

Dear President Crutcher, Dean Genoni, Dean Boehman, Provost Legro, Vice President Bisese, and Professor Williamson,

We, [the undersigned Panhellenic women], are writing to express our **intent to abolish Panhellenic and Interfraternity (IFCPH) Greek Life at the University of Richmond**. The movement on social media, sparked by the Instagram account “[@abolishrichmondgreeklife](#)” and the subsequent [petition](#), has highlighted the continued existence of racism, classism, homophobia, sexual misconduct, and ableism embedded in these systems. We write in solidarity with the account, to show our support, and request that we work with, rather than against, the University to formulate a plan that will eventually end our chapters’ existence on our campus. **We must have administrative support in this movement for abolition**, for reasons outlined below.

IFC and Panhellenic organizations are not in the position to reform. Leadership across Panhellenic has worked to make our sororities more inclusive over the years; Recruitment Chairs have worked to meaningfully change the demographics of our chapters, while Finance Chairs have [tried to mitigate the costs](#) of sisterhood. However, national rules for Recruitment and cost of affiliation are rigid barriers to diverse membership. Following the rules of these national organizations does not work for our campus because they contradict our values of diversity and inclusivity. Additionally, the historic white supremacy in Greek Life, documented in the [university’s own yearbooks](#), makes membership undesirable to many students of color. Greek Life was built upon racism and elitism, which are now regarded as “traditions” to keep Greek Life “sacred.” Thus, we cannot reform a system that is national and was created to oppress people. We must enact change for the good of our campus, which requires interrogation of the history of the city of Richmond, our campus culture, and the foundations of Greek Life. While we cannot rectify the past harm Greek Life has inflicted, abolition can prevent it from continuing to harm people on our campus.

We also want to clearly state that this call for abolition does not include the NPHC sororities or fraternities in our community. These organizations were historically created to uplift the voices that white Greek Life continues to oppress. The University must take caution to not include the abolition of NPHC organizations in this conversation, and, more importantly, invest more resources into these organizations. Further, when we reference “Greek Life” below, we are referring only to IFCPH Greek Life and are not attempting to generalize the experiences of NPHC members with those of IFCPH members.

Members of IFCPH chapters, including ourselves, have reaped benefits and privilege from these organizations on campus and beyond, but we must take accountability for our enormous negative impact. We aim to end our chapters’ contribution to the systemic segregation and social stratification on campus. Outlined below are some of the numerous reasons that have compelled us to call for the **abolishment** of Panhellenic and IFC organizations:

- The University of Richmond is consistently ranked as one of the most segregated schools in the country by the [Princeton Review](#). This segregation is directly related to Greek Life. The Greek system's domination of our campus contributes significantly to segregation in classrooms, seating in the Dining Hall, tabling in Tyler Haynes Commons, and even extends beyond our physical campus, enabling racially, sexuality, and gender-motivated discrimination and exclusion from activities and parties, [which has been documented publicly over the years](#). In this system, students are bound together through expensive, exclusive organizations with members being predominantly white students from [affluent backgrounds](#). This, combined with Greek Life's domination of social life and connections on campus, creates systemic advantages for white and otherwise privileged students, while further disadvantaging those who are not affiliated, either by choice or discrimination. As a result, we believe that the University's statements of inclusion and diversity *cannot* align with the presence of Greek Life on our campus.
- It is also important to note the systemic exclusion for those in the LGBTQIA+ community. In the recruitment process, women are explicitly and repeatedly told not to discuss certain topics including, but not limited to: "bucks, the bible, and boys". The very nature of these rules emphasizes the hetero- and cis-normative structure of Panhellenic organizations, even going so far as [prohibiting our chapters](#) from accepting non-binary students as members. This discrimination is further amplified in IFC organizations, with men who identify within the LGBTQIA+ community [hiding their sexuality](#) for fear of disapproval, ridicule, and physical or emotional harm.
- [Hazing in IFC and Panhellenic organizations](#) on our campus is uncontrollable, harms students within our community, and is deeply embedded in the organizations. Even more troubling, Greek Life provides private opportunities for upperclassmen to physically and mentally abuse underclassmen with no lasting consequences for their actions. We are repeatedly disgusted by the hazing in our community, but are hardly ever surprised. Further, efforts to reduce hazing have continually proved fruitless, as it [continues to persist](#) despite decades of attempted regulation.
- Lastly, there is a rampant issue of sexual assault, harassment, and r*pe perpetuated through the party culture and misogynistic nature of Greek Life. Both affiliated and unaffiliated students are [survivors of sexual violence at the hands of IFC men](#). The administration and Greek community can no longer ignore the physical violence and criminal actions perpetrated by our Greek peers. We have been [drugged](#), [sexually assaulted](#), [r*ped](#). We demand *all students* receive justice by abolishing the institutions that facilitate sexual violence and allow IFC men to get away with these criminal acts.

