

Drugs, Alcohol and Sexual Violence



Good Night Out Campaign

We believe nights out
should be about



and harm reduction!

Four key principles

1

*Community
accountability*

Only the perpetrator is to blame for harm they have caused, but everyone has a role to play in cultural change!

2

*Organisational
duties of care*

All events and nightlife spaces have a duty of care to be proactive and respond with compassion to disclosures

3

*Active nightlife
bystanders*

Bystanders should feel comfortable and empowered to step in when it is safe to do so or alert staff when needed

4

*Workers' rights =
Safer nights*

That all nightlife workers deserve support, clear procedures and the training needed to put policy into practice

Reducing harm, increasing choice

- **Misinformation introduces risk:** Without accurate information, people rely on myths and take unnecessary risks
- **Talking openly about drugs doesn't encourage drug use:** Providing information helps people make informed choices, just like sex education
- **All drug use carries risks:** Even substances like alcohol and caffeine have health risks, and criminalised drugs carry additional legal consequences
- **Harm reduction works:** Evidence shows that young people make safer choices when they have access to harm reduction services

Student substance use and sexual violence

A 2021 briefing by **Office for Students** on links between student substance use and sexual violence mentions:

- The **Everyone's Invited** platform, which collects anonymous testimonies, frequently mentions alcohol and drugs in accounts of sexual misconduct.
- The 2014 NUS report **Hidden Marks** found that one in 10 victim-survivors of serious sexual assault were given alcohol or drugs against their will before the attack.

Spiking: *How does a harm reduction approach help?*

We train venues, student unions and nightlife staff to understand and reduce the hurdles that someone might face to report an experience: sexual harassment, sexual assault and spiking

They're prepared to respond compassionately and non-judgmentally in any situation



Listen to what you're being told.
Treat the symptoms, not the substance.

Sex, substances and consent

A person consents if they agree "by **choice**, and has the **freedom** and **capacity** to make that choice."

Our response to sexual assault should be the same whether or not someone has consumed a substance

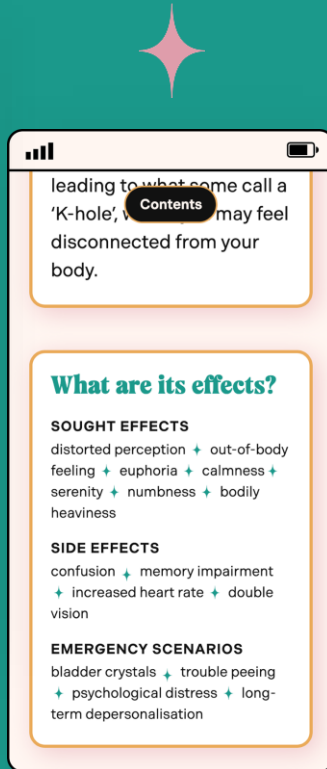
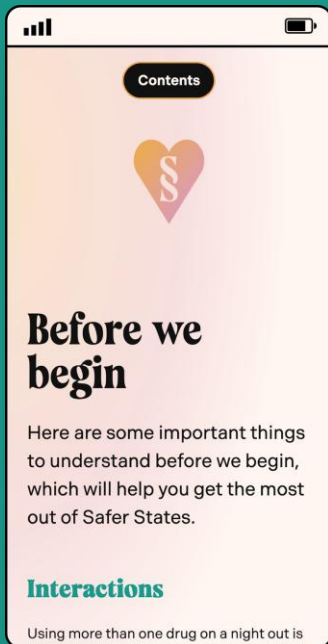
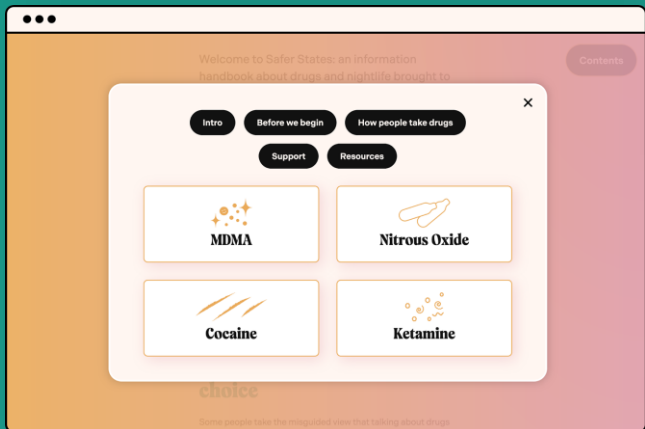
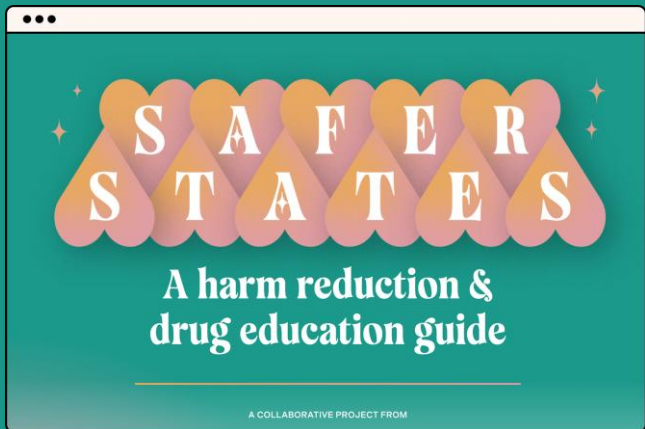
Sex on Drugs: *Common messaging for 'chem sex' in gay and queer scenes*

“

If you plan to take drugs and have sex (or you think things might go that way with someone later on) consider how you might feel about that before going into it.

This can help when you're making decisions while high later on.

”



saferstates.info

A COLLABORATIVE PROJECT FROM



Release
Drugs, The Law & Human Rights



FOR SAFER NIGHTLIFE

Good Night Accreditation for Students' Unions

1

Discussion

Discussion with SU commercial services and welfare services on current safety approaches and procedure

2

Agreement

Accreditation agreement including a full policy audit to ensure best practice is enacted

3

Training

Delivery of 2.5 hour interactive specialised session(s), for student staff, management and security

4

Assets

Supply of posters, badges for staff, evaluation and access to digital toolkits on all topics

5

Support

Ongoing support and feedback including quarterly catch up sessions for SU team



Let's make it count!



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 training@goodnightoutcampaign.org