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Statement of Gloria Allred

In the recent campaign for President, Donald Trump was heard on the Access Hollywood tapes bragging in vulgar language about grabbing women to kiss them and grabbing them by their genitals. He asserted that he could do this because he was a star.

In the debate with Hillary Rodham Clinton, after Mr. Trump's remarks were broadcast, Mr. Trump denied that he ever acted on the words that he used on the Access Hollywood tapes with Billy Bush.

After his denial, a number of accusers came forward alleging that Mr. Trump had, in fact, assaulted them.

Mr. Trump's response was to call the accusers liars. He also threatened to sue them after the election and called their allegations, "fiction" and "fabrications".

Mr. Trump's response generated an enormous backlash by his followers and supporters against the accusers, and caused significant harm to these brave women who spoke what they alleged was their truth about Donald Trump.

Now Mr. Trump has been elected President of the United States. He is no longer just a star. He is now President-elect.

It is important that he begin his term as President with a clean slate. While he has benefitted with some voters from his attacks and threats against his accusers, the accusers have paid a heavy price for speaking out against Mr. Trump.

He has now won the Presidency which is the prize that he sought. He now has the opportunity to begin his term with a clean slate in reference to the accusers, and the damage that he has done to these courageous women.

I challenge him to seize the opportunity now to retract his statement that these accusers are liars, and that their allegations are fabrications and fictions. Retraction would undo some of the damage that he has inflicted on his accusers.

I also challenge him to provide his assurance that he will not be taking legal action against them.

Summer Zervos, who is with me today, and who is one of his accusers, is not intimidated by his threats, but she believes that his retraction of his threat to sue the women is the right thing for him to do.

What will we do if he does not retract? The answer is simple.

In the third debate with Hillary, Mr. Trump was asked by Chris Wallace, what he would do if he lost the election. Chris Wallace asked him if he would concede to the winner in part for the good of the country.

Mr. Wallace “Are you saying you are not prepared to commit to that?”
Mr. Trump responded “What I am saying is that I will tell you at that time. I will keep you in suspense, okay?”

My response to the question of what we will do if Mr. Trump does not retract his threat to sue the accusers is the same as Mr. Trump’s response in the debate. “What I am saying is that I will tell you at the time. I will keep you in suspense, okay?”

President-elect Trump now has the opportunity to act Presidential. Will he seize the opportunity and accept my challenge? We will await the President-elect’s response.

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