

SOUTHWEST PA SAYS

**NO MORE**

TOGETHER WE CAN END  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

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**“NO MORE Sexual Harassment in Schools” Video Campaign Debuts**

*Students have every right to feel safe and respected at school,  
but too many experience sexual harassment.*

The #MeToo movement has focused on sexual harassment in the workplace, but students say that sexual harassment from classmates, teachers and staff is a regular occurrence at school.

**WHAT:** FISA Foundation will introduce a new video series, NO MORE K12, featuring local high school students. These videos amplify the voices of girls, describing serious and pervasive sexual harassment they witness and experience at school. The series was filmed and produced by award-winning artist [Njaimeh Njie](#), photographer, filmmaker, and multimedia producer.

“Students rarely report sexual harassment because they do not believe that the adults at their schools will intervene to keep them safe. Sexual harassment affects girls’ ability to engage at school” says Kristy Trautmann, executive director of FISA Foundation and founder of Southwest PA Says No More. “When young people sexually harass others at school, particularly in the presence of adults, and there are no consequences for the behavior, we are teaching young men that they can get away with it and young women to accept it. That has to stop.”

In addition to previewing the video series, several prominent speakers will address the pervasiveness and impact of sexual harassment at school, the legal obligations of schools to provide a harassment free environment, and offer recommendations for next steps.

**SPEAKERS:** Kristy Trautmann, FISA Foundation; Kathi Elliott, Gwen’s Girls and convener of the Black Girls Equity Alliance; Alison Hall, Pittsburgh Action Against Rape; Susan Frietsche, Women’s Law Project, and local students.

**WHEN:** **Tuesday, May 8, 2018, 4:00 p.m.**

**WHERE:** Pittsburgh Action Against Rape (PAAR)  
81 South 19th Street  
Pittsburgh PA 15203

BACKGROUND: Statistics about sexual harassment in school:

- More than 20% of middle school age boys admit to having sexually harassed someone in the last three months.<sup>i</sup>
- More than half of 7th-12th grade girls have experienced some form of sexual harassment.<sup>ii</sup>
- Sexual harassment takes a toll on girls' education. Girls who are harassed may have trouble sleeping, not want to go to school, or change their route to get to school. They are less productive at school and may be absent more often.<sup>iii</sup>

**Note to editors & reporters:** Media are invited to attend. To arrange interviews or for more information, please contact Tina Richardson at 412-642-7700, [tina.richardson@elias-savior.com](mailto:tina.richardson@elias-savior.com). Files of the video series are available upon request.

**About Southwest PA Says No More:** Southwest PA Says NO MORE is a regional movement of individuals and organizations that are working to end domestic and sexual violence. FISA Foundation, in partnership with The Heinz Endowments and United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania, developed Southwest PA Says No More to showcase the important prevention-focused work happening in this region and to make it easier for individuals and organizations to take action to stop gender-based violence. More than 25 organizations across the region have partnered with Southwest PA Says No More, including Pittsburgh Action Against Rape, Women's Law Project, and Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

**About the Black Girls Equity Alliance:** Gwen's Girls founded the Black Girl Equity Alliance (BGEA), to eradicate inequities affecting Black Girls in Allegheny County. BGEA is comprised of individuals, community-based organizations, universities, and government entities that work with Black girls and acknowledge that their lives and experiences are unique within existing societal constructs. Its mission is accomplished by informing providers, communities, and systems about best practices for supporting Black girls and advocating for policy changes that will improve their lives.

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<sup>i</sup> unpublished data from the *Coaching Boys into Men: Middle School study*, provided on April 26, 2018. Abebe et al. *A cluster-randomized trial of a middle school gender violence prevention program: Design, rationale, and sample characteristics. Contemporary Clinical Trials.* 2017; 62: 11-20.

<sup>ii</sup> [Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment at School](#), AAUW, 2011.

<sup>iii</sup> [Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment at School](#), AAUW, 2011.