

## Official Statement from the Patrick Henry College Alumni Association to the Board, Faculty, and Staff of Patrick Henry College

As alumni of Patrick Henry College (PHC), we condemn all acts of sexual misconduct, harassment, and assault. We affirm the dignity and full personhood of individuals who are victims of sexual offenses and categorically reject any statement or conduct, explicit or implicit, that communicates they are responsible for the sin perpetrated against them. We affirm each victim's worth as undiminished by these acts, both in the eyes of God and in the eyes of our community.

While we cannot speak to every situation mentioned in various recent articles and Facebook posts, we as a body wish to make the following two statements. First, students attending Patrick Henry College have been victims of sexual offenses. Second, the college should provide better victim care to students affected by sexual misconduct, harassment, and assault. In order to provide better care to students, we urge the college to do the following:

### **1. Maintain transparency in every part of the independent audit process**

We are pleased that PHC has already hired an independent firm to audit its policies and practices toward sexual harassment and sexual assault.

We are further pleased that PHC has established an independent alumni task force to provide a additional review of policies and practices with an eye to the future.

We request that during the current audit process, PHC provide a form of communication (perhaps simply an independent email address) where students and alumni can contact auditors to provide additional information if they so desire.

We ask that the college share with the Alumni Association the findings of the current audit in a timely manner, while respecting all privacy and confidentiality concerns. We believe it would be beneficial to the college and its greater community to avoid delays, abridgments, or reinterpretations of the audit results before they are shared with the college's broader community.

The incidents discussed in the *New Republic* article involve serious allegations regarding PHC's practices with respect to its handling of reports of sexual misconduct and assault. To demonstrate PHC's commitment to being far beyond reproach in these matters, we ask the college to include an independent review of the *New Republic* incidents, and those propounded by any other past allegations of sexual assault, either in this audit or a separate one.

### **2. Provide more avenues for victim care**

While the above recommended audit will take some time, we ask PHC to take action now to provide better victim care to students when they come forward. As a first step, we specifically ask the college to provide to students a special advocate outside of the Student Life department.

### **3. Educate current students regarding sexual offenses**

Recent PHC statements regarding sexual misconduct and assault are admirable. We commend the PHC commitment to a campus based on purity, where students reserve sexual activity for marriage. However, we are concerned that PHC students are not adequately prepared to handle crimes, aggressions, or affronts committed against themselves or other students. We urge PHC to equip and inform students, in public, campus-wide forums,

regarding issues such as consent, the legal and moral nature of sexually based offenses, how to respond to both perpetrators and victims of sexual offenses whether grave or slight, and reaffirming the college's commitment to victim care, regardless of the circumstances surrounding the perpetrator's sexual misconduct. The Alumni Association would be honored to work with the college to help bring speakers on these topics to campus and otherwise assist in this effort.

**To each student of Patrick Henry College:** We, as the Alumni Association, seek to be a resource to you as you pursue your education and career. If you ever have questions or want to talk about these or any other issues, please reach out to a member of the alumni community. If you are not acquainted with any alumni, feel free to email or call any of the members of the Alumni Association board. We love talking with you and want to help you in any way we can.

**In Closing:**

*O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord*

- Book of Common Prayer

We remain committed to prayer for the healing and protection of all victims of sexual misconduct, and the reclamation of its perpetrators, and for the students of PHC generally, and for those in authority at the college. We ask that God glorify Himself in all we do.

*Daniel Noa, President,  
Jenna Lorence, Vice President,  
and the Alumni Association Board,  
on behalf of the Patrick Henry College Alumni Association*