

To the UVA Community:

Over the last few weeks, stories of sexual assault on Grounds and the names of the perpetrators involved were shared by a Twitter account. These narratives are upsetting to read, and highlight the toxic culture of sexual assault at UVA, one which CORE was founded to combat. As an organization we support UVA Survivors' response and list of demands to the administration, though we also realize the need to reckon with our own history and contribution to this culture. Part of reckoning with our history is apologizing for the harm that it has caused.

CORE was the result of the merging of two separate groups: One in Four and One Less. Both of these CIOs were sexual assault prevention and peer education groups; One in Four (founded in 1999) was comprised of men, while One Less (founded in 2013) was comprised of women. Although One Less accepted applications from nonbinary and gender non-conforming folks, the group remained overwhelmingly cisgender throughout its existence. Throughout the 2000s and 2010s, both organizations had relatively exclusive selections processes, which included an application and an interview with current members. These recruitment processes were imperfect, causing new members to usually be pulled from current members' social circles. As a result, these groups were mostly homogenous in terms of race, sexuality, and gender expression, and tended to be biased towards members of Greek life, and therefore not representative. One in Four and One Less were known as social capital groups, with relatively fewer members truly committed to the organization and its work; both groups had some truly dedicated individuals, but others used their membership for social clout. This was a problem with both groups, but especially with One in Four. In an effort to screen potential new members for perpetrators, One in Four sent their list of applicants who made it to the interview round to One Less each year. While this practice was intended to cultivate a community committed to prevention work, the members of One Less were not privy to the identity of every perpetrator on Grounds. Given this history, our new, combined organization is working to confront the lack of transparency in the selections process as well as our limited recruitment.

It is incredibly important for us as an organization to acknowledge and reckon with our past. In the four years before One in Four disbanded, at least one perpetrator per year was removed from the group, at least one of whom lived on the Lawn. One in Four had a zero-tolerance policy, immediately removing perpetrators once misconduct was brought to the attention of the group's executive board -- which is what occurred with these cases. However, this removal process was not transparent to either One in Four members or the student body, causing confusion and mistrust within both. The removal process was in their constitution before 2018 but One in Four made it more explicit in the fall semester of that year. However, this zero-tolerance policy was not common knowledge within the student body, and consequently caused them to lose trust in One in Four. One in Four had no desire to hide these removals from its members or the student body, but rather wanted to respect the privacy and wishes of the survivors who stepped forward. While it is important to respect the survivors, the members of CORE also have a responsibility to hold ourselves and our organization accountable and to remain transparent about how members are accepted and removed. CORE has a constitutional

amendment for remediation and removal of perpetrators of sexual assault within our organization, and we are dedicated to upholding the values we teach.

As a group dedicated to the cause of sexual assault prevention and education, we understand the impact of this history on our relationship with the UVA community. Accordingly, we feel that we must be transparent about our past and our efforts to hold all perpetrators accountable in order to earn the trust of the UVA community. We also think it's important to apologize for any harm that has come from the actions of our previous organizations both directly and indirectly. We are committed to supporting all survivors and combatting sexual assault through advocacy and education here at the University. As a group, we are undertaking a review of our internal processes and our organization as a whole. Please know we are not silent during this time, restructuring is happening and there is more to come about this. To all of the survivors at UVA, we see you and we stand with you.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please email us at coreatuva@gmail.com or DM us on Instagram [@coreatuva](https://www.instagram.com/coreatuva).

Resources:

Shelter for Help in Emergency: (434)293-8509, shelterforhelpinemergency.org

Sexual Assault Resource Agency: 24-hr hotline (434)977-7273, saracville.org

RAINN: (800)656-HOPE (4673)

VA LGBTQ Partner Abuse and Sexual Assault Helpline: 1(866)356-6998 (telephone)

/1(804)793-9999 (text)

VA Family Violence and Sexual Assault Hotline: 1(800)838-8238 (telephone)/1(804)793-999 (text)

[UVA Maxine Platzer Lynn Women's Center](#)

[CAPS](#): if you need to reach CAPS call 434-243-5150

[Virginia Sexual & Domestic Violence Action Alliance](#)

[COVID-19 Resources for Survivors, Communities, and Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Resources](#)