



To: The University of St. Thomas Student Body

From: The General Council
Undergraduate Student Government

Resolution Number: F16.2

In reference to: Proclaiming official USG sponsorship for Start By Believing.

We, the Undergraduate Student Government, have passed the following recommendation, to be passed on to the student body.

The Undergraduate Student Government believes that it is of great importance for us to officially endorse the Start By Believing campaign through sponsorship and promotion of the campaign and attending Start By Believing events. 1 out of every 6 American women has been the victim of an attempted or completed rape in her lifetime (14.8% completed, 2.8% attempted) and 1 in 33 men have experienced an attempted or completed rape in their lifetime.¹

Reason 1: Start By Believing is a campaign started by End Violence Against Women

International. The purpose of this campaign is to change the way we as a society respond to victims of sexual assault. Per their website, "Because a friend or family member is typically the first person a victim confides in after an assault, each individual's personal reaction is the first step in a long path toward justice and healing."

Reason 2: Sexual assault is an ongoing problem across college campuses. Many of these victims/survivors do not go to the proper authorities until long after the assault out of fear of not being believed.

Reason 3: As the University of St. Thomas continues their efforts to prevent sexual assault, we, as representatives of the student body, should match their work in order to help our fellow students in need.

¹ National Institute of Justice & Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, Prevalence, Incidence and Consequences of Violence Against Women Survey (1998).

Reason 4: By officially sponsoring Start By Believing and promoting their events, we will further reduce the stigma behind sexual assault reporting so that more victims can get the help that they need.

Conclusion: We, the Undergraduate Student Government, will officially sponsor the Start By Believing campaign and assist the campaign through promotion of the campaign and attendance at events.



Mayzer Muhammad
Undergraduate Student Government President

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