***Motion Title: Student Safety in Accommodation***

**Proposer: Matthew Smith**

**Seconder: Scarlet Parr**

*Hallam SU Notes:*

1. That in January 2022 alone there have been 486 violent and sexual crimes in Sheffield Central and North West according to South Yorkshire Police, the majority of which occurred within central Sheffield near to many halls of residence where Sheffield Hallam students reside (South Yorkshire Police, 2022)

2. The importance students place on having good security in student halls of residence (Knight Frank / UCAS, 2021)

3. The minimum standards for security in student accommodation set out in the Universities UK / Guild HE Code of practice for the management of student housing (Universities UK / Guild HE, 2019)

*Hallam SU Believes:*

1. That Sheffield Hallam students have the right to live in safe, secure accommodation with security of the highest possible quality.

2. That University is stressful enough with many deadlines’ exams and transitions from home and college becoming an adult. Students do not need to be also worrying about their safety and security in halls.

3. That Sheffield Hallam students have the right to live without fear of becoming a victim of violent crime.

4. That Sheffield Hallam Students have the right to feel safe and secure in accommodation and that the University, Students’ Union and providers of student accommodation should be working together to ensure that security is of the highest standard in halls and private rented accommodation that they provide for Sheffield Hallam Students.

*Hallam SU Resolves:*

1. To mandate the Advice Centre to provide written and online resources to enable students to anonymously raise concerns regarding safety and security in accommodation, including but not limited to advertising the Unipol national code for student accommodation and associated complaints procedure via the Students’ Union website, leaflets and posters in the Advice Centre and via in person advice sessions.

2. To lobby the University to insist on rigorous standards for the provision of security and safety in student accommodation in its nomination agreements including those set out in the Universities UK / Guild HE code of practice referenced above.

3. To undertake thorough consultation with the student body to ascertain how safe students feel in nominated halls of residence, areas for improvement and any concerns regarding safety and security.

**References**

Universities UK

“Code of practice for the management of student housing”

<https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/ACOP/accommodation-code-of-practice-2019.pdf>

South Yorkshire Police

“Sheffield Central and North West”

<https://www.police.uk/pu/your-area/south-yorkshire-police/sheffield-central-and-north-west/?tab=CrimeMap>

Knight Frank / UCAS

“Student accommodation survey 2021”

<https://content.knightfrank.com/research/1663/documents/en/knight-frank-ucas-student-accommodation-survey-report-2021-7707.pdf>