

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CALCASA Supports Dr. Christine Blasey Ford and All Survivors Who Come Forward with Their Story**

We write to express our support of Dr. Christine Blasey Ford, professor of clinical psychology at Palo Alto University and Stanford University, and to assert the dignity of all survivors of gender violence who come forward with their story.

There are significant barriers to speaking publicly about sexual violence that Dr. Ford has already faced, including denial and minimization of her experience, and ongoing threats, retaliation, and harassment after the fact. We need to treat victims and survivors with respect and create spaces so that they feel safe coming forward. **Dr. Ford is not on trial**, and her story should not be used as a means towards a politically partisan end.

That being said, Dr. Ford's preference for confidentiality and privacy was breached. **It is crucial that survivors themselves be the ones to choose if they come forward, when they come forward and how they come forward.** To that end, the Senate Judiciary Committee must honor Dr. Ford's request, and delay both the vote on confirming Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court of the United States, and any public testimony regarding the allegations raised by Dr. Ford, until a comprehensive, impartial, and respectful investigation has been completed.

We recognize that Judge Kavanaugh has a long-tenured career, and there are many people who may struggle with reconciling these allegations about someone they respect. Rather than placing blame, here are some actions compiled by RALIANCE that you can take to ensure you, your friends and families, and your communities are helping to prevent sexual violence:

- **Pledge to examine your own actions** and consider whether you have ignored things that worried you or behaved in ways that contribute to a culture of disrespect that allows for sexual harassment or misconduct.
- **Speak up and step in** when you hear sexist comments, see inappropriate photos on social media, or a situation that you are concerned may be coercive or harassing.
- **Donate to sexual violence prevention organizations** that are on the front lines fighting this widespread problem; if your local prevention organization or rape crisis center needs volunteers, sign up for a shift.
- **Teach your children or others whom you mentor about the importance of respect, caring and looking out for each other.**

Please refer to the [statement](#) circulated by the National Task Force on Sexual and Domestic Violence for additional information regarding the Supreme Court nomination process.

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*The California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA) is the professional organization dedicated to advocating on behalf of and supporting the work of rape crisis centers, which operate independently throughout California. CALCASA is committed to ending sexual violence through a multifaceted approach of prevention, intervention, education, research, advocacy and public policy.*