

‘Sticks and Stones’: bullying in museums

Ethical Statement

Context

No sector is free from cases of bullying. In the light of #MeToo, and current investigations into bullying and harassment across many public sector organisations, museums also need to act, investigate and have a unified zero-tolerance approach to bullying across the workforce, not least because there has been little, if any, research undertaken into bullying within the sector.

Following Dr Alexandra Woodall’s suggestion to the Museums Association in November 2018 to set up a working group exploring this issues, we are now working together to address this, and have set up a project, ‘Sticks and Stones’, which launched in May 2019, will be taking place until March 2020, and about which we will be speaking at the MA Conference in Brighton 2019.

The project

One key element of the wider ‘Sticks and Stones’ project, as well as setting up a ‘Task and Finish’ group, was to establish a wider ‘Working Group’ and a ‘Participant Group’, to facilitate preliminary research into colleagues’ experiences of bullying in the workplace.

We are doing this using an online confidential and anonymous questionnaire.

Informed consent

Your participation in this online research is entirely voluntary. All questions are optional, and you are free to withdraw from it at any point. If you are uncertain or uncomfortable about any aspect of your participation, please feel free to discuss this with us in the first instance.

Protecting your confidentiality

The questionnaire is anonymous, you will not be asked to provide your name or your organisation, and your email address is not linked to the questionnaire submission. Any information supplied will be treated confidentially. Paper-based and digital notes will be securely stored. The only people who will have access to your answers are Tamsin Russell and Alexandra Woodall, and the project is GDPR compliant.

As part of the research, quotations from the research may be used to illustrate experiences, however any quotations used will not include any identifiable content and will be attributed to – *questionnaire respondent*.

If you have any questions about the ethical conduct of this project, please contact Tamsin Russell tamsin@museumsassociation.org