Faces of the #MeToo Movement
Before #MeToo

While we analyze the #MeToo Movement and all it has done in sparking worldwide conversations about sexual assault, let’s also remember those throughout our history who laid its foundations but did not get the chance to benefit from the power of this modern movement.

In the United States alone, sexual violence plagues our history nearly every step of the way. Colonizers used rape as a means to invoke genocide against Native Americans, particularly indigenous women. Native women still see the effects of this today, as it’s estimated that more than 50% of American Indian and Alaska Native women have experienced sexual violence. Indigenous women remain especially vulnerable due to the fact that Indian nations have no authority to convict non-Indians, who commit a reported 96% of sexual violence against Native women.

Moving onto the 18th and 19th centuries, slave masters used rape as a way to both exercise power over enslaved women and, when it resulted in pregnancy, to produce a free labor force. Despite being one of our country’s most disadvantaged demographic, Black women have consistently been at the forefront of exposing predators and demanding justice. Harriet Jacobs was one of the earliest voices to expose her own sexual assault at a national level. Though she wrote it under a pseudonym to protect her family, her autobiography Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl details her experience of sexual abuse at the hands of her enslaver, James Norcom. The New York Tribune, one of the book’s earlier publishers, discontinued publication of the book because Jacobs’ account of sexual abuse was considered too shocking. It was published in its entirety in 1861 and remains one of the most impactful pieces of abolitionist literature.

Decades later, Recy Taylor, an Alabama sharecropper, was gang raped by six white men on her way home from church in 1944. Despite impossible Jim Crow-era pressure to remain silent, Taylor showed incredible bravery by identifying her rapists. One man even confessed; however, the case never went to trial due to two all-white male juries’ refusal to indict them. Outrage over her assault helped fuel the civil rights movement in its early days. Taylor, in a 1997 documentary, explained, “I can’t help but tell the truth of what they done to me.”

In 1991, law professor Anita Hill continued the fight when she accused Clarence Thomas, who
had been nominated to the Supreme Court, of sexual harassment. Hill faced 14 male senators in a televised testimony that was broadcast to tens of millions of Americans. Though Thomas was confirmed into the Supreme Court anyway, Hill’s testimony had a major impact on the national conversation surrounding harassment in the workplace. Sexual harassment cases more than doubled and awards to victims nearly quadrupled in the five years following her accusation. Additionally, a record number of women ran for office in 1992, dubbing it the “Year of the Woman.”

Fifteen years after Hill came forward, Tarana Burke started the Me Too campaign to empower women and girls of color who had experienced sexual violence. Her once community-centered campaign has since grown into a global movement.

To the anonymous, with love

Before delving into the faces of #MeToo, let’s also honor those who chose to remain anonymous or silent during this worldwide movement. Whether they did not have the means to speak up due to familial or societal shame, or they simply found more power in remaining silent, these victims and survivors deserve our understanding and support for however they chose to deal with their own traumas.
In 2006, Tarana Burke created the survivor-led, community-based Me Too campaign to empower women and girls of color who had experienced sexual violence. Burke, a survivor herself, was inspired to create this campaign in 1997, when she was working as a youth camp counselor. A young girl, Heather, revealed to her that she was being sexually assaulted by her mother’s boyfriend.

Burke launched the Me Too campaign on MySpace as well as in high school classrooms, where she worked with Black women and girls to develop curriculum on topics concerning sexual violence. As part of her campaign, she founded Just Be Inc., a nonprofit organization aimed at helping victims of sexual assault and harassment. For ten years, Burke’s campaign mainly operated in the form of after-school programs and youth-training programs. Burke now works as the senior director of Girls for Gender Equity, a Brooklyn-based non-profit organization seeking to create opportunities and remove barriers for girls and women.
“#MeToo is about centering survivors’ stories and resilience, and allowing us to reclaim our joy.”

