



For immediate release

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NUS Response to 'The Red Zone Report'

End Rape On Campus Australia's *'The Red Zone Report'* has shed light on the prevalence of sexual violence and hazing cultures at university residential colleges. The report includes details of 89 years worth of media coverage around misogyny, bullying and hazing at the colleges of the University of Sydney and other Australian universities.

The National Union of Students is appalled by the savage hazing activities which contradict the values and principles advertised by colleges. "It is appalling that even after 89 years of media coverage, these colleges still contain dangerous and barbaric traditions of hazing and abuse," said NUS Women's Officer, Kate Crossin.

With these colleges reported to cost students between \$584 and \$831 per week, many students are paying almost the entire cost of their degree to live on these colleges.

"Students are paying tens of thousands of dollars per year to a college that doesn't care about their safety" said Crossin. "These colleges are turning a blind eye, they have chosen to prioritise money, prestige and their own reputations over their students wellbeing."

"The illustrious list of college alumni undoubtedly knew about this toxic culture and perhaps even took part in these activities during their time at university" said Crossin. "It's disgusting to think how many of them might have had their misconduct and behaviours covered up so as to protect their own reputation."

The National Union of Students supports all recommendations made in The Red Zone Report and is calling for immediate government action on both sexual violence and hazing.

"State governments must intervene and take action against hazing rituals, and reconsider the place of colleges on campus that have allowed this culture to manifest", said NUS National President Mark Pace.

The National Union of Students and End Rape On Campus Australia have been working collaboratively, for years, on campaigns to end sexual violence on campuses. The most recent of these campaigns being *'The Red Zone'* and *'We Will Not Be Silent'*.

NUS would like to thank Nina Funnell, Anna Hush and Sharna Bremner on their tireless work in creating this report, as well as their ongoing advocacy for survivors. NUS would also like to recognise the brave students who have come forward and shared their experiences for this report. We believe you and we stand with you.

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