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I am here today because I feel the need to stand up to Donald Trump.

I first met Mr. Trump when I was representing Utah as a contestant in the Miss USA Pageant in 1997. My father introduced me to him at a rehearsal. Mr. Trump greeted me with a hug and a kiss on my lips. I was shocked because that was the first time that any man had ever greeted me in that manner, but I ended up excusing Mr. Trump's behavior as a way that "East Coast" people greet each other.

After the pageant, Mr. Trump invited me to meet with him in New York to discuss my future. He indicated that he wanted to introduce me to various modeling agencies. I traveled to New York with 2 chaperones to meet with him at his office located in Trump Tower. To my surprise, Mr. Trump embraced me and kissed me again on the lips a second time. It was that second kiss that made me wonder what his intentions really were. What he did made me feel so uncomfortable that I ended up cutting my trip short, bought my own plane ticket, flew home, and never spoke to him again.

I was very disturbed once the 'Access Hollywood' tape was broadcast detailing, in Mr. Trump's own words, what he had done to women and what he felt that he had the right to do to women because he was a star.

Shortly after the tape went public, Mr. Trump in the debate denied ever acting on what he stated in the 'Access Hollywood' tape that he had done to women. I thought to myself, "How can he deny that?" He kissed me on the lips, twice, without my consent.

One by one more accusers started coming forward with similar accusations against Mr. Trump. He referred to us all as “liars.”

To make matters worse, he even threatened to sue me and all of his accusers.

I felt like Mr. Trump was trying to silence all of his accusers who had come forward, as well as others who may be thinking of coming forward.

That’s when I felt enough is enough, and I needed to stand up to Donald Trump. I feel that he is trying to bully and frighten us into silence.

Mr. Trump, that is not going to work with me. I have told the truth about my experience with you, and I am not going to be silenced.

I am here today because I want my children and everyone else to know, that bullying is not acceptable conduct, especially for a candidate for President of the United States. It sets the wrong example.

I am not afraid of you, Mr. Trump. If you carry out your threat to sue me, I will defend myself, and now I have an excellent legal team who will fight for me.

I have asked attorney Gloria Allred to represent me in any lawsuit that you feel the need to file against me, and she has agreed to represent me. I am not alone in this and I will defend myself.

I am ready for this battle, but there shouldn’t be one. Instead, you should have the decency to admit what you did to me, and you should take responsibility for what you have done to other women.

Times have changed. Women are empowered now, and we will not tolerate being bullied anymore.

Temple Taggart
Miss Utah 1997
Represented by Attorney Gloria Allred
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