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Statement of Louissette Geiss

I first met Harvey Weinstein at the Cannes Film Festival. I next saw him at the Sundance film festival in 2008. He invited me to the premiere of his film "Where in the World is Osama Bin Laden?" After the premiere, he asked me about my music company and about the film I had written and was pitching at the festival. We agreed to meet at the hotel restaurant where we were both staying. When we arrived we were asked to leave shortly after as the restaurant was closing.

Harvey then offered to reconvene the meeting in his office which was adjacent to his hotel room. I was hesitant. I had heard stories about Harvey's behavior with women. Nevertheless, there was a hotel security camera above us and I said to him, I will take this meeting with you if you promise not to touch me and I made him shake my hand in front of the camera.

We went to his office and had a great conversation about his current film and about the film I was pitching. He seemed genuinely interested in the script I had co-written. After 30 minutes he excused himself to go to the bathroom. He returned in a robe with the front open, buck-naked. He told me to keep talking about my film and that he was going to get into his hot tub which was in the room adjacent to his office, steps away. I kept talking as he got into the hot tub. When I finished my pitch, he asked me to watch him masturbate. I told him I was leaving. He quickly got out of the hot tub. As I went to get my purse to leave he grabbed my forearm and pulled me to his bathroom and pleaded with me to watch him masturbate. My heart was racing and I was very scared.

I pulled my arm away and headed for the door. Harvey followed me telling me he could introduce me to his brother, Bob, and that I could be in three movies and that he could help me with my movie if I would just watch him masturbate. I was on the verge of tears but I pulled it together and quickly exited his room.

I told my sister and good friend what happened to me immediately afterwards. Over the years when I was asked why I left the movie industry, I would repeat what Mr. Weinstein did to me. Even though my parents raised me to be strong, I never, ever thought I had a chance to stand up for myself when it came to battling such a media mogul like Harvey Weinstein. I knew if I said anything, no one would choose my truth over his story.

I know I am not special as I am one of many who have experienced the fear and pain that sexual harassment releases on one's mind, body and soul. Sexual harassment has become commonplace in the entertainment industry and to be fair almost every woman I know has a story of being sexually harassed or abused at some point in their career. I am only now feeling confident enough to come forward.

I know Harvey has been fired and that he has said he needs help but he is also still saying he wants to sue the NY Times for defamation and he's pleaded with the Hollywood Elite to give him a second chance. He is breeding doubt about the stories that women have told and making light of his actions by stating this is such a good story, he wants to buy the movie rights. I do not think Harvey fully comprehends how much pain he has inflicted on me and scores of other women.

The window to end this soul crushing practice of sexually harassing women was only recently opened. I think we can all feel we are on the precipice of an empowerment revolution now so let's allow that feeling to build our confidence and rise up. I implore other women who experienced the same as me to please come forward. Let us actually BE the change we want to see in this world. Let's stop talking about ending this behavior but let's actually end it. Let's tuck our babies into bed tonight knowing we did absolutely everything we can to make this world better than we found it.

When I think of my mom, Gloria and the countless women who traveled the road less travelled to help me rise up to become the mother and professional I am today, I am humbled by their courage.

Sexual harassment in the entertainment industry needs to stop and needs to stop now.

Louisette Geiss
Represented by Attorney Gloria Allred
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