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Statement of Alicia Arden

I met Jeffrey Epstein in 1997. My friend worked in finance, and saw Epstein during a visit he made to a hotel in Beverly Hills. Epstein asked my friend whether she wanted to model for Victoria's Secret. She said no, she wasn't a model, but suggested "you should meet my friend Alicia because she is a model and would love to be in Victoria's Secret." Epstein said, "Great, have her call me, along with anyone else you know who wants to be a Victoria's Secret model." My friend shared this news with me and gave me Epstein's number. I called him when he was back in New York.

I sent to Epstein's home in New York a portfolio of my photographs. He loved them. He called me directly after receiving them, and told me that his assistant would set up a meeting. A few days later, Epstein's assistant, a woman named Kimberly, called me and said Epstein was at Shuttters Hotel in Santa Monica. She said that I could meet with Epstein in either the afternoon or evening. I picked the afternoon, because I thought it would feel safer.

I knocked on Epstein's door at Shuttters and went into his hotel room. He was wearing a "USA" sweatshirt and black pants. He was barefoot. He took my portfolio to look at the photographs I had sent him earlier. He liked my pictures, but he said "Why don't you look like you do in these photos?" I told him that I photographed differently all the time and modeled in different contexts.

Epstein told me that he wanted to see my body up close. He had me come closer to him, and then he started touching my hips and my buttocks and lifting up my shirt. I was in a skirt, and he touched my bare skin. I started to feel scared and began to cry. I will never forget what he said to me while

touching me, because nobody has ever said that to me before or since. He said, "Let me manhandle you."

Epstein's phone rang as I was crying. He answered, and said to the person on the phone "I have this beautiful girl in front of me and she's very upset." By that point, my skirt was coming down and he was pulling my shirt over my head. I felt terrified. When he seemed distracted by the phone, I pulled my clothes back on, grabbed my portfolio, and prepared to leave the room. As I did, he put \$100 on the table. I said, "Jeffrey, I'm not a prostitute, I want to be in the Victoria's Secret catalog." He responded, "Let me see what I can do." I left the money in the hotel room and walked out.

When I left the room, I immediately called my friend and told her what happened. My friend did not answer the phone, so I left messages for her as I walked down the hallway to valet parking.

I soon realized that Epstein had followed me from the hotel room out to valet parking. He handed me the money again. I ended up taking it because I was short on money at the time and I needed the money to reimburse me for the gas to get to and from the hotel and for the valet parking. I was actually on my way that day to file a financial aid application for college. I felt safer taking the money around other people in valet parking. I remained very upset about all of the touching that went on in the hotel room.

After the incident, I felt violated and mistreated. Instead of going to my college, I went straight to the police department in Santa Monica to file a report.

At the police department, officers told me that I was very pretty. They said that I went up to the hotel room willingly, and that I intimidate men because of my appearance. I told the police that I did not ask or give permission to be touched or to have Epstein start taking my clothes off. I thought I was going for a legitimate audition for Victoria's Secret, and he took advantage of me. The police told me I should think before doing anything.

I was upset by my encounter with the police and their refusal to take my complaint seriously. I felt violated all over again. I continued to think about the visit with Epstein. I knew that what he did was wrong and worried for myself and other women.

I went back to the police a week later and insisted on filing a formal report. I really hoped when I went back that a woman would be there to assist me. Only men took my statement. The process took two and one half hours, but I stayed and filed my report.

I had always thought that when you reported something to the police, they would at least call you back. I knew that Jeffrey Epstein traveled to other cities, and I gave the police Epstein's home number and work number in New York. I feared that he could be making appointments in other places and abusing other women like he abused me.

Despite my efforts, nobody ever called me. There was never any follow-up. It seemed my complaint was ignored.

Alicia Arden
Represented by Attorney Gloria Allred
July 6, 2020