



We Need to Talk about **SEX**

WHEN WE THINK ABOUT RAPE, we often picture a young woman walking home alone in the dark, examining her surroundings nervously. From behind her, a man she has never met attacks her violently and leaves the scene immediately.

In reality, however, this is not the most typical way in which sexual assault occurs. Sexual assault can take many forms, from the scene described above to the more common instance of a victim being violated by an acquaintance with relatively little physical struggle. Both men and women of any age, race, educational background and social class can be victims of sexual assault. When it comes down to defining sexual assault, the tie that binds all of these cases is that it occurs when a sexual act – whether attempted or completed – is perpetrated without clear consent.

While there is some dispute over the incident of sexual assault on the American college campus — the White House

sexual assault in some way during your lifetime. There is no clear solution to eradicate sexual assault from our culture but there are steps that everyone can take to make progress in this area.

Over the next nine pages, you will read articles and stories from professionals who specialize in sexual assault education, survivor advocacy and support and bystander intervention. You will learn about the importance of Title IX, discover how our culture has inadvertently discouraged survivors from sharing their stories, examine case studies to increase your understanding of consent, gain insight on the best way to support survivors and find out how the Greek community can lead the way to change. Finally, you will find a list of resources

KUAL ASSAULT

report “Not Alone” says one in four collegiate women will experience a sexual assault, The Washington Post reported on June 15, 2015, that it is one in five, other sources say one in six — sexual assault is a problem that needs to be addressed. Whether you are a survivor of sexual assault personally, know someone who has experienced it or have a friend who has disclosed something to you, it is highly likely that you will be affected by

for sexual assault survivors as well as organizations that can provide you with educational programming and awareness event planning assistance.

We encourage you to carefully consider the content presented in these pages. By educating yourself, you are taking the first step to becoming part of the solution.

TITLE IX TOOLKIT: THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

By Gentry McCreary, affiliated consultant with the National Center for Higher Education Risk Management and CEO of Dyad Strategies, LLC



I recently had the opportunity to attend Gamma Phi Beta's REAL Leadership Academy, speaking with collegiate chapter presidents from across the continent about the issue of sexual violence and Title IX. I applaud Gamma Phi Beta for taking this issue seriously and providing training to members on how to address this issue.

Title IX of the 1972 reauthorization of the Higher

Education Act is the federal law prohibiting gender-based discrimination in higher education. It states, in part, "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance." The Office of Civil Rights (OCR) in the U.S. Department of Education is the branch of government responsible for enforcing this law. Beginning in the early 2000s, the OCR began issuing guidance to colleges and universities, making the point that sexual assault represents the most severe form of gender discrimination and is thus subject to the requirements in the Title IX law. The result of that guidance has been dramatic – colleges and universities around the country have drastically reshaped the manner in which they handle cases of sexual violence in the last several years.

The general point of my program with the chapter presidents at the REAL Leadership Academy revolved around a simple idea – statistics tell us that, at some point during their presidency, they will have to confront the reality of a chapter member who has been victimized by sexual assault or relationship violence. I want to highlight three of the ideas I shared to better understand the issue of sexual violence because they apply broadly to all members of the organization, not just chapter presidents.

1. If a sister tells you she has been sexually assaulted, the most important thing you can do is believe her and support her.

It is likely that, if it has not happened already, at some point someone close to you will disclose that they have been assaulted or violated in some way. Receiving information like this can be a difficult burden to bear – if a friend or sister shares with you that they are hurting, the natural inclination is to try and help "fix the problem." Instead, you should simply listen to your friend, believe what they tell you and offer your support.

Belief and support are incredibly important to survivors of sexual violence. Knowing that those closest to them believe their story will encourage victims to tell that story to others. Knowing that they are supported can be a major step forward in the process of regaining control of their lives and beginning the healing process. Knowing that they are believed can encourage them to seek justice.

Unfortunately, there are a lot of reasons why women may not believe their sisters, or may not support them in their decisions to seek restitution for what happened. There is a great deal of fear when it comes to the issue of sexual assault – fear that a "nice guy's" life might be ruined because of an allegation; fear that the sorority may become a social pariah on campus if one of their members goes forward with a sexual assault allegation; fear that members of the sorority may be retaliated against if one of their members files a complaint. While these fears are real, and may even be justified, they should never cause you to not support one of your sisters in going forward with a complaint under your campus's Title IX policy or reporting the incident to the police because failing to believe and support a sister could have disastrous effects.

