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PRESS RELEASE

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RE: Our Turn National Student Action Plan to End Campus Sexual Violence

The University of Toronto Student Union is proud to support the *Our Turn National Student Action Plan to End Campus Sexual Violence*.

Our Turn, a national student movement to end sexual violence, has scored sexual assault policies from 14 schools across the country. Almost half of the fourteen campuses received failing grades. Ryerson University was marked the highest at 81 percent, but the University of Regina scored 48 percent, the lowest of all marked.

Three students from Carleton University created the Our Turn National Action Plan with the Student's Society of McGill University (SSMU) in direct response to a string of failures by universities and governments across the country to protect survivors and provide them with appropriate supports.

The scores, published in the Our Turn National Action Plan, show the lack of consistency amongst policies.

The policies are graded on a 100 point scale, using a set of 45 different criteria, that is divided into five sections: general (34 points), scope (17 points), composition of the review committee or decision-makers (8 points), formal and informal complaint processes (30 points) and education and prevention (11 points). Schools are awarded points based on a variety of criteria to receive a percentage and letter grade based on a 12 point scale.

Some of the issues identified through this evaluation include students being barred from making a complaint to the police and to their school concurrently; the ability of University Presidents to make unilateral exceptions to their sexual assault policies; and, the imposition of gag orders that silence survivors.

Our Turn has given the 2017 *University of Toronto Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment* a score of 66% and an overall grade of C.

We are joining twenty student unions from eight provinces across Canada, including student unions from the University of Toronto, University of British Columbia, McGill

University, Dalhousie University and the University of Ottawa. This action plan will be published by the Students' Society of McGill University later today.

The Our Turn National Action Plan lays out a list of programs that student unions can implement to prevent sexual violence, support survivors, and advocate for change on their campuses.

Each student union that signs on to the action plan will begin by striking their own Our Turn Taskforce made up of relevant stakeholders in their university community. The taskforce will decide how best to implement programming from the action plan by selecting and customizing options to suit the unique issues and needs on their campuses. The UTSU will strike its task force at the next regularly scheduled Board Meeting.

Yours in service,

The UTSU Executive

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