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Statement of Gloria Allred

Last week Governor Andrew Cuomo responded to the New York Attorney General's report concerning allegations of sexual harassment. In his defense, Governor Cuomo stated, "I never touched anyone inappropriately or made inappropriate sexual advances."

In an attempt to bolster his defense, he presented a video slideshow of some of the individuals he had kissed in his years as a politician.

Today I am here with one of the women whose photo he used in his slide show defense. Susan Iannucci, a resident of New York, was standing outside of a school where she worked, where the Governor suddenly approached her, grabbed her and kissed her. She will explain what happened, but the important point is that the Governor did not ask her permission or consent to grab her and kiss her. Apparently, he assumed that any woman would be honored and thrilled to be kissed by the Governor.

A photo and video were taken of this incident by someone unknown to Susan. She first learned that a photo was taken when someone tagged her with it.

Susan felt that the Governor should have asked her if it was okay to kiss her prior to his grabbing her and kissing her. Every person should be asked for permission to touch them instead of just being grabbed and kissed. Everyone should have the right to say "yes" or "no", especially to a stranger, even if that stranger is the Governor of the State of New York. Not only did Governor Cuomo fail to ask Susan for permission to kiss her, he then used the photo of his kissing her in his defense to allegations of sexual harassment.

Once again, he failed to ask Susan if he could use the video of his kissing her as part of his public defense to the New York Attorney General's report.

Susan was very upset to see that the video of her was used by the Governor in his defense.

She feels that the video portrays her in a false light because it may appear that she approves of the Governor kissing strangers, that she consented to his kissing her, and that she agreed to be used as part of his defense to sexual harassment allegations made by numerous women. To the contrary, Susan did not appreciate being revictimized by the Governor by his making her part of his false defense narrative. To make matters worse, Susan's photo from the Governor's video was then prominently featured last week in the New York Post with the headline below the large photo of the Governor kissing Susan that stated "Slideshow".

Today we have a simple message for the Governor. As a Governor, you should have been a role model for treating women with dignity and respect, but you have failed that test.

You should always ask women or men for consent before you touch them. You should also have asked Susan if she would consent to using the video of her in your legal and political defense. You did neither and as a result, Susan has been revictimized and falsely portrayed as someone who approves of your conduct. She does not approve of what you have done.

I am glad that Susan has found the courage to speak out about how you have mistreated her. She may not be the only person whose video you showed in your defense who did not appreciate being used by you in your response.

The Governor is a powerful man, but Susan is an empowered woman, and today, Susan Iannucci is here to speak truth to power.

Attorney Gloria Allred
Representing Susan Iannucci
August 10, 2021

<https://nypost.com/2021/08/03/watch-live-cuomo-responds-to-ag-report-on-sexual-harassment-probe/> The photo of Susan can be seen in the second video in the story, at the 1:40 minute mark.