



A response to false charges against a PSL member and our Philadelphia branch

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Below are two statements responding to accusations circulating online against the PSL and its members in Philadelphia. The first 'A response to the accusations' is by Mecca Bullock and the second statement that follows 'A response to false charges against a PSL member and our Philadelphia branch' is by elected women leaders of the PSL.

Statement 1: 'A response to the accusations'

by **Mecca Bullock** from the Philadelphia branch of PSL

Starting July of this summer, a slew of defamatory accusations have been made by [REDACTED] ("Griselda Aclarado"), the ex-partner of Steven Powers, about myself and our developing relationship. Since the initial contact from [REDACTED] after their separation, her harassment and accusations against me have lasted for the past five months and I feel the need to dispel some of the blatant lies that are being said about me on social media. The following accusations are some of the more offensive claims but to be honest the majority of what [REDACTED] has said about me has been horrific.

These last few months I have been called out of my name on almost every major social media platform. Since these accusations were made [REDACTED] has spared no anti-Black, whorephobic or classist insult, ranging from "broad street girl", "commie c*m slut", "bitch" calling other Black comrades as "pick-Me's", etc. There are tweets with detailed (fictional) descriptions of my body; the status and details of my romantic life has been the topic of

gossip. I've been both publicly slut-shamed and infantilized and disrespected beyond any "tolerable" amount. I've been bombarded with detailed erotic descriptions of [REDACTED] and Steven's sex life. [REDACTED] behavior online is reprehensible and disgusting towards me, and I think it's amazing that she calls this "feminist Marxism," and even posted "protect Black women" hashtags one day and then later that day called me a "tokenized Psl fuck mascot."

[REDACTED] main claim that still is being spouted today is that I was being "groomed" by Steven as an older "superior" in the party during recruitment in order to manipulate me into a romantic partnership.

This is the first amongst the long list of false accusations made considering I am a 23-year-old adult woman (a number that [REDACTED] has changed intermittently throughout her defamation campaign against me) fully capable of making decisions regarding who I date. Not to mention that I was 22 when we became friends.

The second accusation is that Steven and I engaged in unprotected sex while he was still in a relationship with [REDACTED], exposing her to STI's. This is also untrue. [REDACTED] claims to have seen the both of us engaging in some sort of sexual activity while looking through the window of my second-floor apartment. The accusation again is untrue and a vulgar invasion of my privacy.

[REDACTED] also states that I was coached and/or implanted into the Philly activist community when in reality I've been politically involved since I was about 15, years before I've ever met Steven, years before my first PSL meeting.

[REDACTED] has also stated that I was "moved" into my apartment by Steven after he moved out and that we are currently living together and have been since my lease started in August. That accusation was made after [REDACTED] spoke to a neighbor on her old block (a white woman) that reported back to [REDACTED] saying that she has seen Steven over at "his" house.

I do not nor have I ever lived with Steven. In fact, I share my apartment with another comrade, also a Black woman, who has also been accused, harassed and threatened by [REDACTED]. I've also never been financially supported by anyone who wasn't my parent.

██████ has accused me of publicly “mocking” her on social media — again, untrue. I was engaging in pop culture discourse on my personal twitter account that ██████ watches and regularly responds to posts that she feels are directed towards her.

I have never and will never support or enable abuse, I would never be involved with people or organizations who enable abuse. I have never felt uncomfortable or unsafe around anyone in PSL.

Statement 2: ‘A response to false charges against a PSL member and our Philadelphia branch’

The following statement is issued unanimously by the women members of the PSL Central Committee, representing five different cities, as well as Black women leaders in New York City, Philadelphia, and South Carolina.

Summary

The PSL has a proud history of dealing firmly, fairly and decisively with allegations of misconduct in our ranks, including expulsions of those with violations of a serious nature. This has allowed us to cultivate strong women’s leadership at all levels, including many survivors of prior abuse themselves, alongside rigorous investigative, disciplinary and accountability processes. Without such processes, any organization will ultimately be undone.

While we rarely comment publicly on disciplinary matters in the PSL, we have an obligation to respond to a dishonest social media campaign related to a disciplinary issue in Philadelphia.

