



## UNITING AND EMPOWERING INDEPENDENT FESTIVALS

### **Sexual assault at festivals: AIF charter of best practice 2017.**

We the undersigned believe that all festival and event organisers should strive to create a safe and enjoyable environment for audiences and take active measures regarding incidents of sexual assault onsite.

We commit to uphold best practice through the following steps:

**Zero tolerance to sexual assault:** To make it clear to all attendees, staff & artists that the festival has a zero tolerance policy towards sexual assault – this is defined for the purposes of this charter as “Any unwanted sexual act or activity”. According to Rape Crisis England & Wales, there are many different kinds of sexual violence, including but not limited to: rape, sexual assault, child sexual abuse, sexual harassment, rape within marriage/relationships, forced marriage, so-called honour-based violence, female genital mutilation, trafficking, sexual exploitation, and ritual abuse. Suspects of such offences will be pursued and may be ejected from the festival - organisers will work with the police to support investigation and charging decisions.

**Consent:** To promote at all times the principle of consent with regard to sexual activity onsite.

**A victim led approach:** To always respond to reports of harassment

and sexual violence from a place of belief and to take a victim led approach, with support services available onsite.

**Training:** To train all staff and volunteers in issues concerning sexual violence and have the following elements in place, with training delivered or overseen by specialist providers:

A) Prevention - raising awareness and training including awareness of relevant facilities available on site.

B) Reporting procedure and actions – To produce clear guidelines for scenarios, built into Safety Advisory Groups (SAGs) and event safety management plans, table top exercises, welfare policies and staff training.

C) Support – To work with the wider agencies such as Police, ambulance, welfare and security contractors and other relevant agencies to support victims and staff.

**Awareness:** To encourage attendees, staff, performers and volunteers to be aware and to not be a bystander to sexual violence or intimidation. To promote this through onsite messaging and pre-event information.

Signatories: