

# APGF Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH) Policy:

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## 1. Overview:

Every employee, member, volunteer and supporter of the Greens has a right to participate in the Greens movement without being subjected to any form of sexual harassment, abuse, exploitation or assault.

That's why we have worked together to develop resources, training, and policies to make sure our party is a safe and supportive place for all of our members and volunteers.

It is the responsibility of every member of our organisation to ensure that the workplace, and our party activities, are free from sexual harassment. APGF recognises the unique role it has in working with a diverse group of people, and the diversity of vulnerable groups that exist within it.

The purpose of this document is to outline the APGF's ethical standards and commitment in preventing sexual harassment, abuse and exploitation and to present the formal and informal processes available to any member, volunteer or employee who experiences sexual harassment or other forms of sexual violence. This policy is framed with a survivor-centred approach, reflecting the importance of centering those most affected by abuses of power.

The Greens are committed to providing a safe environment for all members and volunteers. We will not tolerate sexual harassment, assault or violence under any circumstances.

All complaints of sexual harassment will be taken seriously, handled efficiently and treated with respect and confidence.

## 2. Purpose:

The purpose of this document is to outline APGF's ethical standards and commitment in preventing sexual harassment, abuse and exploitation. This document demonstrates the application of this Policy, and is designed to empower those affected by sexual harassment, intimidation, exploitation, and assault.

## 3. Definitions:

- **Complainant** is the person who is making a complaint. The complainant may also be a witness to sexual harassment or another concerned person who is seeking to use the processes in this Policy.
- **Respondent** is the person alleged to have committed the sexually violent behaviour.
- **Sexual exploitation** is when there is an actual or attempted sexual abuse of a person in a vulnerable or less powerful position.
- **Sexual abuse** is the actual or attempted physical sexual action against another person, by force. This behaviour includes (but not limited to):
  - a) Rape (including oral sex)
  - b) Non-consensual kissing or touching

All sexual activity with someone under the age of consent is considered to be sexual abuse. The age of consent will vary across different APGF countries.

- **Sexual harassment** is when a person makes any unwanted or unwelcome sexual behaviour to another person. Sexual harassment also includes behaviour that makes another person feel offended, uncomfortable, humiliated, bullied, or intimidated. Sexual harassment is a form of discrimination.

There are different types of sexual harassment: physical and verbal.

- **Survivor-centred approach** prioritises the rights, needs and wishes of people who have experienced any form of sexual violence.

This approach aims to empower survivors by making sure they feel safe and supported throughout an incident of sexual violence. This means that complaints are investigated in a timely, sensitive and confidential way.

## 4. Principles that guide this Policy:

1. APGF will not tolerate sexual harassment, intimidation, exploitation or assault under any circumstances. It is the responsibility of all people who associate with APGF to treat any complaint seriously and with sensitivity. The aim of addressing any complaint must be to reach a fair resolution and create a safe environment for all members, staff, volunteers and supporters.
2. Any complaints relating to sexual violence will be treated in a survivor-centred way: seriously, confidentially, timely and with sensitivity.
3. Green parties have an ongoing commitment to eliminating sexual harassment. In order to meet this goal, people need to feel that they can make complaints without being further victimised.
4. APGF will not tolerate victimising or retaliating against any person who complains of conduct under this policy.
5. All people involved in a complaint, including APGF, the respondent, the complainant, and any support people, are required to keep the complaint and investigation as confidential as possible while allowing the process and any outcomes to proceed. This includes the identity of the complainant and respondent. This confidentiality principle will apply from when a complaint is received, and will continue forever.
  - a. This does not limit the complainant from seeking legal advice or the support of any other service.

## 5. How to Report:

### 1. Everyone has a responsibility to Report

Any person who has seen or has knowledge of alleged incidents of sexual violence by anyone who is an employee, member, volunteer or supporter of APGF must report this.

### 2. How to Report

Making a complaint of an alleged incident of sexual violence can follow either an:

1. Informal Complaints Process
  - a. Involves an outcome that aims to stop the offending behaviour and bring a resolution to the incident.
2. Formal Complaints Process
  - a. Requires an investigation, official findings and may result in disciplinary action.

### Informal Complaints Process:

A person may want to use the Informal Complaints Process where the aim is to stop the offending behaviour in the future. However, it is not appropriate for alleged incidents of

more serious forms of sexual violence such as exploitation and assault. These incidents should use the Formal Complaints Process.

APGF is committed to supporting people submitting complaints. The person or people coordinating a complaint must take all reasonable steps to make sure that the complainant is supported during the process. Additionally, the complainant will not be required to interact with the respondent during this process, and APGF will take immediate steps to ensure this is implemented. The complainant can also choose to use the Formal Complaints Process instead at any time.

The complainant may also choose to contact the Women's Network co-/Convenor for additional support.

To lodge a complaint, you should first approach your supervisor/coordinator, or a member of the Culture and Grievances Committee. If the complaint is about your supervisor/coordinator, you should approach a member of the Culture and Grievances Committee. The Women's Network co-/Convenor can also help you to identify the best person to approach.

The goal of the informal complaints procedure is to stop the offending behaviour in the future - to come to a shared understanding that such behaviour is unacceptable, and to reach a resolution where the complainant is satisfied the inappropriate behaviour will end. The process will be similar to the Informal Conflict Resolution Process described in the Grievance Policy, but the complainant will not be required to interact with the respondent during the process.

Interventions at this stage will use a confidential, non- confrontational approach with a view to thoroughly deal with and resolve the issue.

The complaint will be considered resolved when:

1. A common understanding of the facts surrounding the complaint have been established,
2. The respondent has taken responsibility for the offending behaviour,
3. An apology has been given, and
4. The complainant withdraws their complaint, or
5. If the complaint is referred to the Formal Complaints Process

### **Formal Complaints Process:**

If a complainant decides to use the Formal Complaint Process they should contact a member of the APGF Culture and Grievances Committee (CGC). You may choose which member of the Culture and Grievances Committee you approach and have a support person present at all steps through the process. You may also choose to contact the Women's Network co-/Convenor for advice and support through this process.

The person responsible for actioning a complaint is the Grievance Coordinator. The Grievance Coordinator may be the person who first receives the grievance, or another person responsible for these matters appointed by the party.

At any point during the Formal Complaints Process, the Grievance Coordinator may unilaterally decide to take any of the following actions, on a temporary basis until the Formal Complaints Process is completed:

1. Stand the respondent down from duties
2. Suspend their membership privileges
3. Take any other step to ensure the safety of the complainant or any other person involved.

The complainant will not be required to meet with or interact with the respondent during the Formal Complaints Process, and APGF will take immediate steps to implement this.

The Formal Complaints Process for Preventing Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment will follow the same process as the Formal Grievance Process, with the following additional rules:

1. The Formal Complaint Process must be started within 14 days of receiving a complaint
2. The Complainant will be notified that their formal complaint has been received within 2 working days.
3. APGF will keep the Complainant updated about the progress of the investigation
4. An investigation should be completed, and findings issued to the Culture and Grievances Committee, within 30 days of the Formal Complaint Process being started
5. The Culture and Grievances Committee shall consider and act upon the findings as soon as possible.
6. The Formal Complaint Process requires:
  - a. An investigation to be carried out on the complaint
  - b. A finding of facts
  - c. A determination regarding the behaviour and whether it constitutes sexual violence, exploitation, abuse, and/or harassment
  - d. A recommendation about any disciplinary action to be taken against the respondent.
    - i. The complainant may choose to provide or recommend actions in response to an incident.
7. A report detailing the above will be considered by the Culture and Grievances Committee, excluding any Committee members with an actual or perceived conflict of interest. If such conflict of interest is present, the quorum for Culture and Grievances Committee meetings shall be considered adjusted accordingly.
8. As part of a formal investigation:
  - a. Both the complainant and the respondent will be given the opportunity to bring a support person or representative to participate in the Formal Complaints Process
  - b. Both the complainant and respondent will be advised on support services available
  - c. The findings about whether sexual harassment, intimidation, exploitation or assault has occurred will be determined on the basis of evidence

## 6. Survivor-centred approach to reporting and investigation

During the investigation process, APGF will treat the complainant with dignity and respect, and involve the complainant in the investigation process. The complainant will be regularly updated on the progress of the investigation.

