Statement of Daniella Mohazab

Imagine having flashbacks of a 67-year-old man molesting you. Imagine being afraid to close your eyes because memories come back.

I want each person that even knew of what was going on at USC to speak up and to hold themselves accountable. I can’t imagine it being easy for you to speak up and admit your wrongdoing. I bet you also can’t imagine standing up and admitting to being a victim of sexual battery. We stand up to make changes. We stand up for what is right. We stand up for everyone, not for ourselves.

As I sit here today, I am proud for the women coming forward. The community we have created for an open conversation is both supportive and eye-opening.

For the press- I urge you to cover the individual stories. We are put forward as victims. We are victims. But, we are so much more than that. We are students, just like the rest of the student body at USC. We got accepted into USC. We have attributes that span far more than the ideals of a victim. I want the public to see the people, beyond our faces, and what our lives are like. I want people to see how this could have happened to anyone. I want people to see that the effects of Tyndall go far beyond sitting in front of a camera sharing graphic details of intimate appointments.

I get mad at myself sometimes. Why did I go to a doctor at USC? Why did I trust a doctor at a university? Why did I trust USC at the beginning, for all I knew of it was it being a top-ranked university?

I do not know how to trust anymore. I used to believe in everyone and everything. I doubt. I doubt my professors, my institution, my friends, and unfortunately even my family at times. Because on April 4th, 2016, I stepped foot into the office of a gynecologist that would molest me. But all I knew at the moment was that he was a gynecologist at a top ranked institution.

I was proud to be accepted into USC. In most ways, I am a proud Trojan. But, seeing USC’s name in the news alongside a scandal makes me sick. Perhaps if the victims didn’t stand up, this wouldn’t be on the news. But, that is not our job. Our job as students and members of an institution like USC is to stand up, to be strong, and to be faithful and loyal, most importantly for what is right.
The university is standing up, standing up to make amends with victims and to make changes internally. I want to see these changes. Most importantly, I want to know what USC knew, who at USC knew, and why this went on for so long.

No, we cannot take back what happened. But, we are taking action against those that overlooked this and let it continue to happen. People knew. That is baffling. People knew that young women were becoming victims.

We did not choose to become victims. We chose to take a responsible action by making sure that we were healthy. These appointments did the opposite. Our mental health has taken a toll.

As time has progressed, my confusion and anger continues to be fueled. This was hidden. Sexual misconduct and medical misconduct was overlooked by USC.

Stand up.

Victims, stand up for yourselves. Let your voices be heard. Do not let what happened before dictate your life or make you feel less worthy for anything. Stand up for others. We are here together. Victims are uniting. Again, never would I have imagined that I would be in a community created by victims and for victims. We are here together.

You do not need to be on the news. You do not need your name to be public. And truly, if you do not want to take legal action, you do not have to. No one is forcing you to do anything. But, I want everyone to know that the resources are here. You can talk to a lawyer for free. You can speak with victims who have spoken up, and you can speak with lawyers who represent us. No matter the severity you believe your experience was, if you are traumatized by your experiences with Tyndall or any other medical practitioner at USC, speak up. We are here for you. You are not alone. Let me repeat this, you are not alone.

Daniella Mohazab
Represented by Attorney Gloria Allred
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