On Oct. 5, 2017, the New York Times published a piece by Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey detailing multiple women’s accounts of assault at the hands of Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein. Actresses Ashley Judd and Rose McGowan were the two most well-known accusers willing to speak on-record about their experiences. In the following few months, the story prompted a total of 87 accusers to come forward and share their own Weinstein assault and harassment stories. More well-known accusers included Angelina Jolie, Gwyneth Paltrow, Lupita Nyong’o, Eva Green, Cara Delevingne, and Salma Hayek.

Ten days after the article was published, actress Alyssa Milano tweeted asking her followers to reply with “me too” if they had ever been victimized. The hashtag #MeToo soon ignited an unprecedented movement. By October of 2018, the hashtag had been used on Twitter roughly 19 million times.
Two years before the first #MeToo tweet, Brazilian journalist Juliana de Faria created the hashtag #MeuPrimeiroAssedio, which translates to #MyFirstHarassment. This campaign began as a response to a slew of sexually-charged tweets targeting Valentina Schulz, a 12-year-old contestant on Brazil's version of the MasterChef Junior show. In five days, #meuprimeiroassedio was used 82,000 times.

De Faria, originally from São Paulo, is the founder of Think Olga, a feminist organization working to spread awareness and promote the prevention of sexual assault and harassment in Brazil. She also created the Chega de Fiu Fiu ("Enough with the Catcalls") website in 2013. The site includes an interactive map of Brazil where people can mark locations they’ve been harassed and describe the harassment that took place.
Journalist Shiori Ito became the face of Japan’s #MeToo movement after accusing Noriyuki Yamaguchi, a Tokyo Broadcasting System journalist, of drugging and raping her in 2015. Ito filed a criminal report, and, though investigators found footage of her being carried into the hotel, the case was dropped at the last minute by the head of criminal investigation at the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department. Ito continued to speak out about her experience and criticize the handling of sexual assault allegations in Japan. She released a book, Black Box, that detailed her experience, and she filed a civil lawsuit against Yamaguchi in late 2017.

Ito explained, "There are many elements that can be described as a 'black box' in investigations and judicial proceedings related to sex crimes because nothing is disclosed to the victim. I hope through the civil lawsuit that details of those elements are brought to light and that it serves as a catalyst to think about the current judicial system."
Journalist Sandra Muller ignited France’s #MeToo movement on Oct. 13, 2017, when she accused media consultant Eric Brion of making obscene and disrespectful comments toward her at a work event. She encouraged other people to come forward with their own accusations using the hashtag #BalanceTonPorc, which translates to #OutYourPig.

Muller soon faced intense backlash. Not only did Brion sue her for 50,000 euros on defamation charges, but 100 French women led by actress Catherine Deneuve penned a letter claiming the #MeToo movement had gone too far. Many French critics associate the movement with American puritanism and view it as contrary to France’s values of sexual liberation. Muller explained, “In France, when a woman speaks out, she’s seen as a liar or maybe hysterical.” Muller’s work, however, led to real, concrete change. Equality Minister Marlène Schiappa built on the momentum of the movement and led efforts to get a law on sexual harassment passed, which took effect in August 2018. Within the first nine months, France gave out 447 fines to street harassers.
"Women need to know that seeking justice and protesting against injustices is never a shameful act."

On Oct. 18, 2017, Afghan journalist Maryam Mehtar tweeted out, “When I was a child, I had some experiences of sexual harassment which still bother me. #MeToo.” Mehtar’s #MeToo moment required a great deal of bravery, given that in Afghanistan today, many sexual assault victims fear that their relatives will blame and possibly even harm them for ‘bringing shame’ onto the family. Mehtar explained that one day, by 10 a.m. she had been sexually harassed or assaulted five times.

One woman, Zubaida, only allowed her first name to be published in The New York Times, where she shared that she’d been sexually assaulted while working as a police officer. She explained, “In Afghanistan, we are both the victim and the criminal. I can’t even tell my own family that I quit because of sexual harassment.” Coming forward and naming abusers in this context is even more dangerous. Zubaida added, “If I said his name, definitely he would kill me or one of my family members.”