The person now waging this public campaign — ██████████, who is not a PSL member and who goes under the pseudonym Griselda Aclarado online — has accused her ex-boyfriend Steven Powers of sexual abuse at the time of their break-up and says the PSL is covering up abuse in our ranks.

██████ has made a series of statements that are not only demonstrably false, but highly dangerous, and we believe it is in the best interests of the movement to be aware.

Almost immediately after bringing her charges to us, ██████ threatened that if we did not meet her demands, she would call the Department of Homeland Security to report the PSL, inventing an extremely dangerous and wholly false narrative about the activities of our organization as a form of blackmail. This was the first of many times she either issued threats related to the police or made fraudulent allegations of crimes committed by the PSL.

██████ has completely distorted our response to her accusations. There was no “cover up.” Steven was suspended as is customary pending an internal investigation in July, and has not been politically active since.

Based on her statements and text messages, we conducted interviews, parsed through approximately 100 pages of text messages between half a dozen individuals, and reviewed hers and others’ communications and testimony. The evidence was collected and reviewed by several leading members including a Black woman and a Latina woman in the Central Committee. They were chosen initially at ██████ own request.

Despite ██████ threatening actions, her constant antagonism, her repeated cancelation of any meeting about her charges, and her swearing off of future participation, we followed our process and norms nonetheless to look thoroughly into her underlying accusations.

We found that ██████ initial two charges against Steven did not amount to sexual abuse — as we will explain below. The charges were ultimately premised on disbelieving, infantilizing, sexualizing and discrediting a Black woman member of the PSL, named Mecca, who was developing a relationship with Steven.

Once ██████ began asserting fraudulent criminal conspiracies involving the PSL, threatening to involve state agencies and publicly attacking us, we limited our communications with her. During this period she then changed her narrative to say that her last sexual encounter with Steven, the night before she saw him with another woman, had been overt sexual abuse.

We investigated this too. We found compelling evidence from ██████ herself that disproved the accusations of sexual abuse and rape.

According to ██████ most detailed descriptions given at the time, Steven had in fact respected her desire to not have sex on the afternoon in question. Hours later, she consented to sex, intentionally using sex with

Steven “for escape,” before saying she “fell asleep calm”. In graphic messages ██████ sent the next day to multiple people, which we are not sharing publicly in this statement, she established that she was consenting and in command of her own actions during this sexual encounter, which she recounted very positively and in fact bragged about in a message meant to harass Mecca.

██████ own descriptions of the events in question, from that time, fundamentally contradict the changed charges and the language she now uses online. Based on the evidence, we did **not** find Steven guilty of the more serious allegations against him.

We found that Steven showed poor judgment during their breakup, handling it with disregard for political implications. Pending the completion of the terms of his suspension, Steven will resume political activity.

Initial charges

In July, ██████ initially leveled a charge of abuse (not rape) against Steven on the following basis:

1. her suspicion that he was having a relationship with another woman during the time ██████ and Steven were broken up but still living together and occasionally having sex together. ██████ based this on being outside the other woman’s home and looking in her second floor apartment window. Although she did not see them having sex, she asserted that he and the other woman were having unprotected sex and ██████ now came to see her prior consent in a different light. While Steven freely admits he had become “romantically involved” with Mecca, both he and she deny their relationship had become sexually intimate.
2. that any such romantic relationship between Steven and Mecca would be inherently abusive because she is younger than him and a more recent member of the PSL. ██████ presented Mecca as a victim of Steven. People on Twitter are now calling this a case of “pedophilia”, calling for Steven to be beaten and killed, and ██████ has liked and promoted these Twitter accounts.

To begin, Mecca is no minor, but actually 23 years old — as ██████ knows. To call this pedophilia is absolutely unconscionable. Mecca also denies all of ██████ allegations, and denies she has ever been victimized at all.

██████ two core allegations are advanced by trying to strip this woman member of her own agency and to make assumptions about her private life for which there is no basis, and which no one has the right to do. To validate ██████ charges would require that the Party infantilize an adult Black woman member. These charges are not about “believing women”; it’s about letting a non-Black woman define a Black woman and make assumptions and assertions about her relationships, and to reduce her to a sexual object. ██████ has no right to do this, no matter how much she dislikes their potential relationship.