2. Different people respond to things in different ways.

Imagine an all-too-common scenario that a collegiate woman may find herself in: she goes to a party on Saturday night, has a bit too much to drink, goes home with a guy, and wakes up the next morning, naked, with

73% of sexual assaults are committed by a non-stranger.

Every **107** seconds, another person is sexually assaulted in the United States.

a vague recollection of what happened the night before. Unfortunately, this is a scenario with which we have all become accustomed. Imagine that you know 10 women who have experienced a night/morning like this. The first nine may not make a big deal about what happened. They may even laugh about it the next day. To them, it was just a casual hookup and the fact that they were extremely intoxicated and do not remember everything that happened is not really a big deal. The notion that they were somehow violated is not one that crosses their minds. But the 10th woman who finds herself in that situation may experience it very differently. She may wake up the next morning and immediately be upset about the fact that something happened to her body that was beyond her control. She may feel violated. She may feel that she was assaulted.

Here's the thing you need to keep in mind – just because the first nine women defined their experience one way doesn't mean the feelings of the 10th are not valid. Just as it is not your place to tell the first nine women that they were assaulted and should be really upset about what happened to them, it is not your place to tell woman number 10 that what happened to her really wasn't a big deal. It is not your place to define people's experiences for them. People experience things in different ways, and whether or not any act constitutes "sexual assault" is a fact-based determination. If a sexual act is non-consensual or if one person involved is incapacitated at the time of the sexual activity, then what happened is not "regretted sex" or "a drunken hookup," but an act of sexual violence. You are not in a position to define for people what happened to them – which is why it is important that you do not over- or under-react if someone discloses an assault to you. You should maintain a calm disposition, believe what they tell you and encourage them to get help.

3. Creating a safer social environment is everyone's responsibility.

My years as a campus fraternity/sorority advisor at Middle Tennessee State University and the University of Alabama provided me with some amazing experiences, and those experiences led me to hold certain beliefs. One of the more salient beliefs is this: there is no force on a college campus more powerful than a unified group of sorority women.

Here is the most important thing you can take away from this article – if you are not happy with the social culture on your campus, I promise you that you are not the only person who feels that way. The most important thing you can do is to find like-minded people, connect with them and begin talking about ways to change the culture on your campus. Panhellenic women need to stand up and lead on this issue, thinking about ways you can create a safer social culture, holding the students on your campus to a higher standard and creating an environment in which sexual violence is less likely to occur.

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THE CULTURE WE CREATE AROUND SEXUAL ASSAULT

By Tim Mousseau, speaker for CAMPUSPEAK



When I first realized that I was sexually assaulted, my response was sadly far too typical of many survivors. I stayed silent. I told a very limited number of individuals and was painfully afraid of sharing about my assault. I was terrified of the repercussions behind telling anyone because instinctually, the culture around me convinced me I should be ashamed of what someone had done to me. I was petrified about

what others might think of me. More importantly, I had a very negative experience in some of my limited conversations I had about my assault, further convincing me I should be ashamed – the terms used, the manner people addressed the issue and how we talked about it culturally drove me toward a negative world of silence.

Having now processed my experience and spent time with this topic, I recognize the troubling culture of shame and silence that exists

around this issue. As a society, we often treat sexual assault in hushed tones because it is a difficult concept to address. It is hard to talk about prevention and even more difficult for survivors. Any form of sexual assault is a very intimate violation of someone's life – thus, it is often

easier to treat this topic with shame and ignore the issue. For the longest time, we have allowed assaults to go unexplored from a seeming fear of what we might find if we open up this conversation.

The problems caused by treating assaults with shame are two-fold. First, it leaves survivors feeling isolated – even when you might want to open up about your experience, it is frightening wondering how others will react. This pushes survivors toward silence. Second, this culture complicates the conversation on prevention – how can we stop sexual assault from occurring when we are afraid of talking about it in the first place?

Where this culture of shame and silence seems implicit in past conversations on sexual assault, we have the power to change this perception through our actions and mindsets. This means reframing how we approach this topic in conversation, changing how we address it in both our organizations and personal relationships. Changing our culture means first looking at the conversations we have on topics around sexual assault, the way we address the issue and the terms we use. These ultimately define our actions that in turn define our cultures.

We need to stop the cultures of shame and silence by providing environments for positive dialogue. How we talk about sexual assault matters. It might sound too easy to say we should start with our dialogues, but we must start somewhere if we are going to transform our culture to one where we address sexual assault with compassion instead of shame.