Following past racist, antisemitic, and sexist incidents on campus, we have received emails from administration addressing the issues at hand. However, the administration continually fails to investigate what enabled racism, antisemitism, sexism, and homophobia on our campus, in our student life, or in our academic spaces. There has been no official discussion of the segregated, exclusive social hierarchy and

Greek Life's perpetuation of that social structure. Students have been, and continue to be, left to discover these realities themselves. As an institution that claims to value diversity, inclusion, and the thriving and belonging of all students, we feel these values are not being upheld by our actions.

Abolishing Greek Life is the responsibility of all IFCPH members and University administration. While mass disaffiliation and disbanding our chapters is an option, administrative support is vital to our goal of long-lasting abolition, due to the aforementioned [issues with national organizations](#). **You must, at least, publicly commit to stop any national organization that wishes to recruit for a chapter that has willingly disbanded through mass disaffiliation.** It is wrong that a group of 18 to 22-year-old women can make a decision for the good of their community, only for it to be undone by the decisions of national organizations' employees who do not belong to this campus. Further, we want to direct your attention to [a letter](#) written by women of color in our community that calls on affiliated members to disaffiliate from their IFCPH organizations. We want to express our utmost support for these women and this call to action and urge you to listen to their voices, acknowledge their experiences, and validate their demands.

We recognize that this change on our campus will not happen immediately and will require students and administrators to work together. By following the lead of colleges and universities that have successfully abolished IFCPH, we believe that this ban will make Richmond a safer and better community. **Thus, we propose the attached framework.** We want suggestions and feedback from administrators and other student organizations on the best way to remove IFCPH Greek Life - and its resulting segregation, racism, homophobia, ableism, sexism, antisemitism, and transphobia - from our campus community. Through this plan and collaboration with more students, we can create an inclusive and diverse social life at the University of Richmond.

We can not fix something that is not broken. The IFCPH Greek system was made to be this way: exclusionary, classist, and predominately white. We are now asking you, those who have observed this system for far longer than any of us, to take action.

Sincerely,

Maggie Castelli, former Panhellenic President, disaffiliating from Pi Beta Phi Fraternity, Class of 2021

Emma Roberts, disaffiliated VP of Finance, Delta Delta Delta Sorority, Class of 2021*

Presley Richardson, disaffiliated member of Kappa Delta Sorority, Class of 2021*

Magnolia Stuart, disaffiliated member of Delta Gamma Fraternity, Class of 2022*

Erin Watton, disaffiliated VP of Public Relations, Delta Delta Delta Sorority, Class of 2021*

Ciara Mullen, disaffiliated VP of Membership, Delta Delta Delta Sorority, Class of 2021*

Kendall Crispin, disaffiliated VP of Membership, Delta Gamma Fraternity, Class of 2021*

Sarah Houle, disaffiliated member of Delta Gamma Fraternity, Class of 2022*

Emma Hoholik, former Panhellenic VP of Recruitment, disaffiliated member of Delta Gamma Fraternity, Class of 2021*

Rowan Cai, disaffiliated member of Delta Gamma Fraternity, Class of 2021*

Nora Apt, disaffiliated VP of Chapter Development, Delta Delta Delta Sorority, Class of 2021*

Miroslava Martinez, disaffiliated VP of Finance, Kappa Delta Sorority, Class of 2022*

Hannah Lee, disaffiliated VP of Standards, Kappa Delta Sorority, Class of 2021*

Claire Paulhac, disaffiliated VP of Public Relations, Kappa Delta Sorority, Class of 2021*

Julia Feron, disaffiliated VP of Member Education, Kappa Delta Sorority, Class of 2021*

Kennedy Aldrich, disaffiliated VP of Membership, Kappa Delta Sorority, Class of 2021*

Lucia Sweeney, disaffiliated VP of Operations, Kappa Delta Sorority, Class of 2022*

Siobhan Kelly, disaffiliated VP of Communications, Delta Gamma Fraternity, Class of 2021*

Mia Dini, disaffiliated VP of Programming, Delta Gamma Fraternity, Class of 2022*