Mecca — who ██████ characterized as a victim in her initial charges — is now being trolled by ██████ on a regular basis on Twitter in the most offensive and disgusting manner. To hold a banner of feminist justice and simultaneously erase and slander Black women is the antithesis of a revolutionary feminist.

Changing the narrative

While we were already taking up these initial claims, ██████ began publicly attacking the Party and lying about our process and response to her. By this time we learned she had made repeated threats to file false reports with law enforcement and had circulated a false rumor that Steven was behind, or a “person of interest” in the burning of Philadelphia police cars in her neighborhood, and that the police were looking for him — an incident for which another local activist has now been falsely charged. Consequently, we limited our communications with her. During this period the state was announcing crackdown operations on left-wing and Black Lives Matter groups, and this was just weeks after the PSL led an anti-racist protest of 100,000 people in Philadelphia.

Then in early August, she pivoted and changed the emphasis of her initial charges, sending us a lengthy document that substantially changed her initial narrative. She was now asserting that the sex she had with Steven had been overt sexual abuse the night before she looked through the window of Mecca’s house. The alleged abuse that night was no longer grounded in her not knowing about another alleged sexual partner. As we said in the first section of this document, we have a series of explicit text messages from ██████ herself that directly contradict this allegation.

The months since

██████ has since falsely claimed our organization has been involved in crimes in the Philadelphia area and nationwide. Most recently, she has made statements about a coming police crackdown on the Philly PSL where “the charges will be 100x worse” than Denver.

She claims to have fled ████████ from the PSL when in fact one of our leading Black members assisted her in receiving thousands of dollars from Steven so she could move as she planned and wanted.

She tweeted out that she had fled ████████ too with the false allegation the PSL was stalking and following her — a complete fabrication, as no PSL members were anywhere near her or in contact with her during this time.

She then texted us out of the blue on the night of our ████████ members’ arrests to tell us she too was now in ████████. She again threatened to call the police if we were to tell anyone (despite the fact she had already set up a public social media profile there). Then, just hours after texting a PSL leader where she was, bizarrely she went on Twitter to again say she was “in hiding” from the PSL.

As we were planning the first protests demanding our arrested members be released, she contacted co-sponsoring groups in ████████ to be on the lookout for Steven showing up there, circulating his photo and portraying him as a predator. Steven was not anywhere near ████████. This can only be read as an attempt to suppress support in ████████ for the PSL and anti-racist organizers who are being targeted by the state, and face decades in prison on trumped up charges. That she would do this speaks volumes.

Conclusion

██████ has spent months expanding her threats and enlarging her claims in ever-more inflammatory terms. She has created a new online identity under a pseudonym Griselda Aclarado devoted to “exposing” left-wing organizations, encouraging people to send her internal information privately so she can collect it for her next writings.

As Mecca’s statement above shows, ████████ has the whole time been smearing Black women members of the Philadelphia branch in the most vile, dehumanizing and derogatory ways on the Internet — while falsely upholding a banner of feminist justice. Several Black women members in Philadelphia have personally attested to ████████ patterns of anti-Black

verbal abuse, lies, harassment and threats of violence in the past few months.

Moreover, the Black woman leader who in the beginning provided extensive personal time, sympathy and financial retrieval to [REDACTED], and who was part of this disciplinary process, has been completely erased by her in pursuit of a false narrative of a “white male” “coverup.”

No one should be fooled by [REDACTED]; we would not be where we are today if our organization operated the way she falsely portrays it.

For months we have thought it most prudent, for the protection of our members, to say nothing, rather than communicate at all or respond to someone consistently making serious threats on false premises and who is clearly capable of inventing allegations. We believe that the whole movement should be aware of her dangerous behavior and grotesque manipulation of women’s oppression. We have now shared the essentials of this case and while there is much more that could be said, we will leave it there.

Signed,

- Adiah Hicks
- Angel Nalubega
- Elizabeth Birriel
- Gloria La Riva
- Jane Cutter
- Karina Garcia
- Karla Reyes
- Kerbie Joseph
- Kym Smith
- Nathalie Hrizi
- Marissa Sanchez
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