



**MEMORANDUM**

**TO: Members of the Student Assembly**  
**FROM: Lori Mould, President**  
**SUBJECT: Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence**  
**DATE: October 18, 2014**

I recommend that the Student Assembly of the State University of New York (SUNYSA) adopt the following resolution:

Whereas, Sexual assault and domestic violence cases are growing across the nation and growing exponentially on college/university campuses, and;

Whereas, In addition, according to the 2008 National Crime Victimization Survey, as reported by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, more than 75% of the women who reported a rape were under 25 years old at the time of their assault; more than 25% of the victims of reported rapes are between 18 and 24 years old<sup>1</sup>, and;

Whereas, a National Institute of Justice report states that over the course of a college career, the percentage of completed or attempted rape victimization among women in higher educational institutions might climb to between 20% and 25%<sup>2</sup> and;

Whereas, Since the year 2001, on campus sexual assaults have risen by an astounding 79% and research indicates that as many as one in four female students will be sexually assaulted during their college tenures<sup>2</sup>, and;

Whereas, in situations of domestic violence, nearly 40-45% of battering relationships have elements of sexual assault. Domestic violence is one of the most chronically underreported crimes, and less than half of the time are incidents reported to the police<sup>3</sup>, and;

Whereas, Sexual assault is also a growing concern among college aged men, 15% of college men are victims of forced sex during their time in college<sup>4</sup>. One of every thirty-three men has been a victim of an attempted or completed rape; and in 2003, one in every ten rape victims were male<sup>5</sup>, and;

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<sup>1</sup> "Campus Safety | RAINN | Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network." *Campus Safety | RAINN | Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network*. Web. 2 Oct. 2014.

<sup>2</sup> Hutchinson, Bill. "SUNY colleges report trends in campus sexual violence, harassment." *New York Daily News*. 28 Sep. 2014. Web. 1 Oct. 2014.

<sup>3</sup> "Domestic Violence Facts." *National Coalition Against Domestic Violence*. Web. 6 Oct. 2014.



Whereas, Sexual assault and domestic violence issues are increasing in the LGBTQA+ community, where there is a struggle of underreporting incidents and brutal victimization. One in eight lesbians and nearly half of bisexual women have been raped in their lifetime, whereas four in ten gay men and nearly half of bisexual men have experienced some form of sexual violence<sup>6</sup>, and;

Whereas, 64% of those who identify as transgender have been sexually assaulted in their lifetime<sup>6</sup>,

Whereas, the White House has worked diligently to implement a national campaign regarding sexual assault awareness and prevention, called "It's On Us" which will help to bring awareness to all students within the United States and the campaign provides resources for each campus on the administrative level; now therefore be it;

Resolved, that SUNY SA call upon the legislatures to enact policies in support of the "It's on Us" campaign; work to create legislation to further prevent and protect the students of the State University of New York system from both the threat and the act of sexual assault and domestic violence; and be it

Resolved, That the Student Assembly further develop and implement Governor Cuomo's new uniform system-wide policies regarding sexual assault prevention, including a Sexual Assault Victims' Bill of Rights, and be it further;

Resolved, that SUNY SA thanks the SUNY Board of Trustees for their recent passage of a resolution implementing comprehensive solutions to sexual assault including but not limited to, establishing a uniform definition of consent, a sexual assault victims bill of rights, a uniform amnesty policy to encourage reporting, and comprehensive statewide training for campus police and administrators; and,

Resolved, that SUNY SA express their thanks to President Barack Obama, United States Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, and Governor Andrew Cuomo for their efforts in addressing on campus sexual assault and domestic violence; and,

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be distributed, but not limited to, President Barak Obama, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, Senator Kristin Gillibrand, Chancellor of SUNY Nancy L. Zimpher, SUNY Presidents, SUNY Student Governing bodies, the State Senate Higher Education Committee, the State Assembly Higher Education Committee.

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<sup>4</sup> "The Sexual Victimization of College Women." *U.S. Department of Justice*. Web. 6 Oct. 2014.

<sup>5</sup> "Who Are the Victims? | RAINN | Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network." *Who Are the Victims? | RAINN | Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network*. Web. 4 Oct. 2014.

<sup>6</sup> Mullins, Dexter. "In epidemic of campus sex crimes, LGBT cases often neglected." *Aljazeera America*. 30 Oct. 2013. Web. 6 Oct. 2014.