

EmilyTest Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Charter for Colleges and Universities

Would your university or college pass the ‘Emily test’?

Our charity was set up in 2016 after university undergraduate Emily Drouet took her own life following a campaign of GBV from a fellow student. Emily’s death was preventable, and the ‘Emily test’ is the set of minimum standards which would have saved her life.

EmilyTest is being funded by the Scottish Government to develop the first GBV Charter for colleges and universities. The Charter award is a flexible framework, based on evidence, student and survivor voices and co-creation with staff, to help institutions start or improve their work in tackling GBV. It aims to set out both minimum standards and excellence in preventing GBV, responding effectively when it happens, and supporting everyone it affects.

The Charter is designed around five Principles:

1. Foundational stage: Open and Learning
2. Awareness stage: Educated and Empowered
3. Systems stage: Comprehensive and Connected
4. Access stage: Equal and Inclusive
5. Approaches stage: Safe and Effective

Passing the Emily Test — Minimum Requirements

By meeting the Charter’s Minimum Requirements, institutions can pass the Emily Test. Our Minimum Requirements draw on failures and learnings from Emily’s case, student and staff needs, and existing GBV work such as Scotland’s Equally Safe strategy. We lay out action areas and action steps for institutions to take to achieve each Charter Principle. A question that sums up the Minimum Requirements is: *Would your institution have saved Emily’s life?*

Achieving Excellence

The Charter also celebrates universities and colleges going above and beyond in their GBV work. Excellence Recommendations are included in the Charter, and institutions can submit their own examples of excellence too. A question that sums up the Achieving Excellence part of the Charter is: *How could your institution have helped Emily not just to survive, but to thrive?*

How we work

EmilyTest will work in close partnership with Charter institutions to help them bring real, sustainable change. We provide dedicated staff support, resources, feedback, and opportunities to share good practice and contribute to the field. Evidence is gathered collaboratively, and the process is light on paperwork. A revolving, expert panel will ‘blind’ assess Charter applications and review evidence twice a year.

Following a six-month pilot at two colleges and two universities, the Charter has been publicly released and every university and college in Scotland invited to apply for the award. Applications close 6pm on 31st January 2021. We welcome your interest and look forward to working together to end GBV.