



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

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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/Get-Help](http://www.valor.us/Get-Help).

To join VALOR's statement, email Danah Vasquez at [dvasquez@valor.us](mailto:dvasquez@valor.us).

Signed,  
ValorUS® (VALOR)  
Ya Basta! Center  
Líderes Campesinas  
Alianza Nacional de Campesinas  
Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence (APIGBV)  
ASISTA Immigration Assistance  
Blue Shield of California Foundation  
California Partnership to End Domestic Violence  
Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CCASA)  
DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)  
Empower Yolo  
Esperanza United  
Healthy Alternatives to Violent Environments (HAVEN)  
Lisalyn Jacobs, Just Solutions

Napa NEWS, Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse Services  
NORA  
Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (OCADSV)  
Oregon Sexual Assault Task Force  
Peace Over Violence  
Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV)  
Project Sanctuary, Inc.  
Project Sister Family Services  
Rape Trauma Services, San Mateo County, CA  
Verity  
Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence  
Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault (WSCADV/SA)