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### **Statement of Gloria Allred**

Today we are here to demand action from Universal Studios because of what two 13 year old girls were forced to suffer there on September 26, 2014 when they attended the Universal Studios Hollywood Halloween Horror Nights.

Kayla Beals, age 13 and Roxy Fisher, also 13, went to the Halloween Horror Night that evening with another 13 year old girl. They expected to have fun there in the mazes and in a haunted house and to have a scary but fun filled time.

Kayla's mom Nancy Beals, and Roxy's mom Sharla Fisher purchased the tickets on line for their daughters and believed that they would be going to a safe family friendly place for a Halloween adventure. Unfortunately, however, Universal's Halloween Horror night was horrifying for reasons that they never could have foreseen or reasonably expected.

In one part of the Halloween Horror Night, a woman was on the stage speaking into the microphone. She was talking to some young men who were wearing flannel shirts and were also ticket holders. The woman called them "the flannel shirt group". Kayla and her friends were also wearing flannel shirts over their jeans so Kayla alleges that she asked the woman if she and her friends could also be part of the flannel group.

The woman said that Kayla and her friends could not be part of the flannel group because they were 12 years old. Roxy said “We are not 12”. Kayla remembers that the woman then responded by saying “I don’t know what you are, but I know you are a bunch of whores”. Then the woman asked Kayla and her two friends to come closer. She said “Come over here hookers”. Then the woman said to Roxy, “What’s your name?” Roxy responded that her name was Roxy. The woman then allegedly said “I’m just going to call you slut 1, then slut 2 and slut 3”.

The girls were shocked. As though those words were not bad enough, the woman then pointed to Roxy and said on the microphone to the crowd “How much would you pay for her?” One man held up a dollar. The woman said “No the bidding starts at 200 thousand dollars”. Then Roxy, Kayla and their friend began to leave as the woman said into the microphone something to the effect that the girls should get on their hands and knees because she knew this was a position that they were used to.

Then the girls in disbelief left the area. Both Kayla and Roxy told their moms what had happened to them at Universal’s Halloween Horror Nights. Both moms were very upset to hear that their daughters had been made the targets of sexist slurs and degrading comments.

Sharla, Roxy’s mom, called Universal the next day to complain because she did not want other young girls to be targeted and victimized by such

inappropriate and insulting remarks by Universal Studios. She also filed a complaint on line. However, despite Sharla's best efforts on several occasions to get Universal to meet with her about this issue, Universal failed to get back to her as she was promised that they would, and the only statement of substance that was made to her when she called to complain was that "all of our Universal employees are very well trained".

It is time for Universal to stop ignoring these moms and meet with them and their daughters to apologize for Universal's calling their 13 year old girls whores, sluts and hookers and suggesting that they could be for sale at an auction. Universal needs to be accountable for what these girls were forced to suffer. More than once, as Sharla Fisher will describe, they were given the opportunity to address this situation, but instead of taking this matter seriously they made matters worse by ignoring it and telling one mom, Sharla, that they would get back to her. They never did.

Compounding the situation, they told Sharla that if she wanted to meet with someone in person about this, she would have to buy a ticket and that they were sold out.

The combination of all of Universal's actions and inaction when this was brought to their attention sent a message to these moms and their daughters that Universal endorsed, condoned and ratified what was done to these children. It is time for Universal to take full responsibility for their corporate insensitivity and irresponsibility.

We want a meeting where Universal can enunciate what their standards are for the treatment of women and girls. We want to know what their policy is and what parents can expect when they drop their children off at a Universal Studio's property.

Do they continue to approve and endorse calling female children sluts, whores and hookers? Are they willing to meet in person with these brave children and their parents to apologize? In the alternative, if they wish to defend their practice, I suggest that they should post a sign. It should state:

PARENTS BEWARE

Your daughter is about to enter Universal Studios for Halloween Horror Night. While on our property your daughter, who may be as young as 13 years old, may be called a "a slut, a whore, or a hooker" by Universal employee. Proceed at your own risk.

Gloria Allred  
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Nancy Beals and her daughter Kayla  
Sharla Fisher and her daughter Roxy  
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