

One Love leader: Syracuse lacrosse players set an example in rebelling against Chase Scanlan's return

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Syracuse attack Stephen Rehfluss (29) and midfielder Tucker Dordevic (23) are two of the Orange players who posted a message on Instagram promising to raise awareness of the fight against domestic violence. (Dennis Nett | dnett@syracuse.com)

By [Lindsay Kramer | lkramer@syracuse.com](mailto:lkramer@syracuse.com)

Syracuse, N.Y. — Katie Hood watched last week as Syracuse University and its lacrosse team grappled with a domestic violence investigation.

It took her back nearly 11 years to the day a Virginia women's lacrosse player was killed by her boyfriend, a lacrosse player, too. The message in 2021: We're making progress, but still have a ways to go.

Hood is the CEO of the One Love Foundation, a group formed after the murder of Yeardeley Love in 2010 by her boyfriend, a Virginia lacrosse player.

Hood was heartened from afar by the response of the Syracuse players who took a stand against their teammate, Chase Scanlan, and in support of domestic violence victims.

She felt they showed courage in threatening to walk out of practice instead of practicing with Scanlan, who is at the center of a domestic violence investigation. Her group sent a supportive message to the players last weekend after rebellion came to light.

Since then, dozens of SU players have [posted a statement on Instagram](#) promising to raise awareness in the fight against domestic violence and shared a link to donate to the One Love Foundation. It's a small but important step in the push for overall change, Hood said.

"This story is getting attention, but three women a day will be killed by their partners in this country. And those stories don't all necessarily get attention," Hood said. "So I have a very keen awareness that this issue is big and it's everywhere."

The issue has hovered over the SU program since Scanlan was [suspended from the team](#) two weeks ago for what head coach John Desko later said was "violating team rules and expectations."

Scanlan was involved in what [campus police labeled a domestic incident](#) a day before he was suspended by the team, according to law enforcement sources and people familiar with the case. No one has been charged in the matter and no specific allegation has surfaced publicly, though the [case is still under investigation](#).

Scanlan has since been reinstated to the team but last week practiced alone because his teammates [refused to take the field with him](#). Scanlan did not travel for SU's previous two games at Virginia and Notre Dame, and his playing status remains murky for Friday's game against Robert Morris in the Carrier Dome.

"The first thing that comes to mind is I felt like, honestly, I thought it's working," Hood said of her reaction to the walkout. "I think there's such an important role for men in this conversation. Men as friends, men as allies, men as folks who speak up."

“And so I think I was struck by that, and the courage that it takes to do that. Not knowing any of these guys myself, these things are not easy to do, and I found it courageous.”

Messages were left for SU players for comment about the social media posts supporting One Love, but none were returned.

One Love tracked the developments at Syracuse over the past couple of weeks and posted a statement on Instagram while the team was preparing to suit up at Notre Dame. One Love called the players’ actions “exactly what this world needs.”

“One Love stands with members of the Syracuse men’s lacrosse team who are protesting reinstatement of their teammate following allegations of abuse and violence,” it read. “Their courage and willingness to stand for what’s right are inspiring and exactly what this world needs. Their actions give us hope that when people know the signs of an unhealthy relationship they will stand up, step in, and help ensure a dangerous situation doesn’t become a tragedy.”

The One Love Foundation was founded shortly after Yeardley Love’s death. Love was found dead in her apartment, and her ex-boyfriend, UVA men’s lacrosse player George Huguely, was arrested and found guilty of Love’s murder.

During his trial, investigators revealed several other instances of domestic violence in the relationship. The case drew national attention and prompted calls for increased domestic violence vigilance.

The One Love organization hired staffers in 2014 and now has 41 employees, five regional offices and hundreds of volunteers across the country. The core of its mission is to help people recognize the signs of healthy and unhealthy relationships and get help for domestic violence victims.

“When I saw those posts, I think the No. 1 thing I thought was they see us as a trusted resource,” Hood said of Syracuse’s players. “And I really liked the language they used around what they play for now and that they’re in the process of continuously learning.”

Hood said when the organization began, its main target for workshops and seminars were colleges. She said One Love came to Syracuse for an across-the-board athletic department presentation in 2016. Since then, One Love has begun directing its efforts toward high school and middle school audiences to get their messages out to a younger group.

Hood said she has not heard from anyone at SU since the Scanlan incident but stressed the organization’s resources always remain available to the school and other colleges.

“This is an issue, domestic violence, that thrives in the dark. People are ashamed,” she said. “They don’t know how to talk about it. We think it’s not our business. And, honestly, people die as a result. I’m not saying anything about this specific case. But the point is,

we want to empower a whole generation to when they see something, say something and stand up for each other.”

How to reach One Love

[Contact the organization](#)

How to get help for yourself or someone else

Call:

- Vera House’s hotline at (315) 468-3260
- National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233
- National Sexual Assault Hotline at 1-800-656-4673
- 211

Contact Lindsay Kramer anytime: [Email](#) | [Twitter](#)

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