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AWSS Board Statement on Dr. Johanna Mellis and Online Harassment

In keeping with [our commitment to promoting gender equity](#), the Association for Women in Slavic Studies stands in opposition to online bullying, harassment, and threats. Women have been disproportionately the targets for such tactics to silence their voices. Dr. Johanna Mellis, a professor at Ursinus College and host of the podcast *The End of Sport*, has been subjected to this despicable behaviour, as has Dr. Nathan Kalman-Lamb, a Lecturing Fellow at Duke University. WFNI The Fan host and ESPN college basketball announcer Mr. Dan Dakich aired [a misogynistic rant and a threat of sexual assault](#) to untold numbers of his podcast listeners.

As a professional historian of sports, a public intellectual, an advocate for student-athletes, and as a former Division I athlete. Dr. Mellis engaged civilly and in good faith with Mr. Dakich. In response, Mr. Dakich's violent verbal assault appears intended to silence her authoritative voice through fear and intimidation.

There is no place in civil discourse for threats of violence, with their chilling effect and real potential for dangerous consequences. We call on ESPN, WFNI, other outlets and sponsors to send a clear and unequivocal message that misogyny and intimidation will not be tolerated.

In the interest of educating our members and public scholars who experience online bullying, harassment and threats see the American Historical Association, "[Guide for Dealing with Online Harassment](#)" (2019)