

To: Dr. Larry Moneta, Vice President for Student Affairs  
From: Kristina Smith, T' 19  
Re: Gender violence prevention education

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## **Duke students are increasingly aware of the widespread burden of gender violence**

In 2015, the University administered the Student Experiences Survey (the largest of its kind to be undertaken at Duke), and the statistics weighed heavily on our minds. 40 percent of undergraduate women at Duke and 10 percent of undergraduate men reported being victims of sexual assault since arriving on campus. Beyond these startling numbers, there were further insights. Black/African American, Hispanic, and gay, lesbian, and bisexual women reported disproportionately higher rates as compared to the rest of the student body.

## **Existing prevention efforts are not reaching every student**

We face critical questions as we look to prevent gender violence at Duke: How do we fight something that affects so many of us, but that so few people talk about? How do we protect everyone in our greater community, while being aware of how the nuances of various social settings and individual identities affect gender violence?

I believe the most important first step in combating a problem that is so deeply rooted in cultural norms is education. The Women's Center makes constant strides in gender violence prevention education, including their latest initiative, 5 Key Norms. 5 Key Norms is an educational program that works to unpack the various social, racial, and gender dynamics that coalesce together to create a place where gender violence is not just prevalent, but normalized. With both staff and student facilitators, 5 Key Norms runs as a two-hour workshop, discussing the issues of power, violence, masculinity, femininity, and silence.

## **Next steps**

I hope to work with you and the Women's Center staff to expand offerings of 5 Key Norms education for all students, not just those involved in Greek life or SLGs. I want this kind of education to be available throughout our time on campus with much more presence than Haven, the quick online program we complete before matriculating. I believe this kind of education has a trickle down effect, extending conversations about these issues well beyond the the actual programming.

While no program is perfect, 5 Key Norms training reaches those disproportionately affected by gender violence on this campus, increases the probability of future conversation within these communities, and addresses the root causes as opposed to environmental catalysts. This approach will not solve all problems, but increased accessibility to this training will have an impact in future generations.