

## Open Letter to Mel Gibson

Dear Mr. Gibson,

Yesterday, shocking sexist and racist statements reportedly from you were published around the world. You allegedly told the mother of your youngest child that the way that she was dressed would get her “raped by a pack of N---ers’ ”.

As an attorney who has represented many sexual assault victims and as a woman who is a survivor of rape myself, I want you to know how deeply offensive, appalling and harmful your reported statements are.

Women are not raped because of the way that they are dressed. Babies have been raped. Ninety year old women have been raped. Nuns have been raped.

It had nothing to do with the way that they were dressed. Rape is an act of power, not of sex. It is an exercise of dominance by men who wish to exercise their power, and who care only about themselves, not the long lasting damage that they are inflicting on vulnerable victims.

Rape is not the fault of the innocent victim. It is the fault of the rapist who refuses to control his urge to hurt the person whom he has targeted.

What if the rapist targeted your daughter? Would you blame her? I hope not. All female victims are someone else’s daughter. How dare you blame them rather than those who commit a crime of rape against them.

Also, I am disgusted that you would use a racist myth to suggest that African American men would want to rape a white woman. Most rapists are not African American and your reported statement is clearly and simply a racist stereotype about African American men.

You owe all women and African American men a public apology and action to rehabilitate yourself so that you will never make such sexist and racist statements again.

We all look forward to your response.

GLORIA ALLRED  
Attorney at Law  
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