Dear Amy and Kirby,

I am writing to give you a year-end update on the campus sexual assault project.

1. Mother Jones is onboard

We have signed an agreement with Mother Jones--they have put an investigative reporter on the campus sexual assault beat and will produce an in-depth piece this spring. The agreement requires they give us a heads up so we can create more content and PR around their work.

2. Bitch Media Project Editor is onboard

We have signed an agreement with Bitch Media to manage the "drumbeat" part of this project. They have named as project editor Lisa Factora-Borchers. Lisa is the Editorial Director at Bitch Media, a Filipina American writer, poet, and editor of *Dear Sister: Letters from Survivors of Sexual Violence (AK Press, 2014).* What this means is that Bitch will be making campus sexual assault stories a priority for their 2018 storytelling.

3. Collaborative Group is forming

One goal of the project is to include a significant number of outlets in order to create a drumbeat of voices that goes beyond any one niche or audience. We have begun outreach to a number of outlets, but most told us they would prefer to be contacted in early January and also that they would prefer that a number of project elements, like the resource guide, editorial direction, and logistics be in place before they sign on. So we are working on those elements.

4. Resource Guide Writer Hiring

Bitch Media is in the interview process now for someone to create the resource guide, which will become the bible for all the collaborative partners of the project. We would love for the person hired to be able to conduct a short interview with both of you, since you two are the experts in campus sexual assault.

4. Collaborative Logistics

Bitch Project Manager Julie Falk along with Editor Lisa are currently assessing a variety of collaboration tools, including Project Facet (recently written up [here](http://www.niemanlab.org/2017/12/things-get-real/" \t "_blank)).

5. Look and Feel

We are working with Peace is Loud to develop a "brand identity" for the project. We will be brainstorming Dec 21 on a name, and plan to have a project name and project logo by January 15.

**Next Steps**

* Jo Ellen, Julie and Lisa to develop structure and logistics for participating collaborative outlets;
* Jo Ellen to use that work to reach out to potential collaborative outlets, with a goal of getting at least 5 onboard (with written agreements) by January 31.
* Meanwhile, Bitch to publish first piece in the project in January--this will be a feature piece that will signal the project has begun.
* IF possible, the resource guide writer would interview you in early January.
* Finally, we believe this project will really have a lot of impact, which we’d like to measure. I’m exploring how to fund a rigorous look at impact for this project and am all ears if you have any ideas.

We are so excited about this project, and the timing, given the #metoo meme, is right.

Here's to a much better new year!