

#MeToo

By Greta Reel

 @TheHyphenNews

In 1996, two simple, yet powerful words were the start of a movement that is still going strong today: me too.

That year, now-activist Tarana Burke was working as a director at a youth camp, when one girl took her aside and asked to speak to her alone.

As Burke listened, the girl opened up with a horrifying secret: her mother's boyfriend was molesting her. Burke, feeling completely overwhelmed as the girl spoke, directed her to another counselor.

However, she never forgot the look on the girl's face. Burke later stated on her website that she couldn't even bring herself to tell the girl something that would have assuredly made her feel better. "Me too."

The incident bothered Burke for a long time, but eventually led to the start of Burke's Me Too movement later.

Fast forward to Oct. 15, 2017 and the war on sexual assault is still going more than two decades later. Actress Alyssa Milano tweeted, "If you've been sexually harassed or assaulted write 'me too' as a reply to this tweet."

By Oct. 16, #MeToo had been tweeted over 500,000 times, including both genders. (Milano, who was unaware of Burke's movement at the time, tweeted in response to the sexual harassment allegations against well known film producer, Harvey Weinstein.)

The accusations against Weinstein flooded in, including charges from actresses Ashley Judd and Salma Hayek among them. By Oct. 27, 2017, 84 people had accused Weinstein of sexual misconduct.

The #MeToo movement has taken off since then, and numerous men have been accused of harassment, molesting and rape. The men accused of misconduct include former Today anchor Matt Lauer, actor Jeffrey Tambor, Sen. Al Franken, and former Alabama Senate candidate, Roy Moore.

Moore, who is among the most publicized of these men, was accused by multiple wom-



Photo by Caleb Sorrells

en of molesting them. Several of these women were 18 years old or younger when he supposedly molested them. Two of the girls had only been 14 years old at the time, sparking the hashtag #MeAtFourteen.

Well known female figures including Sarah Silverman, Katie Couric, and Gretchen Carlson tweeted pictures of themselves at age 14, and stated what they were doing at that age. Other women tweeted too, and Couric said, "I was eating a lot of chocolate chip cookie dough and learning to do the 'hustle' and not worrying about a 32-year-old man trying to hustle me."

#MeAtFourteen made a powerful statement nationwide, and Moore eventually lost to Democrat Doug Jones, a rare win for Democrats in a typically red-state like Alabama.

This movement has been one of the biggest of 2017, and Time Magazine named the "Silence Breakers" as their persons of the year.

It is clear that sexual assault and harassment are a huge problem in the United States, and it happens to women, men, and even children. Obviously a change needs to come, and the #MeToo movement seems to be a start.

This is not just one person's problem -- it is everyone's, and everyone needs to contribute to making a change.

If you've been harrassed and/or assaulted, the National Sexual Assault Hotline number is. 1-800-656-4673, and is available 24 hours a day.

Remember, you are not alone.

"It's more than a moment, it's a movement"



Tarana

@TaranaBurke



1.7 million people from 85 countries and counting...it's more than a moment it's a movement. [#metoo](#)

9:05 AM - Oct 24, 2017



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387



1,277



Gloria Calderón Kellett

@everythinggloria



[#MeToo](#)

10:48 PM - Oct 15, 2017



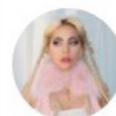
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Lady Gaga

@ladygaga



[#MeToo](#)

5:57 PM - Oct 15, 2017



1,741



8,385



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24/7



By Emily Tully & Kyle Sanders

@TheHyphenNews

tion. Even host Seth Meyers took a shot at Harvey Weinstein, a former Hollywood producer, who has been accused of sexual assault by women throughout Hollywood spanning over decades.

Out of all the woman that took stage, however, one woman stole the show: Oprah Winfrey.

As Winfrey walked towards the stage to accept the Cecil B. DeMille Award, she was on a mission. Winfrey's speech addressed victims of sexual abuse, noting that it "transcends any culture, geography, race, religion, politics, or workplace."

She went on to speak about the stigma surrounding the media and the press in the last few months, saying "I want to say that I value the press more than ever before... what I know for sure is that speaking your truth is the most powerful tool we all have."

Perhaps the most heart-wrenching part of Winfrey's acceptance, is when she discussed what men (and women) face in today's social climate. She applauded those who have stepped forward and told their truths about their history of abuse, and pressure to keep quiet about it.

"I've interviewed and portrayed people who've withstood some of the ugliest things life can throw at you," Winfrey said. "But the one quality all of them seem to share is an ability to maintain hope for a brighter morning, even during our darkest nights."

For most, it was a night that highlighted a part of many lives that often goes untold, especially in a place like Hollywood. Those in the room are ready to take a stand and end the notion that acts like these will continue to be swept under the rug and not be a topic of discussion. The time of these injustices are over.

As Winfrey said, "[Men and women] are fighting hard to make sure that they become the leaders who take us to the time when nobody ever has to say 'Me too' again."

"I am wearing black to stand in solidarity with all of the women who have come out about being sexually harassed and abused," said actress Alison Brie, who voiced Unikitty in The LEGO Movie. "I'm so in awe of the bravery it took for the first few to come forward. They are heroes."

