

Dear Middlebury community,

**We encourage you to wear all black tomorrow, October 5, in solidarity with survivors of sexual violence.**

The past week has taken a toll on many in our community. The supreme court senate hearings have once again sent a message that survivors do not need to be taken seriously. Our community must counter this message. We as SGA want to reaffirm that we believe survivors and must work as a community to lift up their stories and stand in solidarity with those affected by sexual violence. We recognize that being inundated in a news cycle that constantly brings up sexual violence can create an environment that forces survivors to relive their traumas, and is both emotionally and mentally draining. This emotional toll often goes unacknowledged, and we all must consider the potential impacts of how we discuss the hearings on those around us. We also recognize the disproportionate impact of sexual violence on certain populations as a result of transphobia, misogyny, racism, ableism, homophobia, classism, and other forms of oppression. We must refuse to perpetuate the silencing and exclusion of already marginalized voices in the conversation around sexual violence.

We want to remind the community, and especially those impacted by sexual violence and the events of the past week, that all reactions to sexual violence are valid, and that there are many resources available to you both on and off campus.

go/sexualviolenceinfo has a full list of resources, and we'd like to highlight Parton counseling, MiddSafe, and WomenSafe as excellent free and confidential resources. Additionally, Parton will be starting a support group this fall for survivors of sexual violence. If you would like to be part of this group, we encourage you to give Parton counseling a call.

For those wanting to learn more about institutional responses to sexual violence on this campus, there will be a Midd Works session on Title IX policy next Wednesday, 10/10, from 7-8:30 pm in the Mitchell Green Lounge. Come if you are interested in learning more, but please prioritize your emotional well being if this is not a moment for you to focus on policy.

**Again, as an act of solidarity with survivors of sexual violence on our campus and off of it, please wear all black tomorrow. We must continue to say #MiddToo.**

We will be in touch about future initiatives and we welcome all feedback and ideas for meaningful actions on this campus.

Sincerely,  
SGA