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## **Statement of Marisa Woytek**

Good morning,

My name is Marisa Woytek. I am a Lance Corporal in the United States Marine Corps. I enlisted, like many of my brothers and sisters because I wanted to be part of something bigger than myself. I joined to follow in my fathers' footsteps who served honorably in the Marine Corps.

Over the past few years of being active duty, I've experienced the amazing things the Marine Corps has to offer. I experienced, brotherhood and sisterhood, I experienced comradery, and I have many fond memories that I will carry with me until the day I die. But with the good, comes the bad. Since my first few weeks in the Marine Corps outside of boot camp, I have seen on numerous occasions the denigration of Marines, especially female Marines by fellow Marines. Some active duty and some former Marines have been posting picture women for the so called game of "Smash or Pass", and some have included personal and explicit pictures including these women's names, ranks, and duty station without their consent.

Since speaking out, I've received backlash on social media. Within the past 24 hours alone, I have had former Marines harass me online, and say and state that they actively look for sexually explicit pictures of me. One of the former Marines who has been harassing me has also been a predator to many women online denigrating women in Marines United, and has even gone as far as saying he would throw an active duty female Marine "into a barrel of acid". Another Marine stated to me directly that he was "passing my info around to Marines, so far the rough estimate is 3,000. Good luck ever being able to show your face again". Another former Marine asked "Who has this bitch's pictures, I want to blast them all over".

My brothers and sisters are why I am here today. The majority of Marines are intelligent, well rounded, and respectful people. Those Marines are who the world should be praising. The disgusting actions of a few do not define an entire branch. We must remember that the Marine Corps is an institution that prides itself in honor, courage, and commitment. Most Marines practice these values every day, and those who do not bring dishonor to themselves and to the United States Marine Corps.

Thank you very much.

April 5, 2017