TO: University of Southern California Campus Community  
CC: President C.L. Max Nikias  
Provost Michael Quick  
Vice President of Student Affairs Ainsley Carry  
FROM: Graduate Student Government Executive Board  
DATE: November 2, 2017  
RE: Sexual Assault and Harassment at University of Southern California

Sexual assault and harassment have no place at the University of Southern California, yet there is a pervasive and persistent problem surrounding sexual misconduct at our university. Graduate Student Government unequivocally stands in solidarity with survivors of sexual assault and harassment. We support campus-wide efforts to end rape culture and create policy change around sexual assault and harassment, including and especially the efforts being led by students at Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work and the Price Student Organizations Coalition.

On October 9, 2017, Graduate Student Government Senate unanimously passed the resolution “Reaffirming Support for Preventing and Responding to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence”. This resolution provides information on the extent of the problem at USC and specifies actions we believe the University must take to address the issue of sexual assault and harassment on our campus, and are open to feedback from our graduate student community. We recognize the October 29, 2017 statement by Provost Quick and his directive to form a student task force concerning misconduct, and we stand ready to partner with the University to tackle these problems. Graduate student representatives have long been advocating for change in this area to administrators, and we reaffirm our ongoing commitment to ending sexual violence within our community.

We believe our entire campus community must take swift and direct action to address misconduct, as outlined in our resolution. GSG is already working to organize focus groups and town halls to hear different perspectives on the various challenges that face graduate students in different programs, departments, and schools. We are working to ensure that we propose holistic solutions that meet the needs of, and extend protections to, as many students as possible, regardless of who commits the offense (other students, faculty, staff, PIs, etc.). If you are interested in joining our efforts, please contact our Vice President of Advocacy at gsgvpadv@usc.edu--other opportunities to get involved may be found [here](#). Creating an academic environment free of harassment is a top priority of GSG, and we echo Provost Quick’s sentiment that “USC can model the world as it should be, not just reflect the world as it is.” We look forward to your help in making USC a safer campus for all.