A 2016 study found that 90% of Afghan women have been sexually harassed.
In late October 2017, Haitian comedian Gaelle Bien-Aime opened up in an on-camera interview about being raped when she was just six years old. Prior to filming the video, she had only ever told her boyfriend and her best friend. She said she felt it was her responsibility as both a feminist and an artist to speak up. After the video was posted, the hashtag #PaFèSilans (#DoNotShutUp) spread, encouraging people to share their own stories of assault and harassment.

“#MeToo did a lot of noise over there [in the US],” said Bien-Aime, “but here, it is still tough to give the name of the pig [or abuser] because we aren’t safe. There isn’t a justice system that protects us.” Haiti didn’t declare rape a criminal offence until 2005, and the devastation following the 2010 earthquake also made women especially vulnerable and intensified the country’s sexual assault problem, in part due to abuse at the hands of international aid workers.

Bien-Aime continues to use theatre and comedy to speak out in support of feminist and LGBTQ+ causes.
"I know how hard it is, and I don't want other women to experience what I did."

The U.K.'s movement has primarily focused its attention on assailters and harassers in positions of political power. Former defense secretary Michael Fallon resigned after journalist Jane Merrick publicly accused him of a 2003 sexual assault. The scandal continued when a list compiled by Westminster researchers started to circulate that accused almost 40 lawmakers of various forms of sexual misconduct.

Labour activist Bex Bailey was one of the first women in the United Kingdom to come forward publicly. In October 2017, she spoke with a BBC radio station about being raped at a Labour Party event in 2011. She also shared that she was discouraged from reporting her assault by a senior member of the party. Bailey explained in her radio interview, “I'm [speaking out] because it... feels like the right thing to do and I really want to see the change that I've been fighting for a long time now.”

In the years following her assault, Bailey advocated within the Labour Party’s National Executive Committee to establish sexual assault prevention training for their staff, as well as to create an independent agency for reporting instances of sexual assault and harassment.
“It’s humbling to be entrusted with their stories, especially when being shared for the first time.”

In the wake of the U.S.’s #MeToo Movement, Australian journalist Tracey Spicer reflected on why the movement hadn’t taken off as well in her own country, where strict defamation laws discourage victims from coming forward and journalists from reporting accusations. She tweeted out in October 2017, “Currently, I am investigating two long-term offenders. Please, contact me privately to tell your stories.” She received a flood of hundreds of messages detailing different assault experiences. Within a month, more than 500 women came forward to accuse 65 men in what Spicer described as a “tsunami of injustice.” Television host Don Burke was named most frequently, and multiple women came forward publicly to accuse him of assault and harassment, including Wendy Dent, Bridget Ninness, and Louise Langdon.

Following the release of her investigative report, Spicer went on to create Now Australia, an organization supported by 30 high-profile women that seeks to support survivors and encourage safe workplaces. She has also continued to advocate for the overhaul of Australian defamation laws.
NEVIN YILDIRIM

In November 2017, prominent women in Turkey shared their domestic violence experiences in the Hurriyat daily newspaper and encouraged others to speak out. The article received a great deal of public attention, but because no one named their perpetrators, the movement struggled to gain traction. This changed in January 2018 when Nevin Yildirim’s 2012 murder case was taken to a higher court for re-evaluation. In 2012, Yildirim had killed her rapist, Nurettin Gider, in self-defense. Not only was she forced to give birth to her rapist’s baby, she was also given a life sentence in 2015. A group of feminists launched the hashtag campaign #BenDeNEVIN (#MeTooNEVIN) in support of Yildirim, and they took to the streets of Istanbul in protest, explaining, “We take strength from women who say #MeToo all over the world as well as from our own struggle and revolt.”

25 female attorneys defended Yildirim in her appeal hearing in 2015, but her life sentence was upheld in March 2018. One of her attorneys, Deniz Bayram, promised in January 2019, “The case of Nevin is not over for us.”

#BenDeNEVIN
In Senegal, sexual assault survivors are often encouraged to remain silent, but in November 2017, blogger Ndambaw Kama Thiat and tech business owner Olivia Codou addressed these issues with the Wolof hashtag #Nopiwouma, which translates to “I will not shut up.” #Nopiwouma aims to give Senegalese women an avenue for sharing their stories. They also created an online forum allowing women to file anonymous reports. As of December 2018, around 100 women have shared their stories on the platform; 90% of these women are coming forward with their stories for the first time.

