

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

By Jackie Melvin, Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Abuse against Working Women

“IT BECAME A HASHTAG, A MOVEMENT, A RECKONING. BUT it began, as great social change nearly always does, with individual acts of courage. ...

The galvanizing actions of the women on our cover...along with those of hundreds of others...have unleashed one of the highest-velocity shifts in our culture since the 1960's. Social media acted as a powerful accelerant; the hashtag #MeToo has now been used millions of times in at least 85 countries....

To imagine Rosa Parks with a Twitter account is to wonder how much faster civil rights might have progressed.

We are in the middle of the beginning of this upheaval.... How far-reaching will it be? How deep into the country? ... Indeed, the biggest test of this movement will be the extent to which it changes the realities of people for whom telling the truth simply threatens too much.

*For giving voice to open secrets, for moving whisper networks onto social networks, for pushing us all to stop accepting the unacceptable, the **Silence Breakers** are the 2017 Person of the Year.*

.....Edward Felsenthal, Editor-in-Chief, TIME MAGAZINE, December 18, 2017

A Quinnipiac Poll in November 2017, found 60% of female voters said they had been sexually harassed. Of those 7 in 10 said the harassment occurred at their workplace. [*LA Times, “The Nation” November 30, 2017*]

Women have been emboldened to describe abuse upon them by men in power, even from decades ago. Thanks to the reporting by social media, cable news shows, and daily newspapers across the country, the stories and publicity have motivated private industry leaders to fire the accused. Government and public pressure upon elected officials has resulted in resignations from official positions and elected office.

The abhorrent and inappropriate activity of the pedophiles and perpetrators have ignited a figurative wildfire comparable to the fires in Southern California and burned numerous prominent men in the industry including Hollywood producers Harvey Weinstein and Bret Rattner, actor Kevin Spacey, Comedian Louis C.K., NBC Today show host Matt Lauer,

CBS' Charlie Rose, news commentator Mark Halperin, ABC's Roger Ailes and Bill O'Reilly, TV Chef and Restaurant owner Mario Batali.

Victims have spoken out and industry bosses have LISTENED, and BELIEVED and fired the perpetrators. Oh my.

POLITICIANS who lead promiscuous lives groping and assaulting women were quickly identified by more emboldened women and to this writing include U. S. Senator AL FRANKEN and Representatives TRENT FRANKS of AZ; JOHN CONYERS, JR of MI.

And perhaps most astounding was the election of a Democrat to the U.S. Senate from the red state of Alabama in the special election to replace Attorney General Jeff Session. A Democrat has not been a senator from Alabama in 25 years but the Republican candidate "Judge" Roy Moore was alleged a pedophile and, as well, had been removed from Alabama's Superior Court for illegal acts. He reportedly was beaten by a voting combination of black citizens and educated white millennials from the college communities throughout the state. The state's Governor had declared it better to have a child molester than a Democrat!

Post-election, Rep. Jeff Flake [R-AZ] declared "Decency wins!"

ACTION ITEM FOR *NFBPWC* MEMBERS:

As the VOICE OF WORKING WOMEN since our inception in 1919, we are the progenitor of the current "Reckoning" and growing "Culture of Change" for sexual abuse against working women impacting our society and we need to exert our powerful voices to make some noise and cause a ruckus... NOW.

President Liz has graciously appointed me as Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Abuse against Working Women to focus on this current revolution for working women that began late in 2017 with women emboldening one another to publicize the machinations of HARVEY WEINSTEIN,

What can BPW do to turn this tsunami of abuse declarations into productive activity for women who have suffered abuse and to protect others in the future. BPW is an organization whose public policy includes eliminating sexual abuse and harassment against women in the workplace. This IS OUR ISSUE.

U.S. CAPITOL

U.S. Rep Jackie Speier [D-CA] and US Senator Kirsten Gillibrand [D-NY] have introduced bi-partisan, comprehensive legislation to prevent and respond to sexual harassment in Congress. H.R 4936, to which BPW members need give their support, is called the “ME TOO Congress Act”, and has numerous co-sponsors including Representatives Ryan Costello (R-PA), Ann McLane Kuster (D-NH), Bruce Poliquin (R-ME), Jamie Raskin (D-MD) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA). Please check www.house.gov and www.senate.gov to see whether your representative/senator is a co-sponsor of the bills now moving along in the house and senate.

Speir’s press release of November 15, 2017, states: HR 4346...will require more transparency, overhaul the flawed complaint process, and prove better support for victims and whistleblowers. Additionally, both the House and Senate bills will require mandatory annual training for Members and staff, implement climate surveys to show the true scope of this problem, give interns and fellows the same protections as full-time staff, and end forced mediation.

