

**FOR APPROVAL****PUBLIC****OPEN SESSION**

**TO:** Business Board

**SPONSOR:** Kelly Hannah-Moffat, Vice-President, People Strategy, Equity &  
**CONTACT INFO:** Culture, 416-978-4865, vp.psec@utoronto.ca

**PRESENTER:** Kelly Hannah-Moffat, Vice-President, People Strategy, Equity &  
**CONTACT INFO:** Culture, 416-978-4865, vp.psec@utoronto.ca

**DATE:** January 22, 2025 for January 29, 2025

**AGENDA ITEM:** 7 (b)

**ITEM IDENTIFICATION:**

Annual Review of the University of Toronto *Policy with Respect to Workplace Violence*

**JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:**

Under Section 5 of its Terms of Reference, the review of the University of Toronto *Policy with Respect to Workplace Violence* falls within the Business Board's areas of responsibility:

"Monitoring and recommending policy on the occupational health and safety of members of the staff of the University and other policy pertaining to the health and safety of all members of, and visitors to, the University except for those matters falling within the terms of reference of the University Affairs Board."

And under Section 5.12 ("Health and safety") of its Terms of Reference, the Business Board also has responsibility for "approval of policies concerning the health and safety of members of the University and its visitors."

The *Occupational Health and Safety Act* requires this policy to be reviewed on an annual basis. The review has been conducted by staff reporting to the Vice-President, People Strategy, Equity & Culture.

**GOVERNANCE PATH:**

1. **Business Board [For approval] (January 29, 2025)**

## **PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:**

The University of Toronto *Policy with Respect to Workplace Violence* was introduced and approved by Governing Council on May 13, 2010. It was amended October 26, 2017 to incorporate the University's *Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment*, and further amended and approved by Governing Council April 2, 2020 to make its language gender neutral and to update names and links to other policies and related documents.

## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

Based on this year's review, there are no amendments to the University of Toronto *Policy with Respect to Workplace Violence* this year. The Vice-President, People Strategy, Equity & Culture recommends that the *Policy* be confirmed in its current state, with an updated date of January 29, 2025.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Not applicable.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

Be It Resolved:

THAT the University of Toronto *Policy with Respect to Workplace Violence*, a copy of which is attached, be confirmed in its current form without amendments.

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## **DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:**

- University of Toronto *Policy with Respect to Workplace Violence*



# UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

University of Toronto

Governing Council

## **Policy with Respect to Workplace Violence**

May 13, 2010  
(amended February 2, 2022)

To request an official copy of this policy, contact:

The Office of the Governing Council  
Room 106, Simcoe Hall  
27 King's College Circle  
University of Toronto  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5S 1A1

Phone: 416-978-6576

Fax: 416-978-8182

E-mail: [governing.council@utoronto.ca](mailto:governing.council@utoronto.ca)

Website: <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/>

## **POLICY WITH RESPECT TO WORKPLACE VIOLENCE**

The University of Toronto is committed to maintaining a workplace that is free of violence. Any act of workplace violence is unacceptable conduct that will not be tolerated. No one shall subject any employee to workplace violence or allow or create conditions that support workplace violence.

This Policy applies to activities that occur while on University of Toronto premises and to work-related activities or social events occurring off-campus. Conduct that occurs online can constitute workplace violence.

**If you are the victim of or a witness to a violent incident at work, as soon as safely possible contact:**

- **Campus Police at:**
  - **416-978-2222** (St. George)
  - **416-287-7333** (UTSC)
  - **905-569-4333** (UTM)
- or
- **911 (9-911 from a campus telephone)**

You may also contact the Community Safety Office at 416-978-1485 to discuss safety concerns.

If you are the victim of or a witness to an incident of sexual violence at work, you may also contact the Sexual Violence Prevention and Support Centre at 416-978-2266 to discuss available services and supports and options for making a formal report to the University and/or to Police.

### ***What is workplace violence?***

Workplace violence is defined in the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* as follows:

"Workplace violence" means,

- (a) the exercise of physical force by a person against a worker, in a workplace, that causes or could cause physical injury to the worker,

- (b) an attempt to exercise physical force against a worker, in a workplace, that could cause physical injury to the worker,
- (c) a statement or behaviour that it is reasonable for a worker to interpret as a threat to exercise physical force against the worker, in a workplace, that could cause physical injury to the worker.

Workplace violence may constitute sexual violence. Please refer to the University of Toronto Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment

<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/p1215-poshsv-2016-2017pol.pdf> or contact the Sexual Violence Prevention and Support Centre at 416-978-2266 or [thesvpcentre@utoronto.ca](mailto:thesvpcentre@utoronto.ca).

### ***Penalty***

An employee who subjects another employee to workplace violence may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including the termination of their employment.

A student who subjects any employee to workplace violence will be subject to penalties under the *Code of Student Conduct*.

Others who subject any employee to workplace harassment will be subject to penalties that are appropriate in view of their relationship to the University.

### ***Program***

The University has developed and maintains a Workplace Violence Program to implement this Policy which can be found online at <https://ehs.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/U-of-T-Workplace-Violence-Program.pdf>.

### ***Related Documents***

In applying this Policy, the University is committed to acting conscientiously and in keeping with applicable legislation as well as its own policies and guidelines. These include, for example:

- Ontario *Occupational Health and Safety Act*
- Ontario *Human Rights Code*
- University of Toronto *Code of Student Conduct*

- University of Toronto *Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment*
- University of Toronto *Workplace Violence Program*
- University of Toronto *Workplace Harassment Program (Guideline for Employees on Concerns and Complaints Regarding Prohibited Discrimination and Discriminatory Harassment (“Discrimination Guideline”)) and Human Resources Guideline on Workplace Harassment and Civil Conduct (“Civility Guideline”))*
- University of Toronto *Policy on Crisis and Routine Emergency Preparedness and Response*
- University of Toronto *Statement on Human Rights*
- University of Toronto *Statement of Institutional Purpose*
- University of Toronto *Statement on Prohibited Discrimination and Discriminatory Harassment*

*May 13, 2010, approved by Governing Council*

*Amended October 26, 2017*

*Amended April 2, 2020*

*Amended February 2, 2022*

*Last annual review conducted: January 2025*

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