



National Catholic Student Coalition

45 Lovett Avenue † Newark, DE 19711
www.catholicstudent.org † ncsc@catholicstudent.org

NCSC/RES/2012[1]

RESOLUTION - Awareness of Sexual Assault and Rape on College Campuses

Whereas:

- The National Catholic Student Coalition shall be a voice for Catholic college students in the United States.
- The National Catholic Student Coalition commits to provide positive Catholic role models.
- The National Catholic Student Coalition is committed to the social teachings of the Church, which includes preserving the dignity and lives of all people.

Whereas:

- The National Catholic Student Coalition recognizes the damage rape can bring to an individual for life.
- The National Catholic Student Coalition respects the moral integrity of all individuals.
- The National Catholic Student Coalition supports individuals who are coping with sexual assault and/or rape.
- The National Catholic Student Coalition is aware of the frequency of sexual assaults and rape among college students.

Recognizing that:

On college campuses across the United States sexual assault and rape are frequently encountered. Sexual assault is defined as unwanted sexual contact that stops short of rape or attempted rape. This includes sexual touching and fondling - please note that this can differ between states.¹ Rape is defined as forced sexual intercourse, including vaginal, anal, or oral penetration. Penetration may be by a body part or an object.¹

Aware that:

- One in four college women will be sexually assaulted by the time they graduate.²
- Most college students who are sexually assaulted are victimized by someone they know; although stranger rapes occur, acquaintance rape is by far the more prevalent form of sexual violence among college students.³
- 90% of sexual assaults are committed by someone the survivor knows.⁴

Acknowledging that:

A survivor is NEVER responsible for a sexual assault. Although many sexual assaults among college students involve the use alcohol or drugs, the responsibility rests completely on the assailant.³



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Noting that:

Rape is the forcible violation of the sexual intimacy of another person. It does injury to justice and charity. Rape deeply wounds the respect, freedom, and physical and moral integrity to which every person has a right. It causes grave damage that can mark the victim for life. It is always an intrinsically evil act.⁵

Therefore:

We the members of the National Catholic Student Coalition, assembled in conference in Indianapolis, IN this 20th day of November 2011, express our support to individuals who are coping with sexual assault or rape.

We call upon college students to:

- Be supportive, listen and be non-judgmental if a survivor discloses information to us
- Practice RESPECT (Responsibility, Empathy, Support, Power, Ensure safety, Comfort, Treatment)³ if a survivor comes to us seeking assistance
- Choose your words wisely when talking to our friends and family
- Pray for all victims and survivors of sexual assault and rape
- Contact your Representative and Senators to pass legislation that encourages schools to prevent and respond to on-campus crime more effectively

We call upon universities to:

- Adopt practices that reduce the risk of on-campus victimization and increase sexual assault and rape reporting
- Adopt practices that provide all survivors a support system
 - Individual counseling
 - Support groups
 - Advocates

For more information visit:

<http://www.rainn.org>

<http://www.joyfulheartfoundation.org>

Sponsored by: Stephanie McDonough, University of Northern Iowa

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¹ <http://www.rainn.org>

² United States Department of Justice

³ <http://www.joyfulheartfoundation.org>

⁴ American Association of University Women

⁵ Catechism of the Catholic Church