



NPC Position Statement on Opposing Reporting Requirements for Member Organization Personnel

The National Panhellenic Conference (NPC), one of the world's largest organizations advocating for women, is the trade association for 26 inter/national women's-only sororities. Within each organization's structure, a team of elected and/or appointed personnel (e.g., chapter leaders, volunteer advisors, organization staff including traveling consultants, facility directors) support collegiate chapters operating on campuses across the United States and Canada. The relationships built between these women—collegiate and alumnae—is one of the hallmarks of the collegiate experience for many sorority members. Those relationships extend past discussions of chapter operations and develop into opportunities for personal support and professional mentoring that may not be found elsewhere in the member's life.

In the past several years, two federal laws regarding campus crime reporting and the designation of individuals as reporters have begun to be interpreted by Institutions of Higher Education (IHE) as applying to member organization personnel:

- 1) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 requires certain categories of individuals (employees and others) to be "mandatory reporters" with an obligation to report incidents of sexual discrimination and/or violence on a college campus to the institution's Title IX office; and
- 2) The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (Clery Act) requires certain university officials with significant responsibilities for students, determined by the IHE, to be "campus security authorities" (CSAs) with an obligation to report acts of criminal activity on a college campus to the institution's police department.

NPC supports and applauds the efforts of IHEs to provide education and information regarding campus support resources and the process of reporting to whom, however; our member organizations oppose the designation of member organization personnel as mandatory reporters and/or campus security authorities. In these roles—elected or appointed organization personnel do not represent the institution nor are they empowered by the institution to take any action on its behalf. Due to this lack of connection, there is no reason for the institution to extend its reporting duties to these individuals. The only exception to this position is when these individuals are also employed by the IHE and have this designation based on their duties and responsibilities outlined by the institution.

Classifying member organization personnel as mandatory reporters/CSAs significantly changes the dynamics of the relationship between the women within the organization. It reduces the likelihood that a collegian might confide in a chapter sister with a leadership position, a volunteer advisor or an organization staff member and may thereby prevent the collegian from getting the help she needs. NPC applauds the 2017 decision of the University of Oregon to allow "student-directed employees" to provide care and support to students while also allowing the student to make the decision on when/where/how to report. This designation applies to most faculty, student employees and officers of the administration.



The strength of the sorority community depends on the inter-generational friendships and genuine connections fostered through sisterhood. Requiring mandatory reporting under any type of regulation, be it Title IX or the Clery Act, may affect NPC member organizations' ability to support survivors, recruit and retain critical volunteers and sorority employees, and impede the ultimate goal of the regulations.

NPC member organizations believe in empowering witnesses and survivors of all campus crime by providing campus-specific support resources and referring individuals to either private or confidential counseling centers, advocates or law enforcement, depending on the choices of the impacted individual. However, NPC sororities are united in our obligation to chapter leaders, volunteer advisors and organization staff and cannot support any attempts to designate them as mandatory reporters under Title IX or Campus Security Authorities under the Clery Act.

[Adopted: 2017; Amended: 2020]