

# National Organization for Women Hollywood Chapter

# PRESS RELEASE



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## **“Weinstein must be removed from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences”** *Statement from Hollywood NOW President John Erickson*

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**HOLLYWOOD, CA** – As Harvey Weinstein is “terminated, effective immediately” from his own company in the midst of sexual misconduct allegations that surfaced due to a story posted in The New York Times, more and more women from all walks of life have come forward.

The article has reported at least two decades of predatory behavior by the movie mogul in an apparent toxic environment accepted as standard operating procedures of tinsel-town. Since the outcry for more diversity on the Board of Governors of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences since the #OscarsSoWhite controversy of the 2015 and 2016 awards ceremonies, the board has developed a series of changes, which include doubling the number of women members.

Clearly, the Academy has recognized that the prevailing men-only culture needs to change. Harvey Weinstein needs to be removed as a member of the Academy. This effort will continue to signal a change in the status-quo and show that the academy is truly diversifying. A simple statement of apology is not enough. Weinstein’s actions must have real life consequences.

As part of our mission, Hollywood NOW is dedicated to creating a more diverse and equitable environment for women and girls in the industry and this includes being free from any form of harassment. The Hollywood Chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) stands with all victims of sexual harassment and echoes calls upon the Academy to revoke Harvey Weinstein's membership.

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### **About Hollywood NOW**

The Hollywood Chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) addresses today's pressing issues facing women and girls in Hollywood and West Hollywood.

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