"Many may have told their parents when they were young, but were asked not to speak out because it was going to impact their family’s reputation," Thiat told CNN in a December 2018 interview.
More and more people are becoming aware that in order to stop sexual harassment and abuse, the victims must speak up and shout, declaring that this must not be the norm.

Indonesian feminist Turggel Pawestri launched the hashtag #SayaJuga (#MeToo) in December of 2017 to encourage victims to come forward. However, her efforts have not been hugely successful due to Indonesia's urban/rural divide; although more than half of Indonesia's population is active on social media, users are mostly concentrated in urban areas, suggesting that substantial, widespread change will require more of a grassroots movement. Another challenge faced by the #SayaJuga Movement is that women often face backlash when they tell their stories of sexual harassment and assault. Baiq Nuril, who worked at a school on the island of Lombok, was fired, imprisoned for six months, and fined 13 years' salary after she made a recording of her boss sexually harassing her. Even though a co-worker was the one to expose the recording, Nuril was charged with defamation under the Information and Electronic Transactions law, which places harsh restrictions on freedom of speech. Pawestri spoke out in support of Nuril: “The culture in Indonesia, victim blaming, it's happening in every level of the community. Baiq Nuril's case is a good example. Our laws failed to protect her.”
China’s #MeToo Movement took off when Luo Xixi, who now works in the United States, shared her sexual assault experience at the hands of Chen Xiaowu, who had been her professor when she was a Ph.D student at Beihang University 13 years prior. On Jan. 1, 2018, after connecting with multiple other women who had been victimized by Chen, Luo exposed her assaulter on Weibo, China’s largest social media site. She ended her post by writing, “My sisters who have been sexually harassed, don’t be afraid. We have to bravely stand up and say, ‘No!’” It received three million hits within the first day.

#MeToo activists in China face unique challenges, as the current government tends to be hostile toward women’s rights groups and suspicious of any sort of collective social activism. The use of the hashtag #MeTooInChina was temporarily blocked after Luo’s post went viral, leading activists to create the hashtag #RiceBunnyInChina to avoid censorship (“rice bunny” is pronounced “mi tu” in many Chinese languages). Luo’s bravery inspired university students across China to write open letters to more than 50 campuses demanding concrete reporting systems.
On International Women’s Day in 2018, Palestinian-American student Yasmeen Mjalli posted a photo of herself in a denim jacket decorated with the words “Not Your Habibti,” which translates to “Not Your Darling.” Her post gained traction, and she began turning her #NotYourHabibti campaign into an interactive, performance art movement. She sat with a typewriter in the center of the Palestinian city Ramallah, where she typed and gathered anonymous women’s stories of sexual harassment and posted them on social media. Her movement, she explains, is meant to be hands-on and personal. “A hashtag is done from behind a screen; you don’t get to connect with the women and feel better and uplifted,” she said. “For me, typing each woman’s story is a way to allow her to start moving freely in the streets.” Mjalli continued her service by creating a support group for the women who shared their stories, though she has since received criticism from Palestinians who claim her activism is drawing attention away from the occupation. She explained, “When we refuse to work on our social issues, our legal issues, that almost gives fuel to the stereotype that the western media has given us.”
Lawrence Nassar, former American gymnastics team doctor and Michigan State University physician, was first accused of sexual assault in 1997. At least six victims tried to come forward during the next 20 years but were dismissed until 18 women filed a lawsuit for sexual assault allegations against Nassar on Jan. 10, 2017. Well-known victims that spoke out in the following months include Aly Raisman, McKayla Maroney, and Simone Biles.

During Nassar’s trial, 156 women and girls read victim impact statements to him. Millions tuned in live to watch the trial proceedings. Kyle Stephens, who became a victim at the age of six, said to Nassar in court, “Perhaps you have figured it out by now, but little girls don’t stay little forever. They grow into strong women that return to destroy your world.”

