

LIVING IN HARARE

Harare is a safe city and we want you to enjoy your university experience as much as possible. However, we urge you to take precautionary safety measures

Steps to keep yourselves secure

Security begins with you as an individual and it is prudent that you always take necessary measures and steps to safe guard your own being. There are things that we always take for granted yet they have serious consequences if we fail to take appropriate action to protect ourselves. Among the measures we are advising are:

- Always be aware that you are a potential victim of crime hence stay alert and attuned to the people and circumstances around you.
- Trust your instincts. If there is something or someone that makes you uneasy avoid that person or leave
- On and off campus, know where the emergency phones are located and know the figures to call in case of emergency.
- Know your neighbourhood and campus, always know which buildings are open late or early and where you can go to summon help in case of emergency or you need help.
- Never count money in the public as this attracts criminals.
- Have a whistle with you in case you may want to summon help. A whistle draws the attention of the security personnel especially at night.
- If travelling at night use a cab or an escort accompany you.
- When walking at night always use lighted walkways. Criminals do not like light so avoid dark alleys, streets or secluded paths.
- If you have a feeling that you are being followed, turn in the opposite direction or cross the street and if the follower persists move quickly to the nearest open business or group of people and ask for help.
- Avoid using cell phones and items in plain view.

WHEN WALKING

- Stay in well lit, well-travelled streets, avoid alleys, bushy areas, shortcuts through wooded areas, alleys or dark spaces
- If you think of taking a walk during the night travel in pairs and this reduces your chance of being a victim of crime.
- Do not flash large amounts of money or other tempting expensive gadgets.

- If you feel you are being followed, be suspicious and keep looking behind you to check the position of the person following you.
- Change directions and go to an open business or where there are a group of people to seek help.
- Do not dangle your purse by the straps (ladies) carry them close to your bodies.
- Put the wallet with money in your inside coat or front pockets and avoid back pockets.
- Try to use automated teller machines during day time as in the night may attract criminals to follow you.
- Avoid wearing dressing, shoes that restricts your mobility in case of an emergence.
- Always plan the safest route to your destination and use that.
- Have your car or house keys in hand before you reach the door to avoid taking long at the door step
- Avoid using cell phones, iPods and other expensive gadgets while walking.

WHEN USING A CAR

- Keep your car in good running condition with enough fuel to take you where you are going.
- Have the car keys in your hands before you reach the car; lock the car doors as soon as you enter it.
- Always roll up the car windows before leaving and locking it up.
- Avoid parking in isolated areas as you might be a victim of mugging.
- If you think you are being followed drive to the nearest police station or other open centres if it's in the night to get help.
- If you develop a break down immediately call for help with your cell phone and lock yourself in the car until help arrives.
- Never leave your valuables where they are visible, lock all valuables in the trunk.
- Do not mark your car keys or key chain with your name and address because if they are lost they can lead a criminal to your house or car.

WHEN TRAVELLING BY BUS

- If possible you must use lit and busy bus stops and avoid isolated bus stops.
- In the bus always stay alert and avoid dozing leaving yourself vulnerable to theft of your items.

- Crowded bus stops are vulnerable to pick pockets e.g. Mbare Musika hence carry your wallet in an inside coat pocket or front pants pocket and carry your belongings closely to your body.
- Take a sit near the driver if another passenger is bothering you or change seats.
- If someone harasses you on a bus do not hesitate to shout loudly “**Leave me alone**” this attracts the attention of other passengers who may assist you.
- Always watch who exist with you. If you feel uneasy about that person walk directly to a place where there are other people.
- If something or someone at your intended stop raises your concern about your safety wait until you get off the next bus stop than risk your life.

WHEN JOGGING OR DOING OTHER OUT DOOR ACTIVITIES

- Never jog alone but with a trusted someone.
- Stay alert at all times and be aware of your surroundings.
- Avoid wearing head phones as they reduce the level of alertness.
- Take a jog in a familiar area and avoid heavily wooded areas, poorly lighted or secluded areas.
- Avoid taking shortcuts.
- Stay away from shrubbery trees, or doorways which can provide concealment to a criminal to pounce on you as you pass.
- Wear bright coloured clothing to improve visibility to motorists and others.
- Avoid jogging at night.
- If you feel you are being followed go to the nearest open residence, open business or group of people.
- Always carry some form of identification in case something happens on you.
- Never leave your belongings unattended.

