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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALCASA Issues Statement on Sports Culture as an Opportunity to Prevent Sexual Violence

Audio footage of comments made in 2005 by now Presidential candidate and Republican nominee Donald Trump was released last Friday, which has sparked a national conversation about sexual assault and rape culture. His comments have been condemned in the media, by politicians, and, more broadly, the public.

The California Coalition Against Sexual Assault recognizes this moment as a pivotal opportunity to elevate sports culture as a platform to prevent sexual assault. No longer can we accept “locker room talk” as an excuse to normalize and perpetuate rape culture.

With its research partner, the Center on Gender Equity and Health of the University of California, San Diego, CALCASA’s latest national collaborative, Raliance, has identified that sports culture has the opportunity to shape and transmit values and, thus, can be used as a means to dismantle rape culture and prevent sexual violence. The sports system and structure are well positioned to instill attitudes of respect for women and intolerance of sexual violence to challenge the cultural norms that accept sexual violence in American society.

“We see that everyone, from professional athletes to elected officials, has a role to interrupt and not perpetuate the attitudes that contribute to a culture that considers rape inevitable and makes it acceptable,” said Sandra Henriquez, Executive Director of the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault.

To describe and dismiss comments such as these as simply “locker room talk” diminishes the severity of the issues of sexual assault and rape culture and demonstrates the need for a change in discourse so that such language is not tolerated in our society, locker rooms or otherwise.

For more information about this research, please view the [Raliance policy brief](#).

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CALCASA is the only statewide organization in California whose sole purpose is to promote public policy, advocacy, training and technical assistance on the issue of sexual assault. CALCASA convenes statewide and national training conferences and its primary membership is composed of the 84 rape crisis centers and rape prevention programs in CA. Its affiliate membership is comprised of local, statewide and national organizations, businesses, and individuals committed to the elimination of sexual violence. For more information, visit www.calcasa.org.

Raliance is a collaborative initiative dedicated to ending sexual violence in one generation. As the go-to resource for policymakers, advocates, service providers, prevention practitioners and the media, Raliance boldly and innovatively advances the field nationally. Raliance is comprised of three national sexual violence prevention organizations – the [National Sexual Violence Resource Center \(NSVRC\)](#), the [California Coalition Against Sexual Assault \(CALCASA\)-PreventConnect](#) and the [National Alliance to End Sexual Violence \(NAESV\)](#) - with over 70 years of anti sexual violence activism. Raliance – be the generation that ends sexual violence.

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