Ava Cummings, VP of Member Experience, disaffiliating from Pi Beta Phi Fraternity, Class of 2021

Noella Park, Director of Recruitment Events, Pi Beta Phi Fraternity, Class of 2021

Eliza Hancock, disaffiliated Panhellenic Delegate, Delta Gamma Fraternity, Class of 2021*

Kayla Saltzman, disaffiliated member of Kappa Delta Sorority, Class of 2021*

Khushi Basnyat, disaffiliating from Pi Beta Phi Fraternity, Class of 2023

Claire Silverman, disaffiliating from Delta Gamma Fraternity, Class of 2023

Katie Wilson, disaffiliating from Delta Gamma Fraternity, Class of 2022

Morgan Deckert, disaffiliated member of Delta Gamma Fraternity, Class of 2022

Sophia Frazier, disaffiliated member of Kappa Delta Sorority, Class of 2021*

Sophia Hardten, disaffiliating from Kappa Delta Sorority, Class of 2022

Corinne Joss, disaffiliated member of Kappa Delta Sorority, Class of 2022*

Erin Hagemann, disaffiliated member of Kappa Delta Sorority, Class of 2021*

Sophia McWilliams, disaffiliated member of Kappa Delta Sorority, Class of 2022*

Olivia Podber, disaffiliating from Kappa Delta Sorority, Class of 2022

Annalise Bellinger, disaffiliating from Delta Delta Delta Sorority, Class of 2021*

Kathrina Durante, disaffiliated member of Delta Delta Delta Sorority, Class of 2023*

Jessica Alt, disaffiliated member of Delta Delta Delta Sorority, Class of 2022*

Annette Giardino, disaffiliated member of Delta Gamma Fraternity, Class of 2021*

Liv Clayton, disaffiliated member of Delta Gamma Fraternity, Class of 2023*

Maeve McCormick, disaffiliating from Delta Delta Delta Sorority, Class of 2022

Emily Wass, disaffiliated member of Delta Gamma Fraternity, Class of 2021*

Lindsey Barnard, disaffiliating from Delta Delta Delta Sorority, Class of 2022

Maggie Larkin, disaffiliated member of Kappa Delta Sorority, Class of 2022*

Madison Richard, disaffiliating from Delta Delta Delta Sorority, Class of 2022

Meredith Johnson, disaffiliated member of Delta Delta Delta Sorority, Class of 2022*

Alyssa Zambri, disaffiliating from Delta Delta Delta Sorority, Class of 2023

Elizabeth Hussin, disaffiliated member of Delta Delta Delta Sorority, Class of 2021*

Meredith Moran, disaffiliating from Delta Delta Delta Sorority, Class of 2022
Taylor Grindle, disaffiliated member of Delta Delta Delta Sorority, Class of 2022*
Hadley Beckstrand, disaffiliated member of Delta Delta Delta Sorority, Class of 2022*
Deirdre McLaughlin, disaffiliating from Delta Delta Delta Sorority, Class of 2022
Katherine Pollock, disaffiliating from Delta Delta Delta Sorority, Class of 2022
Rose Mascarenhas, disaffiliated member of Delta Delta Delta Sorority, Class of 2022*
Emma Kenna, disaffiliating from Delta Delta Delta Sorority, Class of 2021
Annika Kuruvilla, disaffiliating from Delta Delta Delta Sorority, Class of 2022
Marisa Daughterty, disaffiliated member of Delta Gamma Fraternity, Class of 2022*
Molly Kate Kreider, disaffiliated member of Delta Gamma Fraternity, Class of 2022*
Lauren Hagemeister, disaffiliated member of Delta Gamma Fraternity, Class of 2022*
Diana Torralba, disaffiliated member of Delta Gamma Fraternity, Class of 2022*
Anna Fortunato, disaffiliating from Delta Gamma Fraternity, Class of 2023
Emily Mendelson, disaffiliated member of Delta Gamma Fraternity, Class of 2022*
Sophie Borchart, disaffiliating from Pi Beta Phi Fraternity, Class of 2021
Eva Kemal, disaffiliating from Pi Beta Phi Fraternity, Class of 2022
Zena Abro, disaffiliating from Pi Beta Phi Fraternity, Class of 2022
Lynessa Yang, disaffiliated member of Delta Gamma Fraternity, Class of 2021*
Kate Dulac, disaffiliated member of Delta Delta Delta Sorority, Class of 2021*
Annie Wang, disaffiliated member of Delta Gamma Fraternity, Class of 2022*
Sarah Wagner, disaffiliated member of Delta Gamma Fraternity, Class of 2022*
Alyssa Shlapak, disaffiliating from Pi Beta Phi Fraternity, Class of 2021
London Nemmers, disaffiliating from Kappa Delta Sorority, Class of 2023
Grace Kiernan, disaffiliating from Delta Delta Delta Sorority, Class of 2021
Sabrina Munro, disaffiliating from Pi Beta Phi Fraternity, Class of 2022
Meghan Murphy, disaffiliated member of Kappa Delta Sorority, Class of 2021*
Anna Mann, disaffiliated member of Kappa Delta Sorority, Class of 2021*
Jean Azar-Tanguay, disaffiliating from Delta Gamma Fraternity, Class of 2023
Anna Marston, disaffiliating from Pi Beta Phi Fraternity, Class of 2022
Anna Thompson, disaffiliating from Delta Delta Delta Sorority, Class of 2022
Jessica Garofalo, disaffiliated member of Delta Gamma Fraternity, Class of 2022*
Victoria Zmuda, disaffiliated member of Kappa Delta Sorority, Class of 2021*
Juliana Dreyfuss, disaffiliating from Delta Delta Delta Sorority, Class of 2021
Emily Marie Breaux, disaffiliated member of Delta Gamma Fraternity, Class of 2021*
Corrine Manderino, disaffiliated member of Delta Gamma Fraternity, Class of 2023*
Maddie Gutierrez, disaffiliated member of Kappa Delta Sorority, Class of 2021*
Julia Mason, disaffiliating from Delta Delta Delta Sorority, Class of 2022
Isabella Dumitrescu, disaffiliating from Delta Delta Delta Sorority, Class of 2021
Shruti Police, disaffiliated member of Delta Gamma Fraternity, Class of 2021*