The investigation process will listen to the complainant's wishes and will uphold their confidentiality.

## 7. Disciplinary and Further Action:

### 7.1 Specific actions resulting from a complaint

On the basis of any finding, possible outcomes relating to the respondent or complainant may include a number of recommendations, such as:

1. Closing the matter without further action if there is insufficient information to proceed
2. Having a discussion with the respondent to the complaint about their behaviour
3. Counselling
4. Disciplinary action against the respondent (e.g. suspension of volunteer duties or membership rights, probation, dismissal, initiation of expulsion proceedings)
5. Official warnings that are recorded securely and lodged with the relevant party body
6. Formal apologies
7. Re-crediting any leave taken as a result of the harassment
8. Restrictions on a member volunteering or working on a campaign, or attending meetings for a defined period

### 7.2 Considerations in determining actions

The outcome will be informed by:

1. The severity and frequency of the alleged incident
2. The objective weight of the evidence
3. The wishes of the complainant
4. Whether there have been any prior incidents or warnings, including those that were resolved informally

### 7.3 Potential additional actions

In addition, appropriate responses by APGF may also include, among other things:

1. Organising a training session for staff, members, and volunteers about sexual violence, exploitation, abuse, and harassment
2. Supporting the complainant in subsequent legal action against the respondent, should the complainant wish, by providing information gathered during the investigation
3. Any other action deemed appropriate or necessary to protect the respondent or other party members or supporters from sexual exploitation, abuse, or harassment

## 8. Additional Support:

Members of the Culture and Grievances Committee, the Women's Network co-/Convenor, and any other person who has been delegated responsibility to respond to sexual harassment shall be provided with formal training to perform these duties effectively and with sensitivity.

Any person who makes a complaint of sexual harassment shall be provided with the information of people who can offer extra support

## 9. Taking All Reasonable Steps:

The Green party acknowledge the legal and moral responsibility to take reasonable steps to prevent sexual harassment in the workplace and the organisation.

The organisation commits to:

1. Circulate this policy to all employees and volunteers
2. Ensure this policy is publicly available
3. Development of a 'First Responder' guide
4. Formal training on the implementation of this policy
5. Regular monitoring of this policy and its implementation
6. Periodic review of this policy.

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## Contact people:

This section is not part of the official Grievances Policy, and will be updated when members of the Culture and Grievances Committee and Women's Network co-/Convenor(s) change.

A copy of the APGF Grievances Policy, for matters not relating to Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harrassment, can be found here:

[W APGF Grievances Policy - updated 12 February 2022.docx](#)

You have 2 options to raise a complaint - you can email the full Grievance Committee (which will help make sure it is not missed), or you can email an individual Committee member you feel comfortable approaching.

To email the whole Committee, please email [cgc@asiapacificgreens.org](mailto:cgc@asiapacificgreens.org)

Current members of the APGF Culture and Grievances Committee:

- Ayah Abdouny (APGF co-Convenor)
  - [ayah@asiapacificgreens.org](mailto:ayah@asiapacificgreens.org)

- Nick Cooper (APGF General Secretary)
  - [secretary@asiapacificgreens.org](mailto:secretary@asiapacificgreens.org)
- Minami Teramae (APGF Women's Network representative)
  - [minami@asiapacificgreens.org](mailto:minami@asiapacificgreens.org)
- Dominic Wy Kanak (APGF Indigenous Network representative)
  - [wykanak@gmail.com](mailto:wykanak@gmail.com)
- Shirine Jurdi (expert and APGF Council appointee)
  - [shirine.jurdi@wilpf.org](mailto:shirine.jurdi@wilpf.org)

Current APGF Women's Network co/Convenor(s):

- Soohee Lee (APGF Women's Network co-Convenor)
  - [soohee@asiapacificgreens.org](mailto:soohee@asiapacificgreens.org)
- Alpyu Singh (APGF Women's Network co-Convenor)
  - [alpyu@asiapacificgreens.org](mailto:alpyu@asiapacificgreens.org)