech, intimidation or anonymous written communications aiming at or resulting in the breach of a worker's personality and dignity in the course of the carrying out their work liable to endanger his/her job and create an offensive work environment
- **Gender based violence:** any kind of physical, psychological or sexual gestures or actions directed at a person or an assault on their property on the grounds of their sex. Such action or gesture deprives them of their rights and negatively affects them.

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- *In the official gazette N° 01/2012/OL of 02/05/2012 Organic Law instituting the penal code*
- **Article 184:** Indecent assault with violence, trickery or threats against a person aged eighteen (18) or above. Any person who commits indecent assault with violence, trickery or threats against a person aged eighteen (18) or above shall be liable to a term of imprisonment of six (6) months to two (2) years.
- If an offence results in illness for the victim, the offender shall be liable to a term of imprisonment of two (2) years to five (5) years.

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- If an offence results in an incurable illness for the victim, the offender shall be liable to a term of imprisonment of ten (10) years to fifteen (15) years.
- If an offence results in the death of the victim, the offender shall be liable to life imprisonment.
- ***Article 187:** Sexual torture shall be punishable by life imprisonment with special provisions.*

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- **Article 189:** *Aggravating circumstances for offences provided under Articles 183 to 185 of this Organic Law*  
*The penalties provided under Articles 183 to 185 of this Organic Law, shall be doubled if the offender:*
  - 1° is an ascendant of the victim;
  - 2° is in the same category as those who have authority over him/her;
  - 3° is a teacher;

## Cont'd

- 4° is a civil servant, a representative of the administrative authority, a minister of worship who has abused their position to commit such an offence, or a medical doctor who commits such offences against persons placed under their authority by virtue of their duties;
- 5° was assisted by one or more persons in committing the crime.

# Conclusion.

- ❑ The Ministry of Education in Rwanda in collaboration with the University of Rwanda and other Higher Learning Institutions started an aggressive program early this year of *Itorero* (civic education) where all **teachers are reminded of their code of conduct, values and ethics.**
- ❑ With this I believe, sexual harassment and violence in all sectors of Education will be reduced.



**THANK YOU!**