On Jan. 24, 2018, Judge Rosemarie Aquilina sentenced him to 40 to 175 years in prison.
“I want anyone else who is a survivor of rape to know that the dark moments we experience after, can become so much brighter and less scary if we speak up about how we feel.”

As the #MeToo Movement spread, transgender activists worked to ensure the global conversation was inclusive of trans survivors and victims. British model Munroe Bergdorf was one of the leading voices in this fight. In a tweet on Jan. 28, 2018, she opened up about her experience with rape and the resulting depression and trauma.

She also spoke to Them, a queer digital platform, alongside three other trans women: designer Yael Levine, writer Xoài Pham, and photographer Jari Jones. The four women discussed the movement and how their trans identities uniquely influence how they experience sexual assault and harassment. They explained how trans people are especially vulnerable living in a culture that fetishizes and marginalizes them, and, on top of this, they are also less likely to report abuse due to fears of police brutality.

“There hasn’t really been any mention of the fact that trans women are being killed at a higher rate than ever before, and we need to ask ourselves why that’s the case,” said Bergdorf. “I would love for cis allies and straight allies, especially, to be making sure that the message is inclusive.”
On Jan. 29, 2018, South Korean prosecutor Seo Ji-Hyun detailed on her employer's intranet how she was sexually assaulted at a funeral by a former South Korean ministry of justice official. After the incident occurred in 2010, she faced major career setbacks. Her account led to a televised interview about the assault, which triggered South Korea's #MeToo movement.

In the week following the interview, more than 200,000 South Korean citizens signed a petition to incorporate feminism education in schools. A #MeToo protest in Seoul the following March gave victims of sexual harassment and assault the opportunity to share their stories with the crowd. Nearly 200 women spoke for 2018 non-stop minutes.

Ahn Tae-geun, the man Seo had accused, was later sentenced to two years in prison.
Author and gender activist Mona Eltahawy is an Egyptian-American author who was inspired to create #MosqueMeToo in February 2018 after reading an article about a Pakistani woman’s sexual harassment in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. As a 15-year-old, Eltahawy was sexually assaulted twice in Mecca during her first pilgrimage in 1982, an experience she details in her 2015 book Headsscarves and Hymens: Why the Middle East Needs a Sexual Revolution.

#MosqueMeToo aims to empower victims, particularly Muslim women, who have been assaulted in sacred settings and felt shamed into silence by the sanctity of their religious leaders or place of worship. In its first 24 hours, the hashtag was used over 2,000 times.

“The shame belongs to the predator, not to the survivor.”
The disability community was often overlooked in the beginning stages of the #MeToo Movement, despite the fact that people with disabilities are twice as likely to experience sexual assault. In February 2018, two disability-centered storytelling organizations, Rooted in Rights and the Disability Visibility Project, teamed up in a Twitter chat to start a larger conversation about the specific and often intersecting struggles the disability community faces when dealing with sexual assault.

Alice Wong, founder of DVP, led the conversation alongside Rachel Miyazaki and Courtney Cole, RiR storytellers. Together, they started the hashtag #DisabilityToo, encouraging survivors and victims to raise their voices. During the chat, disability activist and author Alaina Leary tweeted, “I’m a disabled sexual assault survivor. I’ve written publicly about being a survivor – often my disability is erased or abled status is assumed. It’s also assumed I’m straight and my assailant was male.”

“The purpose of all these stories is to really motivate us and politicize us,” said Wong while reflecting on the chat. “The work has just begun.”
In May 2018, human rights defender Amal Fathy uploaded a Facebook video in which she shared her experience of being sexually harassed twice in one day and criticized the Egyptian government for failing to address widespread sexual harassment against women. She was arrested and detained two days later and charged with “spreading fake news.” Fathy’s detention was extended six times while the authorities “investigated” her case. She was sentenced to two years in prison in September 2018. While she was briefly released after a judge accepted her appeal, she was again given a two-year sentence in December 2018 and remains in detention today.

