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Today we are here with the first victim to have documented proof that she filed a police report against Jeffrey Epstein. In 1997, Alicia Arden, who is here with me today, filed a police report with the Santa Monica Police Department alleging that Jeffrey Epstein committed a sexual battery against her when she met him at Shuttters Hotel in Santa Monica, California.

Mr. Epstein said that he was a representative of Victoria's Secret and that he was interviewing and auditioning models to appear in the Victoria's Secret catalogue. When Alicia realized that Epstein was using his position to touch her in a sexually inappropriate manner, she left and reported him to the police. The details of what happened to Alicia in that room with Mr. Epstein were explained at a press conference that Alicia and I held in 2020. We will forward those details to the press who request them.

Unfortunately, no prosecution ever took place. Alicia alleges that she would have been willing to testify against Jeffrey Epstein if the criminal case had been filed. But that never happened.

Alicia feels that if Epstein had been forced to face the consequences of his criminal behavior at that time perhaps many other women and children could have been spared from the sexual abuse and sex trafficking that many were forced to suffer.

The failure of the criminal justice system to bring Jeffrey Epstein to meaningful justice was repeated in the cases of many other victims over decades after Alicia's experience with him, and resulted in Jeffrey Epstein's misconduct becoming worse and leading to child sexual abuse and trafficking of underage girls. It included his friend and co-conspirator Ghislaine Maxwell's conviction for conspiracy to entice minors to travel to engage in illegal sex acts; conspiracy to transport minors to participate in illegal sex act;, transporting a minor to participate in illegal sex acts; sex trafficking conspiracy; and, sex trafficking of a minor. She was sentenced to 20 years in a federal prison for her crimes.

Now decades later, the public and many of Epstein and Maxwell's victims are insisting that they want to know how Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell were able to get away with their crimes for so many years. They also want to know who else may have enabled them or assisted them in their sexual exploitation and trafficking of women and children.

They believe that the answers are in the unreleased files of the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York and the files of the former United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, and the State Attorney's file in Miami.

The battle to learn the truth of what really happened by releasing the files is now in the news almost every day.

While the political class takes sides in this battle, the victims of Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell are often ignored and the toll that this is taking on them emotionally is often just a footnote rather than a focus of many stories. To date, a few of the more than estimated 1,000 victims of Jeffrey Epstein have decided to break their silence concerning what they believe should happen now and the aggravated trauma that they are experiencing because of the constant reporting of Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell's names and the allegations against them.

We understand and respect the decision of most victims and survivors to remain silent and not become embroiled in the court of public opinion. There are very good reasons not to become involved in what is happening. However, there are also good reasons for victims to break their silence and share with the public their opinions of what should happen next in this battle for truth, transparency, and justice. Decisions being made now by those who have the power to make them, and those decisions are affecting victims' lives and increasing their emotional suffering. Today, Alicia Arden has decided to be one of the survivors who will share her thoughts about some of those decisions.

Once again, she is showing her courage by continuing to speak out about Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell. I am sure that more victims will also break their silence in the future. Alicia will now read a statement responding to some of the key questions that reporters have been asking. After she speaks, I will also briefly respond to the question of whether and under what conditions I believe that the interview of Ghislaine Maxwell by Deputy Attorney General, Todd

Blanche, should be released. In addition, I will speak to the issue of Congress and its upcoming hearings on Jeffrey Epstein and how it should involve victims in this process. And now it is my honor and pleasure to introduce Alicia Arden.

Statement of Attorney Gloria Allred

Representing Alicia Arden

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Additional comments:

Regarding the question of whether or not Deputy Attorney General, Todd Blanche, should release a transcript of questions he asked of Ghislaine Maxwell and the answers she gave in his two-day interview of Ghislaine Maxwell, I believe that he should release the entire transcript of his more than nine hour interview with her, including his questions and her answers. I am aware that Ghislaine Maxwell, in addition to the other crimes for which she has been convicted, was also indicted on two counts of perjury. Ultimately, those charges were dismissed. However, the charges cannot be ignored and other lies that she has told do have an impact on her credibility and are part of the reason that some victims and their lawyers think that she should never have been interviewed. They do not believe whatever her responses were to the questions asked by Deputy Attorney General, Todd Blanche. In my opinion, if the transcripts are released, then everything that Ms. Maxwell said in the interview should only be released with corroboration of

her statements and/or evidence of inconsistent statements by her and/or proof that she lied about some of her statements.

In reference to the planned, upcoming hearings in the fall by the House committees, I do believe that there should be a joint hearing by the House committees and a Senate committee. I am aware that the House Subcommittee is issuing subpoenas for many people to the list that they have already developed. I think that they should add former United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, Alex Acosta. In addition, I think they should subpoena Deputy Attorney General, Todd Blanche, and Attorney General Pam Bondi. Finally, victims and survivors of Jeffrey Epstein and/or Ghislaine Maxwell should be invited to appear before the House and Senate committees to share how they were victimized by Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell, the impact on them of these crimes, and how the criminal justice system has helped them or failed them. Victims should not be subpoenaed or compelled in any way to testify, but they should be invited. Some may wish to testify, but they would not want their identities known or their faces shown. They should be supported in their request, if that is their wish.

We need change and new laws to be passed by Congress to better protect victims from sexual predators. I look forward to sharing my ideas on this subject in the coming days.