Speier’s H.Res. 604 [called CEASE Resolution] would “require each member, officer and employee of the House to complete the program of sexual harassment prevention and response training in employment which is offered by the Office of Compliance,” It would “amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to reform the procedures provided under such Act for the investigation and resolution of allegations that employing offices of the legislative branch have violated the rights and protections provided to their employees under such Act, including protections against sexual harassment, to require the updating of programs of sexual harassment prevention and response training in employment, to institute biennial employment discrimination climate surveys, ...”.

THESE BILLS ARE EFFORTS by CONGRESS TO CLEAN UP ITS OWN HOUSES - LET’S LET THEM KNOW WE KNOW AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO DO IT.

BPW MEMBERS: MAKE NOISE Let’s make our opening salvo in Congress a support of California Rep Jackie Speier for starting the action at the Congressional level against sexual abuse. A message to both U. S. Senators from the reader’s state and Congressperson from your district would be of great impact, as well, if letters from ALL 400-500 members of NFBPWC, asking them to support the Speier legislation in House and Senate.

ACTION WEEK: JANUARY 20-27, 2018

Here's the goal folks - CAN WE GET THE PARTICIPATION OF ALL NFBPWC MEMBERS in all 8 states within our organization? Will you be involved NOW? Will you write S. A. letters to timely support the WOMEN'S MARCH on January 20.... and let our VOICES BE HEARD.

Letters should be mailed to 1) U.S. REP. JACKIE SPEIER; 2) U.S. CONGRESSPERSON FROM YOUR DISTRICT; 3) U.S. SENATORS FROM YOUR STATE; 4] STATE LEGISLATURE LETTERS TO YOUR LOCAL DISTRICT'S REPRESENTATIVES.

WRITE LETTERS, CARDS, THANK YOU NOTES, to

The Honorable [Name of Senator]
U.S. CAPITOL
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable [Name of Representative]
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

OR TELEPHONE ATUS Capitol Switchboard (202) 224-3121 OR THEIR EMAIL. TWITTER AND OTHER MEDIA DATA may be found on their web sites.

SOME NOTES, just fyi....

Merriam-Webster's 2017 word of the year is "feminism." Lookups increased 70% over 2016 in Merriam-Webster.com and spiked several times after key events, such as the Women's March on Washington in January. Oxford Dictionary's is "Youthquake".

LA Times editorial "wish list for 2018 included "A continued focus on men's bad behavior toward women - from banal chauvinism to sexual assault. We're hoping for not just a momentary ripple of revelations, but an actual correction in the imbalance of power and respect between the genders." Amen!

TO BE CONTINUED: "HOLLYWOOD AND ITS CASTING COUCH AND THE TIME'S UP INITIATIVE

NFBPWC Member name

address

email

January 2017

The Honorable US Representative Jackie Speier
US House of Representatives
2465 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Sexual Harassment of women in the workplace

Dear Representative Speier”

This is to support your H. Resolution 604 and H.R. 4396 to restrain those persons within Congress from engaging in sexual harassment and abuse of working women within the Congressional environment.

Your bi-partisan legislation should be a beginning toward elimination of the “culture of harassment.”

I am a member of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women Clubs, which has been the Voice of Working Women since 1919.

I and our membership of five hundred women believe that the current sexual revolution, the MeToo Era, the movement from a Culture of Harassment to a Culture of Change, the Reckoning, is a positive revolution and that your legislation is the current spark in the Congress to motivate change within that body. We will follow the progress of your legislation and will support it and you in your efforts.

Thank you for your work and dedication these many years.

Very truly yours,

[your name] and signature.

NFBPWC Member name
address
email

January 2017

The Honorable US Representative [YOUR DISTRICT]
US House of Representatives
[FOR OFFICE NUMBER SEE www.house.gov]
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Sexual Harassment of women in the workplace

Dear Representative _____:

As your constituent, I am writing to ask you to support Speier's H. Resolution 604 and H.R. 4396 which seek to address the issues of sexual harassment and abuse of working women within the Congressional environment.

This bi-partisan legislation should be a beginning toward elimination of the "culture of harassment."

I am a member of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs which has been the Voice of Working Women since 1919.

I and our membership of five hundred women believe that the current sexual revolution, the MeToo Era, the movement from a Culture of Harassment to a Culture of Change, the Reckoning, is a positive revolution and that this legislation is the current spark in the Congress to motivate change within that body. We will follow the progress of this Resolution and Bill and will support them and hope you will too.

Thank you for your work and dedication these many years.

Very truly yours,

{your name and signature}.

NFBPWC Member name
address
email

January 2017

The Honorable US Senator [YOUR state]
US Senate
[FOR OFFICE NUMBER SEE www.senate.gov]
Washington, D.C. 20515

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