

STATEMENT REGARDING OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY'S FIRING OF SOCIAL WORK PROFESSOR RENE OLATÉ

The Ohio Survivor Legal Assistance Clinic and the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence support the just and appropriate decision by the University to terminate the employment of Social Work professor Rene Olaté.

OSU's Sexual Misconduct and Faculty Conduct Policies are intended to protect the educational rights and safety of its students and campus. In this case, The Office of Institutional Equity, the Department of Social Work, and the Board of Trustees appropriately applied applicable standards and protocols to reach the appropriate result.

Sexual Harassment is a form of sexual violence. When perpetrated by faculty members in a position of power, the difficulty to report the violence is exacerbated. In a differential power dynamic, there is often no capacity to voluntarily consent to sexual conduct. Survivors often experience the fear of academic repercussions, retaliation, and revictimization.

We recognize and commend the courage and the bravery demonstrated by the survivors in sharing their experiences. It is our hope that this result perpetrates necessary change in culture and awareness on Ohio's campuses. University officials, staff, and students must be properly trained in the dynamics of sexual violence in order to recognize, prevent, and adequately support those subjected to sexual violence.

The Ohio Survivors Legal Assistance Clinic is a project of OAESV, that provides direct representation to survivors of campus sexual assault in Title IX and related matters. OSLAC is also available to provide legal advice and representation in other various legal matters faced by survivors. Contact OSLAC at 216-407-4315 for more information.

IN COMMUNITY,

Ohio Survivors Legal Assistance Clinic
A Project of Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence



If you are in need of crisis support, please contact the rape crisis center in your community, or call the Ohio Sexual Violence Helpline at 844-OHIO-HELP.

