



St Paul's College University of Sydney

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MEDIA STATEMENT FROM ST PAUL'S COLLEGE

11 November, 2009

St Paul's College is appalled by the contents of the Facebook site reported earlier this week in a Sydney newspaper as having been accessed by some of our residents. The College has immediately commenced a full investigation into the matter.

While we have not been able to view the offending material which was taken down as soon as it was noticed by Facebook, we understand the purpose of the site was to publicise the activities of a sporting team, and the name of the site and some of its content was highly offensive and degrading to women.

The College absolutely condemns anything that detracts from the dignity of women and takes this matter extremely seriously.

We will apply appropriate disciplinary procedures to those involved once our investigation is complete.

As part of our commitment to continuous learning and improvement, we will also be reviewing all College procedures relating to student attitudes and behavior and seek to work collaboratively with Sydney University and the other Colleges on campus to ensure a safe and respectful environment for female students.

At a meeting of the St Paul's College Students Club last evening the following resolution was passed unanimously:

"The Students' Club feels it necessary to:

A Express the respect of St Paul's College residents to women, and affirm the equality of women; and

B Strongly condemns the attitude to women of the Facebook page group 'Define Statutory' as it is reported in the SMH, and strongly condemns the attitude 'pro-rape and anti-consent' in any context, and

C Commits itself to this Agenda."

Note: Commitment to this Agenda will include actively participating in positive initiatives towards women, such as the White Ribbon campaign which calls on individuals, groups and communities to take action to end violence against women.

ENDS