

HOWARD UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE FACULTY SENATE

PRESS RELEASE

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HU Faculty Senate Statement on Sexual Violence on Campus

We have recently learned of the astonishing multitude of testimonies from Howard University students and alumni who have written of sexual assault, harassment and violence on campus. These testimonies are serious and sobering. Howard University is the Mecca. We continue to be a haven for students to learn and find community. Every person has the right to exist without the threat of sexual violence. Approximately 70% of Howard's student body are African American women. Nationally, 35% of African American women will experience some form of sexual violence in their lifetime ([NISVS, 2012](#)). While survivors of sexual violence can be any gender, we, as a University community, need to acknowledge this is a serious problem, especially given our student population, and we need to enact policies to prevent sexual violence and protect survivors. As the faculty of Howard University, we support survivors of sexual violence of all genders. We affirm that trauma from sexual assault can be debilitating ([RAINN.org](#)), and may necessitate academic accommodation. We will continue to work with HUSA and other campus organizations to ensure open dialogue as we begin down the long road toward reform.

