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Statement of Gloria Allred Regarding Harvey Weinstein

Today I am here with another woman who alleges that she was sexually harassed by Harvey Weinstein. Heather Kerr was in her 20's and an aspiring actress when she met this famous producer.

Heather started her professional pursuit of a career in acting at the age of 17 in 1978 when she began studying with Nina Foch in Beverly Hills. Within a year, Nina hired her to work privately doing scene study with her higher profile celebrity students such as Barry Manilow, Fred Dryer, Lou Rawls and many others. She worked with Nina for 8 full years. During that time she began getting roles in television. She did theater in Los Angeles and a few independent films. She guest starred on the Facts of Life, Mama's Family and various other television series.

After Heather describes what happened to her I will comment and react to Mr. Weinstein's horrific treatment of her.

(Heather will now read her statement.)

Harvey Weinstein allegedly told Heather that she had to be good in bed and sleep with directors and producers if she wanted to have a career as an actress in Hollywood.

Mr. Weinstein wanted to know if she was "good", but not whether she was good at her craft or whether she had the makings of a good actress. What he wanted to know was whether she could satisfy him sexually and, if so, then she would be introduced to other directors and producers whom she would also have to satisfy sexually in order to obtain roles in their films. He told her that this was "how things worked in Hollywood" and that all actresses had made it that way.

While I am sure that he is wrong when he stated that all actresses made it by sleeping their way into the jobs they had, I also have no doubt that many women were forced to degrade themselves in order to get anywhere in an industry which has always been dominated by powerful men who can snap their fingers and make or break careers.

Well, no more. That may be the way it was. It is not the way it will be in the future, because, Harvey, you and others like you are done. Women won't take it anymore. We are taking our power back and we will never allow things to go back to where they were when you and others abused women and made it clear to them that they had to put out or they were out - out of their career dreams, out of employment opportunities, out of sight and out of mind. You and your kind, Harvey, will someday be in a museum (or worse) and people will come to see you and tell their children- you see

that is what things were like back in Harvey Weinstein's time and their children will marvel and say "really?" as they move on to the next exhibit.

What happened to Ms. Kerr is that she lost her willingness to act and withdrew because the price she would have to pay to be an actress was too high. She was unwilling to give up her dignity and sacrifice her self-respect in order to succeed in Hollywood. Instead, she gave up her dreams. No woman should have to give up her dream.

No woman should be required to engage in sex in exchange for getting a job or keeping a job. That is against the law. It is called a quid pro quo in legal terms.

Since last week, I have been contacted by and retained by numerous women who have alleged that they were sexually victimized by Harvey Weinstein. Many have given up their careers as actresses rather than dealing with sexual harassment in Hollywood. Some have continued with their careers, but are disgusted by men who have placed them in the "no win" situation of saying yes or no to unwelcome sexual harassment by men who have the power to affect their careers.

To all women placed in this situation, I have the following advice. Go to a sexual harassment lawyer for a confidential consultation in which you will be able to learn your rights. You should not have to choose between giving up your dreams or engaging in sexual contact with a powerful man.

The balance of power has shifted in Hollywood. There have been and will continue to be serious career, financial and potentially criminal consequences for men who sexually harass women.

You are not alone and you have rights. I will continue to fight for justice for my courageous clients. They are entitled to justice and any predator who has caused them to suffer will now face the consequences which he so richly deserves.

Gloria Allred
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Representing Heather Kerr
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