

Contact: Gloria Allred
(323) 653-6530
E-mail: gallred@amglaw.com

Statement of Gloria Allred

Recently New York Magazine had a photograph on their cover of more than 30 women who had come forward publicly to accuse Bill Cosby of having victimized them. That cover also featured an empty chair, which in the opinion of many, represented all of the accusers who have not yet come forward.

Today, that empty chair is filled by three new women who allege that they were victimized by Mr. Cosby. These women have now found the courage to come forward to tell what they allege is their truth about what Mr. Cosby did to them.

Linda Ridgeway Whitedeer was an actor who appeared in a feature film “The Mechanic” which was released in 1972. She also appeared in many commercials for well-known brands.

Colleen Hughes was a flight attendant for American Airlines.

Eden Tirl was an actor who appeared on the Cosby Show .

These new accusers are coming forward now either because they want to support other alleged victims, or because they feel they could no longer hold the secret within them anymore or because of what they perceive as unfair attacks on many accusers and attempts to blame victims by Monique Pressley, one of Mr. Cosby’s army of attorneys. Ms. Pressley has recently been hired by Mr. Cosby and has taken to the airwaves in what I believe is a pathetic attempt to defend Mr. Cosby against the accusations of more than 40 women.

For example, Ms. Pressley recently stated in an interview with Huffington Post Live, quoted in the Washington Post, “I don’t think that 10, 20, 30, 40 years later people get to decide to come forward”.

Ms. Pressley, that is absolutely false. To the contrary, individuals who allege that they were victimized by being drugged, sexually assaulted or raped can come forward and speak out at any time. There is no statute of limitations on the right of free speech. A person who alleges that she or he is a victim can speak out at any time.

Many victims do not speak out at the time that they are victimized because they fear that they will not be believed or they may mistakenly blame themselves for what happened to them and/or they fear attacks by the rich, famous and/or powerful predator who preyed upon them and who may unleash his supporters to attack them, as has been done to some accusers who dared to make allegations against Mr. Cosby.

However, many alleged victims have overcome their fear because they want Mr. Cosby to be held accountable and they now realize that their silence is only helping Mr. Cosby and hurting the persons who are the real victims.

Enough is enough. I have a message for Ms. Pressley. Instead of trying to change the subject from the specific allegations against Mr. Cosby to vague generalizations and truisms about the criminal justice system, I challenge you to debate me, since I now represent more than 21 of them. It is easy to spew ridiculous arguments in defense of Mr. Cosby when you are with one reporter and able to filibuster and give non responsive "Cosby like" answers, which sometimes evade and avoid answering the question asked. In a debate with me you will not be able to get away with that approach.

I challenge you to find the courage to stand on the same stage with me and debate these issues. Stand up like a woman and do it, and please do not give some ridiculous excuses as to why you cannot accept my challenge.

I will debate any issues and the only exception will be the case in which I represent my

client, Judy Huth, against Mr. Cosby, since that case is currently being litigated, and Mr. Cosby's lawyers and I can argue that case in a court of law

Ms. Pressley, I look forward to hearing your response to my challenge.

Gloria Allred

Attorney at Law

Representing 21 alleged victims of Bill Cosby

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