

Video: Against sexualized discrimination - Sascha Spoun, President of Leuphana University Lüneburg

Transcript and translation to English: Johanna Stadlbauer

Information des Online-Portals zu sexualisierter Diskriminierung und Gewalt an der Hochschule,

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Link zum Portal.

Prof. (HSG) Dr. Sascha Spoun:

Sexualized discrimination and violence are very important research topics. And from my point of view it is only consistent that a university does not only make what has been developed in research available to society, but also applies it to itself. Hence, the first and most important step is to raise the issue in order to gain attention and subsequently to actively create awareness.

A university is a place where people with very different experiences and backgrounds come together and live together. And one would not expect

it to be so different than other places where people come together. However, it is essential that we make the Gender Equality Act recognizable and applicable for the university. Therefore, the Senate adopted a guideline already in 2013 on issues of sexualized discrimination and violence. We have also joined the "Charta der Vielfalt" (Diversity Charter). These decisions show that this organization pays attention to these difficult questions and provides a framework for them. But these all together just provide a framework. Within that framework it is essential that we look, develop an attitude, and act accordingly. The idea is that victims should know, we don't want to leave them alone, the institution aims at protecting them, and perpetrators know that we do not tolerate their behavior in this place.

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