Tim Mousseau received a master's degree in organizational leadership from Gonzaga University in 2013, but is a Lobo at heart having graduated from University of New Mexico in 2011. For the past few years, he has spent time researching how innovation relates to leadership and the need for service in creativity. In the past he has worked for his fraternity as well as spending time working with close to 175 campuses through the North American Interfraternity Conference.

A RAPE SURVIVOR IS:

- THREE times** more likely to suffer from depression.
- THIRTEEN times** more likely to abuse alcohol.
- TWENTY-SIX times** more likely to abuse drugs.
- FOUR times** more likely to contemplate suicide.

WHEN A SISTER HAS BEEN SEXUALLY ASSAULTED, WHAT DO I SAY? By Deanna Johnston and EJ Smith, counselors at the Sexual Assault Resource Center



Deanna Johnston



EJ Smith

Sexual assault on college campuses is gaining attention. What does this epidemic issue mean to sororities? In short, the effects of sexual assault can permeate an entire chapter. For this reason, the sisterhood's response to sexual assault is worth discussing.

How Should Sisters Respond?

The first step is simple: believe her. Reassure her that she has a network of sisters who will support her decisions on how to proceed. It's important to allow the survivor to make her own choices on how to move forward. How a disclosure of an assault is responded to by others is an important aspect of recovery. You can help by researching options, but give your sister the respect to make her own decisions.

The Blame Game

When tragedies occur, we often want to know who to blame. Most of us are raised to believe that good behavior is rewarded and bad behavior is punished, but given the nature of sexual assault, there may be confusion surrounding the event or the circumstances leading up to it. The truth is that being a victim of a crime shakes the foundations and beliefs of what we hold to be true. This often results in self-blame and questioning one's own behavior and choices.

While we advocate in support of sister empowerment and risk reduction, we must always remember that asking who is to blame fails to place ownership of the assault on the perpetrator. This message must be clear.

It is the choices of the perpetrator that create sexual assault – not whether or not the victim was drinking, what clothing the victim was wearing or anything else.

Living As a Sister and Survivor

Trauma, notably human-caused trauma, often leads to isolation and reduction in previously enjoyed activities. These tendencies, while understandable and even expected in trauma recovery, are clearly at odds with some of the social expectations within the Greek system. Sorority membership, a system that once provided support, may unintentionally create feelings of isolation for the survivor, as activities designed to foster belonging may simultaneously work to trigger memories of the assault or create feelings of vulnerability. It is not uncommon for survivors to feel unsafe in crowds or like they are responsible for the safety of others.

Survivors need to be met where they are emotionally supported and surrounded by people who understand the impact of assault. Sisters need to demonstrate, in action, that they stand united with the survivor.

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ONE out of every SIX 
American women has been the victim of an attempted or completed rape in her lifetime.

UNDERSTANDING THE MOST MISUNDERSTOOD ISSUE: ESSENTIAL CONCEPTS OF NON-STRANGER SEXUAL ASSAULT

By Aaron Boe, founder of Prevention Culture



As the brother of a survivor of non-stranger rape, I have been thinking about this issue daily for more than 20 years and working on solutions to prevent it for nearly a decade. We are making some progress, but non-stranger sexual assault is still perhaps the most widely misunderstood social issue.

No one misunderstands stranger rape. It is obvious to all decent people why it's 100 percent wrong

and that the person who acted to violate another is solely responsible for his or her actions. Everyone understands that it would naturally be a traumatic experience for the person violated and that support is absolutely deserved.

On the other hand, when it comes to non-stranger rape and sexual assault — violations committed by a “regular” person — people tend to confuse the issue. Many misplace responsibility for wrong actions by placing blame on the person who was violated rather than the person who did the violating. Some feel sorry for the person for being “accused” rather than considering the trauma felt by the person harmed. Amidst the confusion, otherwise kind and decent people can fail to provide the critical support a victim needs and deserves.

The problem is that most of the sexual assault that occurs is committed by a person who is not a complete stranger to the victim. In other words, the type of sexual assault that is the most widely misunderstood is also the most common by far.

Although building a complete understanding of non-stranger sexual assault is beyond the scope of this article, there are some simple yet profound concepts that must become common knowledge.

