



The Student Court of Stellenbosch University is dismayed and outraged at the murder and rape of fellow UCT student Uyinene Mrwetyana and murder of UWC student Jesse Hess, along with many other womxn across the country. This is a painful reminder that womxn are not safe in our country and experience a daily attack on their human dignity and fundamental rights.

We call on Stellenbosch University lecturers to make concessions for all students to attend the planned protests and gatherings, scheduled on Wednesday, 04 September and Thursday, 05 September as far as it is possible, where a number of our students will be joining in solidarity and for a call to action at the University of Cape Town and Parliament, respectively. In line with ensuring student wellness the protection of the rights of all, particularly womxn students, it is incumbent on leaders who cherish the values of empathy, integrity and accountability that such provision of concessions are made.

Furthermore, the Law Faculty has a particular role to play in cases such as these to lead the way and ensure the fulfilment and enjoyment of all rights. Student Court is encouraged that certain lecturers have made efforts to allow for their students to practice their section 17 right as per Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and attend the gathering without adversely affecting their academic commitments. A suggestion would be uploading onto SunLearn recordings of the lectures scheduled for the two days for those students who wish to participate in the planned protests and gatherings. The Student Court is further encouraged by communication from Dr Makhetha, Senior Director: Student Affairs which states, amongst other things, that the University has made available transport for students who wish to participate, and are able to participate, in light of class schedules in the gathering at UCT today and the gathering at Parliament on Thursday

Womxn walk in fear *everywhere* they go, even when they are locked up 'safely' at home. To live with this constant fear does not enable womxn to participate in a society where they are constantly thinking "am I next?". Womxn, by virtue of being a womxn cannot enjoy the same freedoms as men. Womxn face a daily affront to their personhood at the hands of men who

are perpetrators of gender based violence. Instead of reacting to the tragedy of gender-based violence by educating our womxn on how to behave and dress we should be educating our men on how to respect our womxn as equals. The patriarchal society we live in normalises misogyny and renders womxn as second-class citizens. South Africa has just exited the national Womxn's Month commemorations; it would be remiss of us to be silent and would render all of us accomplices to these heinous crimes. The brave womxn who organised the 1956 Womxn's March to the Union Buildings in Pretoria fought for the freedoms we all enjoy today.

It is indeed a time, such as this, which calls for Stellenbosch University to get into the ring and contribute in building a non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and truly free South Africa for all.