

# PRESS RELEASE



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**“The entertainment industry must stand up for victims of sexual assault and harassment.”**

*Statement of Hollywood NOW President John Erickson*

November 6, 2017

**HOLLYWOOD, CA** – The case against Harvey Weinstein was only the tipping point regarding the ongoing need to address sexual assault and harassment in entertainment industry. There is a pandemic in Hollywood that we must address when it comes to sexual violence. Victims and advocates can no longer be silent about the longstanding problem of predatory behavior.

Bone-chilling accounts of abuse and assault at the hands of Hollywood’s most powerful and influential figures continue to surface, like Melanie Kohler’s statement against Brett Ratner. These personal reports from the front lines of the entertainment industry are becoming daily occurrences.

The Hollywood Chapter of the National Organization for Women (Hollywood NOW) stands with survivors of sexual assault, harassment, and rape. We call upon the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, SAG-AFTRA, Television Academy, Producer’s Guild, Writer’s Guild and other industry organizations to end their connections with these individuals and lead the charge to protect and educate people from all walks of life against predatory behavior emboldened by box office success at the expense of human lives and dignity.

As part of our mission, Hollywood NOW is dedicated to creating a more diverse and equitable environment for women and girls in the entertainment industry, and this includes being free from any form of harassment and assault. Hollywood NOW stands with all victims of sexual violence and echoes calls for further investigations into predatory behaviors in Hollywood.

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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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