Five Essentials to Know about Non-Stranger Sexual Assault:

1. Even though non-stranger sexual assault happens differently than stranger assault, the harmful effects can be the same or even worse.
2. It does not take what some might think of as “violence” for a person to be violated and traumatized.
3. It does not take an overtly “violent” person to commit sexual assault. Most is committed by an otherwise “regular” person who thinks in a way that justifies one’s actions.
4. The reality of responsibility is that each person is responsible for not violating another’s body in any way. The person who violates another’s most basic human rights is responsible for those chosen actions, not the person who was violated.
5. A survivor of non-stranger sexual assault deserves support just as much as a person who was violated by a stranger.

There are many great resources for education and support both on college campuses and online. Increasing your knowledge about this issue will increase your confidence in your ability to educate others and to help a friend who has experienced something very difficult.

Aaron Boe is a consultant and curriculum developer for utilizing member education programs to prevent harm and create supportive chapter cultures for multiple national women’s and men’s fraternal organizations. He speaks on college campuses and provides training to student leaders and adult professionals on how to take innovative and empowering approaches to addressing serious issues. His programs and content reach more than 100,000 fraternity and sorority members each year. For more information, visit PreventionCulture.com or AaronBoe.com.

An estimated 20% of women in higher education institutions are victims of or completed rape during their college years.



THE ROLE OF ALCOHOL AND CONSENT IN SEXUAL VIOLENCE

By Amanda Blaugher, program director for the Take Back The Night Foundation



Alcohol and college life go hand-in-hand for many students. That big Friday night party may be on the minds of many collegians, but those parties are also the place where alcohol – the number one drug used to commit sexual violence – is provided. Students hear many warnings; that the way to not get raped is to not drink to excess; stay with your friends when you go out; use the buddy system; never take a

drink from someone you don't know. The list goes on and on.

When I hear about the drunken hookups that have become commonplace in campus culture, I find myself asking - what can be said about rape when both parties are incapacitated? In these situations, were both parties sober enough to give consent?

When someone is at the point of incapacitation, they cannot give effective consent. Someone who has had too much to drink may seem as if they are consenting to what is going on, but because of the amount of alcohol in their system they actually cannot consent as defined by law.

The tricky part about alcohol and sexual violence is that many times both people involved have been drinking. I'm often asked, "If both people were drinking, then aren't they both at fault for assault?" When both people involved have been drinking, it all boils down to which of the two people knew, or reasonably knew, that the other was incapacitated. Whenever both people have been drinking, it is also the responsibility of whoever was initiating the physical relationship to gain

consent from the other person. **Bottom line, if you are with someone who is too incapacitated to consent, you should not initiate physical contact.**

California was the first state to pass a law on affirmative consent. Affirmative consent is different than effective consent because it requires a "yes" every step of the way. This means agreeing to the act in general does not suffice. Rather, a party must consent to every part of the act by consenting when asked questions such as, "can I touch you there?" and "can I kiss you here?" Talk with your partner about your expectations for the physical relationship.

Every campus may have a different definition of consent, so it is always best to refer back to the definition on your campus. However, there are a few general facts about effective consent that can be applied on any campus. Consent is a voluntary and unambiguous agreement to participate in an act that is understood by both parties. Consent can be withdrawn at any time before the act is completed and the act should stop immediately when consent is withdrawn. Consent cannot be given when there is physical incapacitation due to alcohol or drugs, physical or mental disability, threat, coercion or when a person is under the legal age of consent.

I would recommend to any current student to become aware of their school policies and know that if you are seeing sexual misconduct on campus, or if you yourself are a victim of sexual violence, that you can report it. The culture on college campuses is changing and I encourage everyone to be part of the movement where sexual misconduct is not tolerated.

Amanda Blaugher is the assistant director of Residence Life at Penn State Harrisburg and serves as the program director for the Take Back The Night Foundation. After an experience with sexual violence her freshman year, she has made it her life's work to raise awareness around sexual violence. She has presented at more than 100 colleges and high schools across the country on sexual violence and healthy relationships.

0-25 percent
higher education
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WHAT CONSTITUTES CONSENT?

By Katie Koestner, executive director of the Take Back The Night Foundation



What constitutes consent or lack thereof under school policies and state laws? As I travel from campus to campus, there is no greater source of confusion on the part of both men and women than in this area. To gain clarity, here are two case studies that illustrate the importance of clear consent.

