



As students, as Greek men, and above all as human beings, we on the Inter-Fraternity Council are horrified, disgusted, and viscerally saddened by the stories of sexual violence shared in the *Rolling Stone* article released yesterday, November 19. That some fraternity men commit sexual assault is irreconcilable with everything we hope our community to be, and we are mortified that any fraternity member is responsible for perpetrating such a heinous crime.

The members of the Inter-Fraternity Council are united in our admiration of the survivors who courageously shared their experiences with sexual violence in the article. We cannot begin to comprehend the emotional and physical trauma the survivors have experienced and recognize that stories like these occur far too frequently on college campuses, including our own. We hope that this jarring account will spark reflection and discussion about the gender norms, power structures, and issues of sexual violence that exist both on our grounds and at universities across the nation.

In times like these, we understand that claims of effort and gradual progress seem trite and inconsequential. The IFC, nonetheless, is committed to educating our members about sexual violence and promoting bystander intervention within our chapters. Through collaboration with student peer advocacy groups and the Office of the Dean of Students, we have instituted bystander intervention programs and sexual misconduct education initiatives. Over the past year, these educational programs have become compulsory for every member of an IFC fraternity. We recognize that our efforts, while substantial, are incomplete and we will continue to make the elimination of sexual violence our utmost priority.

This past September, an IFC officer was interviewed by *Rolling Stone* regarding the culture of sexual violence at the University. Although the discussion was lengthy, the reporter elected not to include any of the information from the interview in her article. The following month, Phi Kappa Psi made the IFC aware that the feature would pertain to events specific to their chapter. Pursuant to Title IX, as a student organization unequipped and untrained in such an arena, the IFC is not permitted to investigate or adjudicate acts of sexual violence. Any properly thorough investigation regarding issues of sexual misconduct must be conducted by University administration or law enforcement. The IFC will continue to assist and cooperate fully with the Office of the Dean of Students and the Charlottesville Police Department.

The IFC and the entire University community are grateful to the survivors who shared their stories and highlighted the need for a change in culture on our grounds. We encourage students to read the article in its entirety so as to foster a sensitive, educated, and productive dialogue on how to eliminate sexual assault at UVa. As men, but most of all as a community, we recognize that we have the ability and the responsibility to relentlessly pursue a solution. It is imperative that we stand together now and decide that rape can never happen again in our community.

SIGNED

The Governing Board of the Inter-Fraternity Council at UVa