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Statement of Attorney Gloria Allred

Today my client, Mimi Haley, and I were present in court for the sentencing of Harvey Weinstein. Mr. Weinstein was convicted in the first criminal trial in New York in 2020 of a criminal sexual act in the first degree of Mimi.

He was sentenced by Judge James Burke to 20 years in prison for that crime against her.

However, in 2024 the New York Court of Appeals, the highest court in New York State, overturned that conviction. A second criminal trial took place in New York and Mimi bravely agreed to testify again.

The cross-examination of Mimi by the defense was, in my opinion, ugly, vicious, and extremely challenging. However, Mimi, once again, refused to be intimidated, deterred, or bullied, and again, she told her truth about what Mr. Weinstein did to her.

As a result of her testimony, the jury in the second trial again convicted Mr. Weinstein of a criminal sexual act of Mimi in the first degree in April 2025. Today, September 23, 2026, Mr. Weinstein was sentenced for his conviction of the crime

against Mimi in the second trial. Mimi read her victim impact statement in court. It was riveting and compelling.

Many in the media praised others for coming forward to tell their stories to the press. But in the three criminal trials in New York that have been held, Mimi is the only witness who testified twice under oath at trial, underwent a brutal cross-examination twice, and obtained a conviction of Harvey Weinstein twice - the first conviction having been overturned by the New York Court of Appeals.

In other words, Mimi underwent a trial by fire twice, and prevailed both times, unlike any other person in the “MeToo” movement.

Mimi is a true hero. She has survived all attempts both inside and outside of court to discredit her or question her motives.

Two juries listened to her and as a result of her testimony and evidence that corroborated her, the second jury decided that Mr. Weinstein was guilty beyond a reasonable doubt and that he committed a serious felony of violence against her (a criminal sexual act in the first degree).

To describe Mimi as courageous is an understatement. She faced her fears and overcame them. She stood in her truth, and she has been a role model in courage for many others who have been hurt by rich, powerful, famous men.

I applaud Mimi for the inspiration that she has been to so many others. It has been an honor to represent her for seven tumultuous years.

Many in the press have suggested that this sentencing marks the end of the “MeToo” movement. In my opinion as a women’s rights and victims’ rights attorney for 50 years, nothing could be farther from the truth.

The “MeToo” movement began decades before allegations against Mr. Weinstein became public and the “MeToo” movement will continue into the future. It does not only manifest itself in criminal trials. Countless victims enter confidential settlements without ever filing a lawsuit, or if there is no settlement, they may file a Jane Doe lawsuit. With either of those options, they could report what happened to them to law enforcement or choose not to report to law enforcement if they wish to be afforded privacy about what they have suffered.

I make no apologies for supporting victims in whichever choice they wish to make to hold the wrongdoers who have harmed them accountable. Yes, I have represented many victims in confidential settlements against rich, powerful, famous men and many victims chose never to go to the police and ask that a person who has hurt them be prosecuted. Even if we help them with a civil settlement against the person they accuse, they still have a right to go to the police, make a police report, and testify against the accused person if there is a criminal prosecution, but almost all choose not to do so.

Because the press does not hear about those confidential settlements, it does not mean that the women's movement or the "MeToo" movement is dead. To the contrary, as I have said many times, it is alive and well in every state in the United States because many victims are seeking accountability through civil settlements against the wrongdoers who have hurt them.

Women are empowered in a way that they have never been before. The women's movement is alive and well in the hearts and minds of millions of women and girls.

To them I say, keep up your courage. Fight on in the spirit of Mimi Haley, Gloria Steinem, and Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. As Susan B. Anthony said, "Failure is impossible!"

Gloria Allred

Attorney at Law

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