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Statement of Gloria Allred

Today we are here on the one-year anniversary of the arrest of Jeffrey Epstein. Mr. Epstein is alleged to have sexually abused hundreds of girls and young women dating back to 1994 or earlier and perhaps continuing until his arrest on July 6, 2019. In fact, Ghislaine Maxwell was just indicted last week on allegations that, “from at least in or about 1994, up to and including at least in or about 1997, Maxwell assisted, facilitated, and contributed to Jeffrey Epstein’s abuse of minor girls...”.

In 1997, my client Alicia Arden, a model, was sexually assaulted and battered by Jeffrey Epstein at the Shutters on the Beach Hotel in Santa Monica. She filed a police report with the Santa Monica Police Department but it appears that little or no investigation was ever done, because after the police report was filed, Ms. Arden was never contacted by the police or by any prosecutor.

Had Jeffrey Epstein been investigated and had he been prosecuted and convicted, perhaps countless victims would have been spared from the sexual assaults and rapes that they were forced to suffer.

Today, I am delivering a letter to the LA County District Attorney and the Santa Monica City Attorney, demanding an investigation into why Ms. Arden's report to the police in 1997 appears to have been ignored. It took courage for Alicia to file the report, but then it appears that law enforcement failed to pursue it.

Alicia may be the first victim of Jeffrey Epstein who has written evidence that she did file a police report alleging sexual abuse by Epstein in the 1990's.

The failure of law enforcement to follow up on her report is inexcusable, and Alicia deserves answers. The women and girls who were also victimized as a result of the failure of law enforcement to do their job also deserve to know the truth about why Jeffrey Epstein was allowed to victimize Alicia without suffering any legal consequences. Was there a failure to investigate Jeffrey Epstein because he was rich, powerful, and well-connected or were there other reasons? Was the failure to do any meaningful investigation because of rape myths, such as the common myth that if a woman goes to a man's hotel room, she must have wanted to be sexually assaulted? Alicia and the public have a right to know. We look forward to the response of law enforcement.

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Representing Alicia Arden
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