



March 1, 2018

Dear Fellow Members of the UCLA Panhellenic Association,

Tonight, as you may have heard, fraternity in-house events will resume after a seven week pause. The Interfraternity Council worked hard on rewriting their bylaws and risk management policies in an effort to create a safer environment at their in-house events. While I believe positive steps have been made towards mitigating risk, I still feel as though the issue of sexual violence at fraternity events has not been adequately addressed.

While at its root, sexual violence is a systemic issue and cannot be solved through one policy change or by one community alone, I continue to see a gap in the current conversation. Survivors of sexual violence usually experience complex residual emotions that are only intensified by having the circumstances surrounding their assault questioned. By failing to make sexual assault a main point of the conversation, I fear that there may be survivors who feel invalidated or unheard. That is why, as Panhellenic President, I feel it necessary to affirm that I stand in solidarity with all survivors of sexual violence.

Sexual violence continues to be a significant issue within our campus community. The UCLA Panhellenic community prioritizes the discussion surrounding the issue of sexual violence. Since Fall 2017, the Panhellenic chapter presidents have been meeting, and continue to meet frequently, to discuss the issue of sexual violence within our community. At these meetings, the chapter presidents have made decisions that prioritize the safety of all Panhellenic and UCLA community members at fraternity events. I would hope that they have shared those decisions with you. Through our shared values, the UCLA Panhellenic community is continually working towards creating an environment that supports survivors of sexual violence. Additionally, as a larger fraternity and sorority community, it is necessary that we continuously have conversations surrounding the issue of sexual violence on our campus and strive to make our community safer not just for Panhellenic women, but for everyone.

Whether or not you attend a fraternity event tonight, or in the future, your safety is one of my greatest concerns. If you ever find yourself in a situation that makes you feel unsafe I would encourage you to ask someone for help. If you or a friend is a survivor of sexual assault and are looking for support I would encourage you to reach out to me or consult university and/or community resources. The Panhellenic Association has always strived to be a community that supports women; as a member, I hope that you work to create that space for your fellow chapter members, Panhellenic sisters, and for the UCLA community at large.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emily Lewis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and "L".

Emily Lewis  
Panhellenic President