DATING SAFETY

Rapists are not always strangers. When someone you know as a friend, acquaintance or casual friend forces you to have sex with you it is rape.

Dating is a form of courtship consisting of social activities done by two persons with the aim of each assessing the other's suitability as a partner in an intimate relationship or as a spouse. While the term has several senses, it usually refers to the act of meeting and engaging in some mutually agreed upon social activity in

public, together, as a couple. However, of late and as a result of the advent of technology criminals have also taken advantage of this social event by sprawling on unsuspecting women to achieve their activities. You must know what to do.

WOMEN SHOULD

- Always tell someone where you are going with your date and the expected time of return. An alarm is normally raised if you fail to return and immediate action is taken.
- Check out your first date or blind date with friends. Meet the date at public places and always carry money for a taxi in case you decide to cut the date early.
- If the date seems to avoid public places be wary he may be married and you must watch out for a public spectacle in case you are court with the wife. He may also be trying to avoid witnesses in case he is planning dirty about you.
- Pay attention to what the date says about him. If you notice some discrepancies this must raise an alarm.
- Always trust your instincts, if a place or the way your date acts makes you feel uneasy or nervous get away from the situation.
- When you are out with friends keep together and try not to get separated.
- Avoid leaving a social event with someone you have just met or do not know at all.
- Be very careful not to let alcohol or other drugs decrease your ability to take care of yourself and make sensible decisions.
- Always watch your drink and never leave it unattended for it can be spiced with drugs.

MEN SHOULD

- Use common sense, you do not have the right to force a woman to have sex with you just because you have bought her drinks or paid dinner for her.
- Accept a woman's decision when she says NO. Do not interpret it as a challenge to think it's obvious she can't say yes and it's THEIR norm to say NO when in fact willing.
- Avoid clouding your judgment and understanding of what another person wants by using alcohol and drugs.
- Do not assume a woman want to have sex just because she is acting provocatively or drinking heavily or she has agreed to go home with you.

- Never have sex with anyone who is passed out, because the moment she realises that you slept with her she may report you for rape.
- Do not assume that if a woman consents to kissing you or other sexual intimacies she is willing to have sexual intercourse.
- Realise and know that forcing a woman to have sex without her consent is rape, a violent crime which has serious consequences.
- Never be drawn into gang rape and always resist peer pressure from friends no matter how *hard you are*.
- Ask yourself how sexual stereotypes affect your attitude and actions towards women.
- Seek counselling to help you deal with feelings of violence and aggression towards women.

WHEN YOU BECOME A VICTIM OF RAPE

- Get help- do not isolate yourself or feel guilty nor ignore it. It is a serious crime and must be reported to the police.
- Get medical attention as soon as possible. Do not shower, douche or change clothes as valuable evidence against the abuser could be destroyed.
- Get counselling to deal with the emotional trauma.
- If you think you have been abused under the influence of drugs, try not to urinate before providing urine samples and if possible collect any glasses from which you drank for evidence gathering.

TO THOSE WHO TAKE ALCOHOL

- Think before you drink.
- Criminals are predators; an intoxicated person is an easy target for a potential attacker.
- Alcohol impairs many of the faculties we depend on to make good sound decisions.
- Impaired persons take chances (Dutch courage) unlike a sober person would never consider.
- Never leave your drink unattended as it may be spiced with dangerous drugs.

ACTION TO TAKE WHEN BEING ROBBED

- Don't resist the attack- give up all your property; don't give up your life.
- Do not volunteer any information or do anything other than what the robber asks.
- Just listen and carefully pay attention to the appearance and demeanour of the robber(s)
- Avoid making sudden and unexpected movement as this may lead you to your grave; remember the robbers are just as nervous as you are.
- Call campus security or police as soon as the robbers leave you; this is important for evidence gathering and reaction.
- Be able to describe exactly what occurred, giving detailed descriptions such as sex, race, age, height, weight, hair colour, scars, tattoos and clothing. If a vehicle was used try to get the make, colour and licence number if possible.
- If you observe a crime in progress **STAY CALM AND CALL 995** or campus security. Your action and swift reaction can prevent others from being victims.

