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### Statement of Gloria Allred

Today I am here with a victim of R. Kelly to respond to Kelly's defense attorney, Douglas Anton, who filed a letter in Federal court in New York last week in the case now pending in United States District court for the Eastern District of New York against his client R. Kelly. In that case, Mr. Kelly (aka the defendant) is charged with felonies involving sex trafficking and a criminal enterprise. There are charges filed by the U.S. Attorney's office on behalf of five victims. I represent three of the five.

Lizette Martinez, who is with me today, is not one of those five victims, however, she is a potential witness. Lizette is a victim who told what she alleges about her victimization by Mr. Kelly in the Lifetime documentary, "Surviving R. Kelly." She has reported what she alleges to law enforcement and I am very proud of her because it takes a great deal of courage to recall what was and is a very painful experience in her life.

The trauma of many victims is only compounded by the statement in the letter filed by Mr. Anton in court in which he alleges that victims of R. Kelly have "groupie remorse." Many victims of Mr. Kelly were under age and, as a matter of law, cannot consent to sexual abuse by Mr. Kelly or anyone else. To suggest that they did consent or have consented to being targeted by a predator and his enablers as if they had known that they were being targeted, manipulated and abused is extremely upsetting to many victims who were vulnerable and were clearly victims of a predator and his enablers.

Lizzette feels that she must speak out on this mischaracterization of victims by the defense because it is unfair and hurtful and it is triggering more pain and in some cases guilt and shame that no victim should have to bear. I am proud that she is speaking out today. She is courageous and I commend her that she is willing to speak her truth to the defense attorneys for Mr. Kelly who are trying to shame and blame the many victims of Mr. Kelly.

Gloria Allred  
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