

(Sent via Reid Mihalko on March 11, 2019)

To Alexandra and other Accountability Team members,

Thank you for getting in touch with us via Reid. We appreciate that you have engaged, and look forward to working adjacent to you, if a degree removed. We hope that we are all able to get the work we are here to do done to the effects we all desire.

In the call-in letter we sent to Franklin via Reid, we set out a number of requests. We'll refer back to that letter in this response a number of times.

Firstly, we asked that Franklin set up an accountability team, including people with experience in accountability, and that the team notify Reid when it's been set up, and who is on it. Are you now able to tell us who is in the accountability team?

Secondly, it sounds like the absence of a list of harms experienced by survivors of relationship with Franklin is now inhibiting the work you intend to do. We are happy to provide that list, as we stated in that initial letter. The preliminary list of harms experienced by survivors is as follows:

Dishonesty: Agreeing to do things and then denying it later, or “agreeing” in slippery, passive ways that could later be re-framed or denied. Withholding information from partners that is material to their ability to consent to ongoing relationship with him or to make informed decisions about their own lives. Presenting false information to partners that confuses or destabilizes them or creates conflicts with his other partners. Subsequently denying all of the above.

Gaslighting and verbal abuse: Misdirecting from the validity of a partner's discomfort at mistreatment from him, usually by directing blame to something internal to the partner (such as insecurity, jealousy, or mental illness). Redefining his partners' own statements of their experiences and feelings, and categorizing these in a way that denies their reality but affirms his worldview. Belittling and shaming his partners and weaponizing vulnerabilities they revealed to him in trust. Systematically undermining his partners' sense of self and confidence in their own perceptions.

Exploitation: Depending on partners financially or in other material ways while contributing little and breaking commitments to reciprocate. Using ideas originated by partners in blog posts, interviews and revenue-generating publications without permission, credit or compensation. Representing his relationships for use in online and print publication as a part of his public persona, without acknowledging or addressing the perspectives of his partners in equitable ways. Grooming significantly younger, less experienced or vulnerable women for exploitative relationships.

Triangulation: Giving conflicting accounts of the same events to different partners, and giving conflicting accounts in public vs. in private. Telling each partner secrets about other partners in a way that sows conflict and increases isolation. Misrepresenting his partners' feelings, needs,

actions, and intentions to his other partners and in public. Refusing to set boundaries or make choices, then letting his partners absorb the fallout while he claims helplessness.

Sexual coercion: Involving women in coercive group sex and other coercive sexual experiences, sometimes then recharacterizing their consequent distress as something that is wrong with them, or something that is being done to him. Involving less-experienced partners in BDSM or other higher-risk sexual activities without appropriate discussions of risk or consent.

Rejecting accountability: Attributing legitimate concerns or grievances to mental illness, irrationality, or malice. Admitting to lesser, abstract faults to deflect conversation away from specific harmful acts. Redirecting the conversation when a partner tries to name harm. Blaming a different partner for his actions. Claiming that his behavior is something he had to do, or that his partner deserved, because of something she did. Cutting off and discrediting friends, partners, social groups, and communities who attempt to name his harmful behaviors.

Additionally, we would like to clear up a few details that have been misconstrued. We want to make sure we are being understood, and do our part to prevent further misunderstanding.

1. Your responsibilities as Franklin's Accountability team are to be determined by you all, and by what Franklin decides he needs to do with the information we provide him about the harms people have experienced in relationship with him. We are not responsible for setting the terms of Franklin's development and growth. He will need to determine what he needs to change with your help, and work with you all in order to implement those changes.
2. Eve Rickert is not a member of our pod. She is named as a survivor, and therefore sits three degrees removed from Franklin. We are facing the survivors and their healing, and you all are facing him and his work. It is not expected that reconciliation will occur, as that is not currently desired by any of the survivors.
3. We do not in any way have the authority to silence any of the survivors, nor would we ever attempt such a thing, as that is counter to our stated values and goals. Our work is to restore their voices, and that is required in order to approach equity. Franklin has been speaking publicly about his experiences for years, while many women have been silenced and erased. Equity would look like their stories having as public and open a viewership as his has been afforded.
4. Part of transformative justice principles are that no one is disposable, which means that healing can occur to all who have harmed and been harmed. This process requires light to be shed on all of us, how we have participated, and what we can do now that we have that enlightenment. Excluding any parties would preclude that principle and conflict with our intent and goals.

We intend to proceed with our work on the timeline that the survivors are comfortable with, independent of the work that Franklin engages in, or does not engage in. We are committed to certain aspects of this remaining public, as it has been at Franklin's hands for so many decades.

As we mentioned in our initial statement, harm enacted through public speech can't be adequately addressed in private. We welcome any more questions, and will answer them to the best of our ability within the scope of what we are responsible to.

Yours,

The Survivor Advocacy Team