



## International Soft Matter Conference

# ISMC 2019 Code of Conduct

*Please note, nothing in this Code of Conduct supersedes University of Edinburgh policy, as and where applicable, including but not limited to the University's ['Code of Student Conduct'](#) and ['Dignity and Respect Policy'](#).*

The International Soft Matter Conference 2019, hosted at The University of Edinburgh, is dedicated to providing a harassment-free conference experience for everyone. We do not tolerate harassment of conference participants in any form. Conference participants violating these rules may be sanctioned or expelled from the conference without a refund at the discretion of the conference organisers.

Examples of harassment include offensive verbal comments and/or imagery related to gender, gender reassignment, gender identity and expression, age, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, sex, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, ethnicity, religion or belief and/or technology choices. Other examples of harassment include sexual images in public spaces, deliberate intimidation, stalking, following, harassing photography or recording, sustained disruption of talks or other events, inappropriate physical contact, and unwelcome sexual attention.

Sponsors and exhibitors are also subject to this Code of Conduct. In particular, sponsors should not use sexualised images, activities, or other material. Booth staff (including volunteers) should not use sexualised clothing/uniforms/costumes, or otherwise create a sexualised environment.

If a participant engages in harassing behaviour, the conference organisers may take appropriate action, including warning the offender or expulsion from the conference with no refund. Participants asked to stop any harassing behaviour are expected to comply immediately.

If you are being harassed, notice that someone else is being harassed, or have any other concerns, please contact a member of the local organising committee (LOC) immediately. LOC members can be identified, as they will be wearing branded badges.

LOC members will help participants contact hotel/venue security or local law enforcement, provide escorts, or otherwise assist those experiencing harassment to feel safe for the duration of the conference.

We expect conference participants to follow this Code of Conduct at conference venues, associated workshop venues and conference-related social events.

## Reporting an incident

You can report an incident by:

- Sending an email to this address: [ismc2019@ed.ac.uk](mailto:ismc2019@ed.ac.uk) ; this email address will be monitored twice a day during weekdays;
- Contacting an LOC member, identified by branded badges.

When taking a report, LOC members will ensure you are safe and cannot be overheard. We may involve other event/University staff to ensure your report is managed properly. Once safe, we will ask

you to tell us about what happened. This can be upsetting, but we will handle it as respectfully as possible, and you can bring someone to support you. You will not be asked to confront anyone. If you report an incident to an LOC member, we may not be able to guarantee complete confidentiality (e.g. if there are immediate safety concerns), but we will treat any information you give us with discretion and respect.

Sometimes there may not be enough evidence available for us to take action against a conference participant. Where this occurs, we will explain this to you, and try to find out whether there are other ways to support you.

## Contact information

### Emergency services

If you are in physical danger or in need of immediate medical attention.

Call: 999

### National Health Service Scotland

Call: 999 (if someone is seriously ill or injured, and their life is at risk)

Call: 111 (for other urgent health advice)

### Police Scotland

Call: 101 (for non-emergencies)

Call: 999 (for emergencies)

### University of Edinburgh Security

May be called in the event of an emergency, 24 hours a day, every day (including holidays).

Call: 0131 650 2257

Call: 2222 (internal telephones only)

Email: [security@ed.ac.uk](mailto:security@ed.ac.uk)

### Local taxi company

Central Taxis: 0131 229 2468

### Local Organising Committee

ismc2019@ed.ac.uk

### **Equality & Diversity at The University of Edinburgh**

Email: [equalitydiversity@ed.ac.uk](mailto:equalitydiversity@ed.ac.uk)

### **Student Advice Place**

Call: 0131 650 9225 / 0800 206 2341 (freephone)

Text: 07537 402004

Email: [advice@eusa.ed.ac.uk](mailto:advice@eusa.ed.ac.uk)

### **Rape Crisis Scotland**

For anyone affected by sexual violence, women and men, no matter when or how it happened.

Call: 08088 01 03 02 (every day 6 PM to midnight)

Email: [support@rapecrisisscotland.org.uk](mailto:support@rapecrisisscotland.org.uk)

### **Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre**

Offers free and confidential emotional and practical support, information and advocacy to women, all members of the trans community, non-binary people and young people aged 12-18 in Edinburgh, East and Midlothian, who have experienced sexual violence.

Web: <https://www.erc.scot/contact-us/>

### **SurvivorsUK**

Provides a national helpline for men who have experienced sexual abuse.

Web: <https://www.survivorsuk.org/>