Dahlia and Brett

Dahlia and Brett are in the same chemistry class. They hang out together, but aren't dating. One night they end up at a party together. Dahlia has seven shots of tequila within the first couple hours. She approaches Brett when he is talking with some friends, whispers in his ear that she "needs him" and motions to the stairs. Brett has had two beers that night. He follows her to the room. Dahlia starts kissing him, but loses her balance because she is so drunk. She falls on the bed behind her and tries to keep kissing Brett, but he stops kissing her while he takes her pants off. Then, they have sex.

Consider: Who is the aggressor and who is the initiator in this case? Is Dahlia responsible for what happened because she was so drunk? How can you tell when someone is too drunk to have sex?

Answer: Many college policies state that students cannot give effective consent to sexual activity if they are incapacitated by alcohol or other drugs. Additionally, if students are engaging in sexual activity during which the role of initiator vacillates between partners who have both been consuming alcohol, both students may be in violation of policy. In this case, Dahlia would seem to be incapacitated by the amount of alcohol she consumed, and Brett likely knew or could have reasonably concluded that Dahlia was incapacitated. Possible signs and symptoms could include slurred speech, impaired motor skills, going in and out of consciousness and seeming to forget recent occurrences.

Madison and Clark

Madison and Clark met through Tinder and flirted over text messages. They agree to meet at a party. At the party they hang out, dance and continue to flirt. Clark uses every line he can think of to convince Madison to have sex with him but she adamantly refuses. Finally, Clark convinces her to give him oral sex by complimenting her and hinting that they might go out again. He feels that she was doing what she wanted to do all along but didn't have the guts to do right away. After all, when they were flirting she implied that she was particularly into oral sex. If she really didn't want it, she could have left.

Consider: Did Clark coerce Madison? What should you assume about real-life behavior based on what is sent online or through text message?

Answer: If someone is saying or indicating "no" or even just remaining silent, a "no" is constituted under the law. Madison would need to clearly say or indicate "yes" the first time Clark asks for oral sex in order for her to be giving clear consent. Coercion is not permitted to gain consent – it must be freely given in the moment. Prior flirting or even past sexual history doesn't count as consent.

Katie Koestner is the executive director of the Take Back the Night Foundation. At age 18, she appeared on the cover of TIME Magazine when she spoke out about her college rape. She is the subject of an HBO movie, has appeared on more than 200 media outlets and has lectured at more than 2,500 schools, universities, corporations, organizations and military bases around the world on sexual assault, relationships and technology issues.

Editor's note: These case studies are meant to serve as an educational tool and are not meant to be representative of all instances of sexual assault. It is important to remember that sexual assault can take many different forms and both victims and perpetrators can be any age or gender.



FROM HURT TO HEALING: HOW YOU CAN HELP A SURVIVOR

By Katie Koestner, executive director of the Take Back The Night Foundation

When I walked into the campus police station, I was told to wait in the lobby for the officer who would take down my story. The station walls were made out of the same material as the walls of the room where I had been raped by a fellow student less than a week ago. My stomach was already sick.

A female officer was first. I followed her into a small room. Her questions were manageable. Then, she said another officer would need to come in to ask more questions, difficult questions.

A male officer came in wearing his uniform. He looked like the police officers in movies – he looked confident. I did not feel confident.

This is what many survivors fear will happen when they tell someone – that it will be an uncomfortable interrogation. Fortunately, you can make sure this is not the case. Friends and relatives of survivors can make all the difference in how they can regain their confidence and heal. A strong network of support – or even just one supportive friend – can give sexual assault survivors the confidence they need to share their stories and seek the justice they deserve.

Steps to Support a Survivor:

1. **Be a good listener.** Stay focused on the person there with you. Look at them when they talk. Nod along.
2. **Tell them you are glad they trusted you** enough to talk with you.
3. Inform them there are **three options for next steps:**
 - Medical attention can be given at a hospital, health center or clinic. Within the first five days after a sexual assault the survivor can have evidence collected (usually at no cost), which can be held for one to two years while a survivor decides about pressing criminal charges. At any time after an assault, the survivor should be tested for STDs and potential pregnancy.
 - The survivor can seek justice through the campus conduct system (if the incident involved someone from the campus community and/or occurred on the campus), the criminal justice system via the police department and/or the civil justice system by using an attorney who specializes in helping survivors.
 - Emotional support can help survivors heal. Survivors typically experience rape trauma syndrome, which can affect nearly every part of their lives. The impact of sexual assault can create issues with sleeping, eating, anxiety, trust, relationships, anger, fear and much

more. Options for emotional support include campus counselors, local crisis centers, social workers, support groups, hotlines, women’s or gender centers, online blogs, chat rooms and books.

