



Statement on Survivor's Disclosures of Sexual Assault by César Chávez *Centering Survivors, Honoring Farmworkers, and Demanding Action*

For Immediate Release: March 18, 2026

Contact: Danah Vasquez, Communications Coordinator, dvasquez@valor.us, (916) 446-2520 x 324

SACRAMENTO - The statements from Dolores Huerta and the survivors who have come forward about sexual abuse by César Chávez are devastating and demand action.

We center survivors first. We see you. We believe you. We honor your courage. And we must ask: why are survivors still forced to relive their trauma just to be heard?

We know that power and access enable abuse. Sexual violence is not an anomaly. It is systemic. No movement, no sector, no leader is immune.

This should be a moment of reckoning for all of us. Social justice, farmworker, labor, unions, and violence prevention movements must confront this truth directly. We cannot build justice while ignoring harm within our own spaces.

Our movements are not in contradiction, they are interconnected. We must stand together, fight together, and work collectively to dismantle abuse in all its forms.

Women and girls in farmworker and labor communities have long faced disproportionate levels of sexual violence due to deep power imbalances, economic vulnerability, and systemic inequality. For too long, survivors have carried this burden in silence out of fear, shame, and concern that speaking out would harm the very movements they helped build.

That silence ends now.

We reject a culture that protects power and questions survivors. We reject a society that demands survivors prove their pain while powerful men evade accountability. And we reject the double standard that treats immigrant workers, women of color, and laborers as less worthy of justice.

Accountability is not an attack on a movement: it is necessary for its integrity and survival.

We can honor the contributions of the farmworker movement while also naming harm. We must. Anything less perpetuates the very injustice these movements were built to dismantle.

VALOR stands with Líderes Campesinas, Alianza Nacional de Campesinas, and partners across the labor movement working to end sexual violence in farmworker, labor, and other communities and industries.

We call on all movements, unions, and institutions to take clear, survivor-centered action:

- Believe survivors
- Address harm transparently
- Invest in prevention by building systems that stop abuse before it happens
- Ensure justice is accessible to all workers
- Commit resources to strengthen workplace safety and build cultures that do not tolerate sexual harm
- Work in solidarity across movements, recognizing that our struggles are interconnected and that ending sexual violence requires collective action

Sexual violence is not inevitable. It is preventable. Ending it requires courage, not only from survivors, but from all of us.

If you need support after sexual violence, reach out to your local rape crisis center. Find them at www.valor.us/GetHelp.

To join VALOR's statement, email Danah Vasquez at dvasquez@valor.us.

Signed,

ValorUS® (VALOR)

Ya Basta! Center

Líderes Campesinas

Alianza Nacional de Campesinas

Healthy Alternatives to Violent Environments (HAVEN)

Verity

Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (OCADSV)

Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV)

Oregon Sexual Assault Task Force

Project Sister Family Services

Lisalyn Jacobs, Just Solutions

Rape Trauma Services, San Mateo County, CA

DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)

ASISTA Immigration Assistance

Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CCASA)
Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence (APIGBV)
Napa NEWS, Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse Services
Project Sanctuary, Inc.
Blue Shield of California Foundation
NORA