

# #YESALLWOMEN

## Women unite on Twitter against the perceived rape culture.

BY SOPHIE NEDELCO  
REPORTER

In response to the video uploaded by Elliot Rodger last May, women nationally and internationally rallied on Twitter to advocate for women's rights by using the hashtag, "#YesAllWomen."

Rodger, 22, targeted University of California, Santa Barbara students in a spree killing six people, injuring 13 others, then committing suicide. Outlined in a manifesto on YouTube, Rodger's retribution stems from his hatred of women and feeling like an inferior man.

Exploding overnight after the tragic shootings and uploaded video, the tweets show no signs of diminishing. #YesAllWomen unites grandmothers, mothers and daughters sharing personal experiences and fears with the online community, revealing a mentality of misogyny that women face daily.

"I definitely was someone who didn't think of gender equality as a problem, but I think when you really examine how society works and the double standards that are in place for women [as opposed to] men you can really see how bad it is," sophomore **Maddi McMaster** said.

Determined to draw the voices speaking out under a unified hashtag, two young women Kaye and Suey created #YesAllWomen. Starting as a manageable message to stir close friends and fellow activists, the original tweet grew into an urging for women from across the country to speak out.

"I was honored. And touched. I didn't know that so many women would be so brave and share such heart-wrenching stories," Kaye said.

The testimonies and statistics tweeted focus on condemning the unsettling rape culture in the United States. Rape culture is specified as linking sexual violence with the values and attitudes of a culture. Rape culture is blaming the victim while normalizing the violence.

"Women are told that they have to dress a certain way, to act a certain way to be treated a certain way when really they should be respected

at all times," McMaster said.

While many would dismiss rape culture and gender inequality as an opinion of uncompromising feminists, the statistics are real. Rape culture exists. According to the Rape Abuse and Incest National Network, ninety-seven percent of rapists never spend a day in jail, and one out of every six American women will be sexually assaulted at one point in her life.

"#YesAllWomen because even a taped confession admitting to raping me wasn't enough to put him in jail," @jessismiles said.

#YesAllWomen and the vision of changing rape culture is upheld by third wave feminists. Like first and second wave feminism, third wave feminists look to women to accomplish change and acquire equality. They empower women to

rise in their own cultures and be strong in their own individuality.

The #YesAllWomen campaign is not alone in its mission. One organization,

Force: Upsetting Rape Culture, is currently operating "The Monument Project," a cross-country project that aims to provide rape victims a public healing space. The final goal is for abuse survivors to share their stories on a quilt piece, ultimately to be sewn into a larger quilt blanketing over a mile of the National Mall. From birds-eye view, the squares will read "Not Alone."

Force: Upsetting Rape Culture is an example of third wave feminists standing up for themselves in the cultures they live in. But, while women are encouraged to tell their stories, #YesAllWomen focuses on condemning victimization.

"There are women speaking out about this, but it is never a woman's fault when she is assaulted or raped or abused," Kaye said.

#YesAllWomen isn't a complaint forum. It's women fighting what society has turned them into. According to many of the tweets, the best way to change rape culture is to change the way young boys are taught to regard women.

"Instead of just telling the man not to do this, [tell them] to treat women as people because it's basic human rights," junior **Alyssa Moncure** said.

**"#YesAllWomen because even a taped confession admitting to raping me wasn't enough to put him in jail."  
-@jessismiles**

## MEET THE... 5 Transfer Students

### 1 LIA CARTER senior

"Sion is completely polar opposite of my other school. It's a lot of Midwestern hospitality. Southern hospitality is a lie."



PHOTOS BY SYDNEY DANIELS

### 2 LISBETH JUAREZ-LOPEZ junior

"In classrooms, it's more quiet and less rowdy. The atmosphere here feels like a second home."



### 3 JOSIE WECK sophomore

"In New Mexico, I was never new and I thought it would be hard, but it's really easy. The all girls thing hasn't really made a difference. It's been a good transition."



### 4 MIA TEBBE sophomore

"I don't notice at all that there's no guys. It's a good environment. I feel happier here, like I belong."



### 5 HALEY WEST sophomore

"Coming to school here makes a big difference in everything you do. Everyone is welcoming and nice. The homework is a lot more intense and you're learning harder stuff."



## BY THE NUMBERS: EBOLA OUTBREAK

- Symptoms appear 2-21 days after exposure
- Ebola is fatal in 55-60% of cases
- More than 2,500 deaths (as of Sept. 22)



(Photo by MCT Campus)

- Deadliest outbreak to date
  - Spreads through bodily fluids, contaminated objects & infected animals
  - 1st outbreak started in West Africa
- Information from the CDC