4. Finally, **check back in with the person within the first 24-hours** after they initially spoke with you. You are important in their healing process as you represent stability, reliability and a source of ongoing support. If you are at all concerned about suicide or mental health risks, call a counselor for help.

There are also a few things that should be avoided when someone discloses their attack. Do not ask questions, clarify or pry. The only question to ask is when the event happened so that you know if medical evidence can be collected. It is also important not to take sides or share your own story. Let the focus be on helping the survivor. Additionally, do not force the survivor to tell anyone else if she is not ready. Offer to go with them to meetings or be on calls, but don’t do it for them.

Most importantly, do not treat the survivor as if they are “broken.” Survivors want to be included and regain normalcy.

If you have questions about how to help a survivor in a particular situation, visit page 30 for a list of resources that will connect you with a rape crisis center counselor.

It is estimated that less than **ONE-THIRD** of all sexual assaults in the U.S. and Canada are reported to police.

81% of women who experienced rape, stalking or physical violence by an intimate partner reported significant short- or long-term impacts.

EXTENDING THE CHALLENGE TO FRATERNITY MEN

By Gordon Braxton, speaker and writer on sexual violence



It's only natural that sororities might want to include fraternities in their sexual assault education and prevention outreach. One of the biggest barriers to doing so is the myth held by many men that sexual violence is always committed by strangers who use overt physical force. Feminist educators have been pushing against this myth for decades but many men still don't understand the context of intimate

violence. One need only listen to the dialogue surrounding a high-profile alleged assault to see this. You will find many men resist the possibility of an assault with arguments about the normalcy of an alleged perpetrator and the lack of evidence of physical assault. In fact, the popularity of crime shows may even have exacerbated the idea that "real" rapes feature forensic evidence that clearly demonstrates violence, though the truth is that there is no physical evidence that proves the presence or absence of consent.

Divorcing men of these myths leaves us with something deeper to consider – once we accept that many rapes are committed by "normal" men, we realize that men can play a part in preventing violence by challenging perpetrators and the cultures that surround them. After all, these men are our friends and acquaintances. We are all touched by sexual violence – we know victims, we know perpetrators and we interact with cultures that produce violent men. We can become empowered once we realize that we can play a role in shaping the cultures that have shaped us.

As many people consider the undergraduate years to be an optimal opportunity to challenge cultural conventions and discover one's authentic self, then this time would also represent a good opportunity to challenge men to resist norms that excuse non-stranger sexual violence. We might not realize it but many of us spend a good portion of our lives adhering to

norms that don't reflect who we want to be. In many cases, we might think ourselves to be leaders but surrender to pre-determined gendered positions concerning sexual violence. We might think ourselves to be empathetic but cannot fathom the ways in which someone's bodily integrity might be violated without the presence of overt violence.

If you challenge fraternity members to interrogate the myths he holds true, realize that you have at least two resources in your corner. The first is a growing legacy of fraternities standing against sexual violence. One can easily find examples of fraternities holding events to raise awareness of sexual violence and its impact. A fraternity member you know could be challenged to start this tradition if it doesn't already exist on your campus. The second resource that you have at your disposal is the mission statements of fraternities. All organizations have principles that they strive to uphold. Summarily dismissing all violence that isn't committed by strangers with overt physical force doesn't fit neatly into any fraternal mission statement. Rather, most fraternities uphold values such as leadership, honor and community building – ideals that need men who are willing to act on the unfortunate truth that our own organizations harbor violent men.

Invite the fraternities and other groups on your campus to join the conversation about sexual assault. Ask your chapter leadership or local Panhellenic to engage with the Interfraternity Council and other student organizations to join forces and work toward the common goal of making your campus safer for all students.

Gordon Braxton is a graduate of the University of Virginia and the Harvard Graduate School of Education. As an undergraduate fraternity member, he served as an anti-violence peer educator and continues to speak on sexual violence prevention as well as write on the topic on forums such as his blog [AlliedThought.com](#). He can be found on Twitter at [@GordonBraxton](#).



