

1. In October 2020, an article titled 'Trinity Hall Like a 'Prison' Amid Harsh Coronavirus Rules, Say Residents' appeared on University Times. It spoke of abuse of authority in Trinity Halls by those in charge; empty threats, disproportionate and unfair punishments meted out to those deemed a threat to students' health amid lockdown restrictions. Students feel terrorized and traumatized by a reigning atmosphere of lawlessness and seemingly unlimited power of the security guards, the Junior Dean and the Warden, amounting to a perversion of justice. Over Zoom, the disciplinary hearings result in mental breakdowns of students who are often left crying, without knowledge of what to do next. By focusing obsessively on students' health, mental health is ignored. One student who I spoke to said that she was caught with 4 others and eventually kicked out of Halls. 'They told us (falsely) there is no appeals process and that we would be expelled from college they did not let us talk. Half of my friends were hysterically crying and one of them had a panic attack over Zoom.', she says. Even after the publication of the article, no change was made - just on the 21st January 2021, the Warden at a disciplinary hearing compared an American student to Trump for not being 'covid-conscientious' because he was caught hanging out with 3 people. Recently, at the joint Town Hall of the JCR and the TCDSU, more examples were brought up, such as the Warden calling students 'fucking disgusting'- So far, the student union's President Eoin Hand has issued a statement saying that "he was sorry to hear the students were distressed" and Communications Officer Philly Holmes condemned the behavior of the Wardens by saying that "it doesn't matter whether you broke the rules or not, everybody deserves fair treatment". What further steps can we take to help our students at Halls? How will the TCDSU challenge this worrying culture at Halls?