

**Contact: Gloria Allred & Dolores Leal**

**Phone: 323-653-6530**

**Email: [gallred@amglaw.com](mailto:gallred@amglaw.com)**

**[dleal@amglaw.com](mailto:dleal@amglaw.com)**

## **STATEMENT OF ATTORNEYS GLORIA ALLRED AND DOLORES LEAL**

It is shattering to hear today's news reports about disturbing allegations that Cesar Chavez engaged in sexual misconduct with women and underaged girls during his time as President of the United Farm Workers of America (UFW).

The UFW was built by thousands of farmworkers; many of them women who sacrificed enormously for dignity and fair wages. Dolores Huerta, Co-Founder of the UFW, has her own extraordinary legacy of advocacy that stands entirely on its own.

The Grape Boycott, the marches, the contracts won – those victories belong to the workers who made them possible.

Farmworkers still face exploitation, unsafe conditions, wage theft, and lack of basic protections. The moral case for their dignity hasn't changed. Our law firm's support for that cause doesn't depend on one man's character.

Learning to separate a person's public contributions from their private failings – without excusing either – is one of the harder and more mature things

we can do. It models something important: movements don't require saints, they require struggle.

The women who came forward deserve credit. Their courage in speaking is itself an act in the spirit of the UFW – fighting for dignity against those with power over them.

Dolores Huerta described the first encounter as coercive – feeling she couldn't say no because he was her boss and the leader of the movement to which she had devoted years. The second time she says she was forced against her will.

Unfortunately, this still happens in the workplace. The attorneys at our firm represent women who are sexually harassed and assaulted by their bosses.

Dolores Huerta said she carried the secret because “building the movement and securing farmworker rights was my life's work” and she wasn't going to let Chavez or anyone else get in the way.

Dolores Huerta offers the most grounded perspective — despite everything, she noted that Chavez's actions do not reflect the values of the farmworker community, and that the movement's achievements were the result of the efforts of thousands of people.

The fact that one of the most wronged persons - Dolores Huerta herself - is choosing to keep fighting for the movement is the most powerful takeaway of all.

We are proud of our long support for farmworkers' rights. The struggle for justice for farmworkers continues.

GLORIA ALLRED AND DOLORES LEAL

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

MARCH 18, 2026