FINDING THE “DO’S”

By Bethany Lamolinara, director of program services at the Clery Center for Security On Campus



For college women, the conversation around sexual assault too often starts at don't – as in, “don't walk alone at night,” “don't leave your drink unattended” and “don't get too drunk.” But what about the do's? Do say something when your sorority sister is stumbling upstairs with a guy. Do tell your chapter leadership about a sexual assault that occurred at a party. Do support those in the community who speak up.

Campus leaders talk about “changing the culture” on campus – sorority women have the power to ignite that change by cultivating an environment that encourages bystander intervention. As a strategy, bystander intervention challenges the norm by encouraging people to do – to speak out and to actively intervene in situations that could lead to sexual assault. Sororities are already situated to support bystander intervention tactics – the very nature of sisterhood implies that we look out for one another.

However, to truly shift the culture and realign the conversation, all parties – including the university, Greek community and national levels of the sorority – have to agree to change their behavior, understanding and expectations.

We know there can be major barriers to this change. Sisters may choose not to intervene because they don't want to ruin a friend's night or are worried their interference will threaten the sorority's relationship with another organization. Leaders face further challenges when reporting processes are ambiguous and complicated.

At colleges and universities, sororities should refocus the conversation on what they do have the ability to change. For example, does your college have a “good Samaritan” policy – where the institution won't punish you for reporting a crime – and if not, would they consider adopting one? The Greek community can collaborate on helpful programming like planning education events – such as one focusing on effective bystander intervention – poster campaigns or partnering with campus safety experts to spark important dialogue. By proactively partnering on campus with

safety outreach efforts, Greeks can model change and improve relations with the institution.

It's easy to be discouraged by the long list of don'ts surrounding campus sexual assault. Engaging your campus community and intervening in unsafe situations are the do's. As a group of dedicated college students and alumni, the Greek community is a strong force. In order for a shift to be successful, the community as a whole must invest in the do's – and we will see a powerful change.



Less than 5% of completed or attempted rape against college women was reported to law enforcement. However, in two-thirds of the incidents, the victim did tell another person, usually a friend.

Bethany Lamolinara is the director of program services at the Clery Center for Security On Campus, a national nonprofit that works with college and university communities to create safer campuses. The Clery Center is recognized as the national leader in campus safety issues and is credited with transforming the face of campus safety through its policy, advocacy and educational programs. Bethany graduated from St. Joseph's University and is currently earning her Master of Public Administration at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. She is a proud sorority member and served as president, new member educator and vice president of academic development of her collegiate chapter.

RESOURCES FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT:

RAINN

RAINN.org

If you or someone you know has been affected by sexual violence, it's not your fault. You are not alone. Help is available 24/7 through the National Sexual Assault Hotline: **800-656-HOPE** and Online.RAINN.org.



National Sexual Violence Resource Center

NSRV.org

Law Enforcement

If you choose to report sexual assault to law enforcement, contact your local or campus-based police department by calling their non-emergent line or visiting the station. If you are in immediate danger, dial 911. Visit RAINN.org/Get-Information for resources on reporting sexual assault and more.

Campus Resources

College campuses offer a myriad of resources and services to students in need. Visit your university's website for more information – the university may offer resources such as confidential advocates and counseling and psychological services.

The Consortium

Gamma Phi Beta is proud to announce our partnership with Fraternal Health and Safety Initiative (FHSI). As a member of this consortium we are partnering with other dynamic Panhellenic and Inter-fraternal organizations to bring comprehensive education and training to our members on sexual assault. Taking a Stand: Preventing Sexual Misconduct on Campus will be provided to all Gamma Phi Beta members beginning fall 2015. This program is the perfect balance of statistics, education, skills training and personal reflection. Together with other consortium members, Gamma Phi Beta will empower our members to take a stand against sexual assault.

NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING AND AWARENESS EVENT PLANNING RESOURCES:



Campus Outreach Services

CampusOutreachServices.com



Prevention Culture

PreventionCulture.com



Take Back The Night

TakeBackTheNight.org



CAMPUSPEAK

CAMPUSPEAK.com



Girls Fight Back

GirlsFightBack.com

Editor's Note: We present the statistics in this feature with the caveat we know they may not be conclusively reflective of the current landscape. Statistics about sexual assault can be hard to confirm and even more difficult to collect because many victims of sexual assault do not report the crimes committed against them. However, we felt it important to present this information as it assists us in opening up the conversation about sexual assault and illustrates the importance of working toward finding a solution.

Statistics presented were gathered from the following resources:

RAINN, RAINN.org | The Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website, NSOPW.gov | National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC), NSVRC.org