

**Women's Concerns Committee of the University Senate
Committee on Athletic Policy of the University Senate
Statement on Sexual Abuse and our Community
12/07/2011**

In keeping with Chancellor Cantor's statement that Syracuse University does not tolerate abuse on its campus, the Women's Concerns Committee and the Committee on Athletic Policy of the University Senate support the rights of individuals on campus and in our community to speak out about sexual abuse without fear of being silenced.

We believe it is extremely important right now to show support and concern for individuals who have been targeted by abuse, provide information and resources both on campus and in the community, help our community members understand the kinds of statements and language that can silence victims of crimes of violence and create additional harm, and acknowledge that all of our community members are affected by these allegations and in need of assistance and support.

On campus resources for assistance include:

Advocacy Center - 443-7273
Counseling Center - 443-4715
Faculty and Staff Assistance Program - 443-1087
Hendricks Chapel - 443-2901

Off campus resources for assistance include:

Child Abuse Reporting Center - 1-800-342-3720
Sexual Abuse Hotline - 1-800-656-4673
Vera House - 468-3260

We need to talk about how we, as a campus community, will open up a dialogue about sexual abuse and make sure the dialogue continues after the Bernie Fine case is no longer in the news. We strongly encourage our community to think about the language that we use and the way that we address these issues to make sure we are talking about the needs of survivors of abuse and ways to create a safe and fair workplace and community environment. We believe that this is the right time to engage more members of our community in conversations about addressing and preventing sexual abuse.

Therefore:

- 1) We ask that the university acknowledge the impact of the sexual abuse allegations on the entire university community.
- 2) We ask that the university distribute information on how to talk about, prevent, and address sexual abuse and suggest resources on campus available to assist supervisors, managers, Deans, Department Chairs and Program Directors in preparing for these conversations and encourage these conversations to take place.
- 3) We ask that the University community commit to creating itself as a “community of empowered bystanders”—individuals who:
 - If witness to potentially harmful behavior, take action that has the potential to lead to a positive outcome.
 - Speak up about abusive behavior and/or support individuals who have been abused.
 - Realize the opportunities, options, and impact they can have in preventing sexual abuse, bullying, and other bias related behaviors.
 - Become “empowered” as the result of reflecting upon our University’s values and committing to taking action—collectively ensuring that Syracuse University remains a safe place for every campus community member.

Respectfully submitted,
The Syracuse University Senate Committee on Women's Concerns
The Syracuse University Senate Committee on Athletic Policy