Jessica Mahoney, disaffiliating from Delta Delta Delta Sorority, Class of 2021
Emma Alvarez, disaffiliating from Delta Delta Delta Sorority, Class of 2021
Lili Mitchell, disaffiliating from Delta Gamma Fraternity, Class of 2021
Sophie Peltzer, disaffiliating from Delta Gamma Fraternity, Class of 2023
Gwynna Ryan, disaffiliated member of Delta Gamma Fraternity, Class of 2021*
Rebecca Levitt, disaffiliated member of Delta Delta Delta Sorority, Class of 2021*
Annabelle Chung, disaffiliated member of Delta Gamma Fraternity, Class of 2021*
Reghan Ruf, disaffiliated member of Delta Gamma Fraternity, Class of 2021
Katherine Peterson, disaffiliating from Pi Beta Phi Fraternity, Class of 2021
Keeley Harris, disaffiliating from Pi Beta Phi Fraternity, Class of 2021
Alisa Fominykh, disaffiliated from Kappa Delta Sorority, Class of 2023*
Bianca Wieck, disaffiliated from Kappa Delta Sorority, Class of 2021*
Susanna Getis, disaffiliating from Pi Beta Phi Fraternity, Class of 2022
Ally Marrinan, disaffiliated member of Pi Beta Phi Fraternity, Class of 2021*
Ushna Arshad Khan, disaffiliated member of Kappa Delta Sorority, Class of 2022*
Anonymous, disaffiliated member of Kappa Delta Sorority, Class of 2022*
Anonymous, disaffiliating from Pi Beta Phi Fraternity, Class of 2023
Anonymous, disaffiliated member of Delta Gamma Fraternity, Class of 2022
Anonymous, disaffiliating from Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority, Class of 2022
Lindsey Paul, disaffiliated member of Delta Gamma Fraternity, Class of 2020
Allyson Charleston, disaffiliated member of Delta Delta Delta Sorority, Class of 2020
Ana Deutsch, disaffiliated member of Delta Gamma Fraternity, Class of 2020
Lillian Sullivan, disaffiliated member of Pi Beta Phi Fraternity, Class of 2020
Eliana Fleischer, disaffiliated member of Pi Beta Phi Fraternity, Class of 2020
Lauren O'Brien, graduated member of Delta Gamma Fraternity, Class of 2020
Alexis Aviles, graduated member of Delta Gamma Fraternity, Class of 2020
Maria Seitz, graduated member of Delta Gamma Fraternity, Class of 2020
Claire Powell, graduated member of Pi Beta Phi Fraternity, Class of 2020
Sarah Pencak, graduated member of Pi Beta Phi Fraternity, Class of 2020

*disaffiliated Summer 2020