

University of Toronto Students' Union

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

For immediate release  
Friday September 11, 2015

### **RE: University of Toronto Campus Safety Alert Threats Against Women and Feminists**

On the afternoon of Thursday, September 10th, 2015, Vice-President and Provost Cheryl Regehr released a statement to University of Toronto students about receiving, "anonymous threats made on a public blog against the University of Toronto," as a result of which would lead to the heightened presence of campus police at the St. George, Scarborough and Mississauga campuses in the coming weeks.

This statement managed to completely neglect the mention of the explicit target of these threats as being women and feminists within the UofT community. Specifically, the threats made on the blog post encourage violence on faculty and students in the workplace— with specific mention of those working in Sociology and Women's Studies. As a result of removing the gendered context of these threats, women and trans students are not being kept accurately informed and cannot otherwise take the necessary steps in maintaining their safety and security.

Though Campus Police and Peel Regional Police will be heavily present on all three UofT campuses, students also have the fundamental right to take the necessary steps in ensuring they are not being placed in potentially harmful circumstances. In this way, if you feel that by attending your upcoming classes you will be compromising your personal safety, please email your instructor(s) and/or professor(s) informing them of your absence while also cc'ing [vpequity@utsu.ca](mailto:vpequity@utsu.ca).

Collectively, it is our moral responsibility to take the necessary steps in combatting misogyny and sexism within our communities and beyond. No gender has the right to exercise entitlement over another's agency, but often we see both macro and micro-level aggressions targeting women and trans folks manifest on our university campuses and beyond. We must personally

reflect, identity, challenge and call-out misogyny and sexism when we see it, so as not to allow for larger-scaled aggressions to manifest. We must also ensure that we are taking care of one another's mental, physical and emotional well-being at all times.

The UTSU further stands in solidarity with CUPE 3902, as they hold a women's caucus demonstration against gendered violence on this upcoming Monday, September 14th, 2015 on the St. George Campus.

If the UTSU can be of any assistance to you in any way, please do not hesitate to email [vpequity@utsu.ca](mailto:vpequity@utsu.ca) and/or call 416-978-4911 ext. 237.

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