RESIDENCE HALL SECURITY/ SAFETY

- Don't let others tailgate you when entering residence halls and report immediately if you see anyone helping others tailgate.
- **TAILGATE** mean entering an area without verification or refers to closely following someone such as through a door or gate where individual ID passes are required.
- When in the residence hall never leave your room unlocked, even when taking a shower or short trip down the hall.
- Refrain from posting notes on your door that no one is in the room/ out coming soon. This is an invitation to a criminal to enter your room.
- Don't leave your valuables in the open view- like your wallet, cell phone, iPods, laptops, jewellery etc.
- Keep an accurate inventory of your items/possessions so that you are able to notice early if it goes missing.
- Your key room must not be attached to the college ID.
- Take care of your keys; do not give anyone a chance to duplicate them.
- Be a good neighbour, look and report any suspicious movements or activities or people in the residence hall.

- Don't hesitate to report any suspicious people to campus security there might be coming from your room.

ROOM SECURITY

Burglars look for the easiest target, not because they are professionals, but amateurs looking for a quick and effortless entry into a home to take away items of value. Hence you need to avoid making your room an easy target.

- Lock all doors and windows when you leave the room and when you sleep.
- Remember a lock is not a lock unless you lock it!!!!
- Change your key blocker anytime a key is lost or stolen and don't give or lend your keys to someone else.
- Always make your room look occupied all the time even if you are not there by e.g. leaving your radio in a low volume.
- Report to campus security any suspicious people lurking in the residence/hostels.
- Be discreet don't advertise your plans for being absent
- Report broken or flickering lights, dimly lit corridors, broken doors or windows
- Mark all your property for identification purposes in the event of it stolen and recovered.
- Keep a list of the make and serial numbers of your items.

LECTURE ROOM AND LABORATORY SECURITY TIPS

- Keep your purse, wallet, keys and other small valuables with you all the time or locked in your drawer or locker.
- Politely ask strangers to you who may come to your office or class who they are, whom they are visiting and see if you can help finding that person. Some may not be genuine visitors but criminals waiting to pounce.
- If you feel uncomfortable with some of these people immediately report to campus security for verification.
- Avoid using stairs in remote sections of the building.
- Let someone know where you will be, whether it's coming in late, working or reading till late. This assists in checking your safety in case a man-made or natural disaster strike.
- Report to campus security if anyone or anything causes you apprehension.

- If working late or reading late make sure there are others in the building and you may ask security to accompany you to your hall or car.

CON-ARTIST ON CAMPUS

- Con artists are individuals who prey upon a person's natural inclinations to be helpful or to take advantage of a "windfall"
- They are usually talkative and intelligent and tend to blend well into the environment in which they want to operate. In this case they may appear as HIT students or lecture or any other member of staff when they are not.
- Never assume a con artist; they can be either male or female.
- As a rule of thumb avoid engaging in a conversation with strangers.
- Approaches of con artist vary be on your guard always on anyone who may want to have access to anything valuable of you be it bank details, student ID, cell phone details, personal details etc.
- If you are approached and you feel is a con artist decline conversation and immediately report to security about your reservations.
- Always remember, **"if it seems too good to be true, it probably is"**

UNIVERSITY SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Most women are victims of completed or attempted rape while at college but very few have the courage to report these sexual assaults to the police or even college management.

ACCOMMODATION DURING HOLIDAYS

For students who cannot afford to travel back home during holidays, the international Office will make arrangements with the Student Affairs Division for their upkeep. Efforts will also be made to find foster families for International Students.

ISSUING OF DEGREE CERTIFICATES AFTER COMPLETION OF STUDIES

Degree Certificates and Transcripts are issued on the Graduation Day. Students are required, on completion of studies, to fill in a clearance form obtainable from the Students Records Office. This will take them to the Library, Finance, ICTS department, their Academic department and School.