More than 19 million people nationwide watched the Golden Globes, the first award show of 2018, to see who took home the hardware for their favorite TV shows and movies.

But during this year's ceremony, nobody could ignore the elephant in the room. Many actresses, like Brie, came to the 75th Annual Golden

Globes prepared to make a statement.

Nearly every female actress could be seen wearing black at this year's award show, a solidary show of support of the #MeToo Movement. Additionally, many male actors showed support for their sisters, wearing a round 'MeToo' button.

Along with the fashion statement, award winners that eventually took the stage had their own political statements to make about sexual abuse.

From the first actress to win an award, Nicole Kidman, it was easy to tell what the acceptance statements were going to be about, and it had little to do with the films. As Kidman took stage, she yelled "power to woman," before saying her thank you's.

This sentiments continued throughout the night, as many women took stage and talked about sexual abuse and discrimina-



Actresses during the 2018 Golden Globe Awards

Oprah's Golden Globes Speech

Jan. 7, 2018

"In 1964, I was a little girl sitting on the linoleum floor of my mother's house in Milwaukee watching Anne Bancroft present the Oscar for best actor at the 36th Academy Awards. She opened the envelope and said five words that literally made history: "The winner is Sidney Poitier." Up to the stage came the most elegant man I had ever seen. I remember his tie was white, and of course his skin was black, and I had never seen a black man being celebrated like that. I tried many, many times to explain what a moment like that means to a little girl, a kid watching from the cheap seats as my mom came through the door, bone tired from cleaning other people's houses. But all I can do is say that the explanation in Sidney's performance in "Lilies of the Field":

"Amen, amen, amen, amen."

In 1982, Sidney received the Cecil B. DeMille award right here at the Golden Globes and it is not lost on me that at this moment, there are some little girls watching as I become the first black woman to be given this same award. It is an honor -- it is an honor and it is a privilege to share the evening with all of them and also with the incredible men and women who have inspired me, who challenged me, who sustained me and made my journey to this stage possible. Dennis Swanson who took a chance on me for "A.M. Chicago." Quincy Jones who saw me on that show and said to Steven Spielberg, "Yes, she is Sophia in 'The Color Purple.'" Gayle who has been the definition of what a friend is, and Stedman who has been my rock -- just a few to name.

I want to thank the Hollywood Foreign Press Association because we all know the press is under siege these days. We also know it's the insatiable dedication to uncovering the absolute truth that keeps us from turning a blind eye to corruption and to injustice. To -- to tyrants and victims, and secrets and lies. I want to say that I value the press more than ever before as we try to navigate these complicated times, which brings me to this: what I know for sure is that speaking your truth is the most powerful tool we all have. And I'm especially proud and inspired by all the women who have felt strong enough and empowered enough to speak up and share their personal stories. Each of us in this room are celebrated because of the stories that we tell, and this year we became the story.

But it's not just a story affecting the entertainment industry. It's one that transcends any culture, geography, race, religion, politics, or workplace. So I want tonight to express gratitude to all the women who have endured years of abuse and assault because they, like my mother, had children to feed and bills to pay and dreams to pursue. They're the women whose names we'll never know. They are domestic workers and farm workers. They are working in factories and they work in restaurants and they're in academia, engineering, medicine, and science. They're part of the world of tech and politics and business. They're our athletes in the Olympics and they're our soldiers in the military.

And there's someone else, Recy Taylor, a name I know and I think you should know, too. In 1944, Recy Taylor was a young wife and mother walking home from a church service she'd attended in Abbeville, Alabama, when she was abducted by six armed white men, raped, and left blindfolded by the side of the road coming home from church. They threatened to kill her if she ever told anyone, but her story was reported to the NAACP where a young worker by the name of Rosa Parks became the lead investigator on her case and together they sought justice. But justice wasn't an option in the era of Jim Crow. The men who tried to destroy her were never persecuted. Recy Taylor died ten days ago, just shy of her 98th birthday. She lived as we all have lived, too many years in a culture broken by brutally powerful men. For too long, women have not been heard or believed if they dare speak the truth to the power of those men. But their time is up. Their time is up.

Their time is up. And I just hope -- I just hope that Recy Taylor died knowing that her truth, like the truth of so many other women who were tormented in those years, and even now tormented, goes marching on. It was somewhere in Rosa Parks' heart almost 11 years later, when she made the decision to stay seated on that bus in Montgomery, and it's here with every woman who chooses to say, "Me too." And every man -- every man who chooses to listen.

In my career, what I've always tried my best to do, whether on television or through film, is to say something about how men and women really behave. To say how we experience shame, how we love and how we rage, how we fail, how we retreat, persevere and how we overcome. I've interviewed and portrayed people who've withstood some of the ugliest things life can throw at you, but the one quality all of them seem to share is an ability to maintain hope for a brighter morning, even during our darkest nights. So I want all the girls watching here, now, to know that a new day is on the horizon! And when that new day finally dawns, it will be because of a lot of magnificent women, many of whom are right here in this room tonight, and some pretty phenomenal men, fighting hard to make sure that they become the leaders who take us to the time when nobody ever has to say "Me too" again."