



Monday, 1st February, 2021 (01/02/21)



Trinity College Dublin Students' Union
House 6,
Trinity College Dublin,
Dublin 2.

Joint press statement from TCDSU and the JCR on current situation faced by Halls Residents.

Dear Halls Residents,

We hope you are keeping safe and well, and that your assignments and exams went smoothly. We wanted to take this opportunity, at the start of Hilary Term, to discuss the current situation in Halls, ongoing restrictions and the upcoming JCR Town Hall this Thursday 4th February at 7pm.

This year has been incredibly difficult (an understatement, to say the least). The JCR and TCDSU recognise and accept your frustration; the continuous lockdowns and compounding bad news have taken its toll on all of us.

We'd like to remind you that help is always available, the past 10 months have been stressful and overwhelming and we cannot expect ourselves to handle everything alone. Listed below are a few of the many resources available to students, but both the JCR and SU are always reachable via social media and email!

Niteline <https://niteline.ie/>

Student Counselling https://www.tcd.ie/Student_Counselling/

Your tutor <https://www.tcd.ie/seniortutor/>

TCDSU Welfare and Equality Officer, Leah Keogh welfare@tcdsu.org <https://www.tcdsu.org/welfare>

JCR Welfare Officer, Emma Gallagher welfare@trinityhalljcr.com <https://www.trinityhalljcr.com/emergency-contacts>

The Warden, Roja Fazaeli warden@tcd.ie

The Trinity Halls community includes you, your flatmates, fellow students, staff and the Warden team. As members of that community, we all have a responsibility to adhere to public health guidelines. Those same public health guidelines have, disappointingly, curtailed many of the activities that make Trinity Hall so vibrant. Unfortunately, in the middle of this pandemic, the risk these activities can pose to you and those around you is severe, having wide reaching effects on the mental health and wellbeing of the community. We all must take personal responsibility to ensure that our actions and attitudes do not pose a threat to the Halls Community. We also recognise that the restrictions themselves are having an adverse effect on student wellbeing across the board and we'd like to reiterate that support is always available, either at the links above, via any SU or JCR social media account or via email.

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Proactive efforts have been made throughout the College year, by various parties, to communicate the current rules and regulations to all residents. Unfortunately, the imposition of fines and possible evictions come as a byproduct of efforts to minimise and disincentivise breaches of the public health guidelines. As with all serious disciplinary cases, we want to assure you that evictions will be taken very seriously and we urge anyone who has been threatened with eviction to reach out to the SU and the JCR. We are concerned about the claims of harshness in disciplinary hearings and we are actively following up with the Warden's team and the Junior Dean to ensure that all student cases are handled fairly. You have a right to fair treatment and fair representation in all College disciplinary meetings and both the SU and JCR are working to ensure that all breaches are handled as such.

The JCR will be hosting a virtual Town Hall meeting via Zoom for residents to voice their concerns on Thursday 4th February at 7PM. We encourage anyone experiencing any issues to attend. TCDSU Sabbatical Officers will also be present to ensure that all issues are addressed or flagged with relevant college authorities.

<https://zoom.us/j/92084670756?pwd=T3ZYRWtIMjBNSmRzemFrQVVpQnJXZz09>

We're looking forward to listening to your concerns and hopefully we can work towards a more positive student experience while ensuring that we put student and staff safety first. There are pints at the end of the rainbow, but for now cans will have to do!

Eoin Hand
TCDSU President

Alex Clark
JCR President