



Trainings Social Safety
Student Party SAM
05-04-2023

Dear members of the Executive Board,

Student Party SAM would like to draw your attention to the importance of social safety at Tilburg University and ask for the expansion of the steps being taken in this area.

In the University Council of February 9, 2023, the Elaboration memo Socially Safe Learning and Working Environment was presented to the council. This stated, among other things, that the topic of social safety will be looked at within the TEP and PASS programs, that specific attention will be paid to the topic of social safety within student introduction programs, and that theater performances and dialogue sessions around social safety will be organized. We are very pleased with these measures and attention to social safety, but we would like to stress the urgency of this and expand these measures.

On February 8, 2022, Student Party SAM sent a letter that states measures the university can take to create a safer environment for students. The need for this is high. Research by I&O Research commissioned by Amnesty International among Dutch students indicates that one in ten female students and one in hundred male students are victims of rape during their time at university.¹ A survey by Maastricht University revealed a similar picture.² In terms of social safety, research conducted by ResearchNed on behalf of the ISO showed that twenty percent of the students surveyed reported having experienced incidents such as bullying, discrimination, blackmailing, and sexually transgressive behavior.³

In January 2023, Maastricht University announced that they will start training first-year students about sexual misconduct during the faculty orientation week.⁴ Student Party SAM would like to ask the Executive Board to investigate the possibility of implementing similar training sessions at Tilburg University. Ideally, these training sessions would cover the broader topic of social safety and be given to all students. Tilburg University does not have a faculty introductory week, but it might be an option to implement the training in the PASS program. The goal of this training is to create a socially safe environment for students.

We hope that the Executive Board will explore this possibility in the near future. We would like to stay involved in discussions about this. We hope that we can work together to create a safer university.

Kind regards,
Student Party SAM

¹ Studenten over verkrachting (2021) by I&O Research

² Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment among Maastricht University Students (2021) door Wellum, A., Lange, G., Adams, E., & Hurks, P.

³ Sociale Veiligheid in het Hoger Onderwijs (2022) door ReseachNed

⁴ <https://nos.nl/artikel/2459667-eerstejaars-in-maastricht-krijgen-verplicht-les-over-seksueel-wangedrag>