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## **Statement of Gloria Allred**

Today I am here with my client, Faith Rodgers, to respond to statements by Bill Cosby's publicist, Andrew Wyatt, that R. Kelly, who was recently convicted in New York of serious federal crimes such as racketeering and multiple violations of the Mann Act, was "railroaded", meaning that Mr. Kelly did not receive a fair trial.

I represent three of the five victims for whom charges were filed and who testified under oath in that criminal case. In addition, I represent two other witnesses who also testified in the prosecution's case.

Faith Rodgers was one of the five victims of R. Kelly who testified for the prosecution. Her testimony was very powerful and very important in convicting R. Kelly. In addition to Faith more than 40 witnesses testified under oath for the prosecution and a mountain of incriminating and corroborating evidence was presented to the jury including but not limited to texts, emails, videos, cell phone records, and flight and business records.

Based on the evidence admitted at trial a jury after 9 hours of deliberation decided that R. Kelly was guilty beyond a reasonable doubt and that he should be convicted.

R. Kelly was not "railroaded". He was convicted based on the evidence.

Mr. Wyatt claimed that R. Kelly's case was an example of an "assault on black men". He said, "this is an assault on successful black men who are doing great things."

Nothing could be farther from the truth. R. Kelly did not do "great things" when it came to many women and underage girls. Instead, he recruited them using his fame and fortune, isolated them, sexually abused them, indoctrinated them, intimidated them, controlled them, humiliated them, shamed them,

punished them, coerced many of them to appear in child pornography videos which he directed and produced, and then threatened them that if they ever revealed what he had done to them, he would release the embarrassing videos and photos which he had taken.

In addition to all of that he failed to disclose to many of his victims that he had genital herpes and he knowingly transmitted it to them, causing them to suffer from it for the rest of their lives. The jury heard all of this and more and rightfully convicted R. Kelly.

Mr. Kelly had 4 lawyers representing him in his defense in that courtroom every day, but even his small army of lawyers and all of the due process afforded him by the judge could not protect him from the overwhelming evidence admitted against him.

Throughout all of this, Faith Rodgers has refused to be intimidated or deterred from testifying against Mr. Kelly.

She was determined to tell her truth despite the lies and attacks upon her. Throughout her long ordeal including an intense cross examination by the defense she has conducted herself with grace, dignity, and courage.

After Mr. Kelly's conviction she remained silent, but today she has decided to speak out.

Faith Rodgers will not be silenced, because the truth matters, the injustice and harm inflicted on young black women matters and what happened to Faith Rodgers, a victim of R. Kelly, matters.

Fighting against a celebrity, and his fame and power takes courage and persistence and the support of family and others who believe them.

Faith Rodgers and other victims have demonstrated that when they become empowered and supported, they can win justice and inspire others.

Faith Rodgers will continue to speak her truth and that is what she is here to do today.

[Bill Cosby feels R. Kelly 'got railroaded' at sex-trafficking trial \(nypost.com\)](#)

[Bill Cosby believes convicted sex abuser R Kelly was 'railroaded' during his sex crimes trial | Daily Mail Online](#)

[Bill Cosby's Publicist Tries To Clarify R. Kelly Was 'Railroaded' Statement | BET](#)

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