In addition to the country’s restrictive free speech laws, Egypt’s current social climate makes it difficult to speak out against harassers. While sexual harassment was criminalized 2014, little has been done to enforce legal policy, and harassment remains pervasive in Egypt. Cairo, Egypt’s capital, was ranked the most dangerous megacity for women in 2017, and a 2013 study by UN Women found that 99% of Egyptian women have experienced sexual harassment.
In July 2018, Brett Kavanaugh’s name appeared on a shortlist for a Supreme Court nomination. This prompted Christine Blasey Ford, a psychology professor at Palo Alto University, to anonymously share her story of sexual assault at his hands at a party in 1982. Though it took her 30 years to be able share her story for the first time in a private therapy session, by September 2018 she had publicly come forward and agreed to testify in front of Congress.

The morning of Sept. 28, about 20 million people tuned in to watch the Ford-Kavanaugh hearings, where Ford recounted the details of her assault and fielded questions from Senators. Despite the hearing, the Senate voted 50-48 to confirm Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court just eight days later. This came 27 years after Anita Hill's sexual assault testimony against Supreme Court justice Clarence Thomas.

In a letter to Ford, #MeToo leaders, including Tarana Burke, wrote, “Your sacrifice was not made in vain. Like you did, we will continue to show up for ourselves and each other... Even if we shake: we will tell our stories.”
In 2018, Spain was rattled by a sexual assault case that became known as La Manada (The Wolf Pack). Named after the five men who raped an 18-year-old woman at the 2016 Running of the Bulls festival, the case sparked nation-wide protests after a judge found them guilty of sexual abuse but not rape in April. The hashtag #Cuéntalo (#TellIt) gained popularity in December 2018, when a higher court upheld their conviction. Through #Cuéntalo, women shared stories of sexual assault, abuse, harassment, and even murder. #Cuéntalo tweets reached 5 million in just ten days, mainly originating from Spain and Argentina but also from other Spanish-speaking countries such as Colombia, Chile, and Mexico.

Journalist Cristina Fallarás created a database from the testimonies, and she has worked with public administrations in Barcelona, Madrid, and Zaragoza to preserve the stories and turn them into an interactive healing tool. She explained, “I was interested in creating a story that was horizontal and that was not created by accounts of important or famous women.”
"change is an ongoing process... What you see right now is just the tip of the iceberg."

In a September 2018 interview, Bollywood actress Tanushree Dutta revealed that she had been sexually harassed by actor Nana Patekar during the filming of Horn OK Please. This statement sparked the #MeToo movement in India and prompted many other actresses, journalists, and artists to come forward with their own stories.

This was not India’s first public outcry against sexual assault in the 21st century. In 2012, a 23-year-old woman was brutally beaten and gang raped in Delhi, leading to massive protests. Responding to this, Parliament passed new laws in 2013 that expanded the definition of rape, ensured free medical care for survivors, introduced the death penalty for repeat rapists, and criminalized public servants who have knowledge of an assault but fail to register a complaint.
Author Tsitsi Dangarembga, a leading feminist voice in Zimbabwe, spoke out in October of 2018 about how she would like to see a #MeToo movement for survivors and victims in her own country. The author also shared her own experience of surviving an eight-year abusive relationship.

Her book *Nervous Conditions* was released in 1988, and along with addressing themes of colonialism and race, the classic also deals with domestic violence. Dangarembga’s fictional tale is a close reflection of real-life Zimbabwe, where conviction rates for rape cases are lower than 10 percent and courts remain male-dominated.

To start a #MeToo movement, Dangarembga feels women must overcome barriers such as an unsympathetic justice system and a lack of funding and support from civil society groups, as well as a general reluctance of families to let their daughters speak out.

“Women are still being silenced,” said Dangarembga. “Violence is very much part of the fabric of our society and I believe we have to address this if we want to overcome it.”
“Social media brought people that had the same experiences together, and they found a safe space in the company of other people’s stories.”

In February 2019, pharmacist Khadijah Adamu of northern Nigeria tweeted about her experience with an ex-boyfriend who nearly killed her. Entrepreneur and development worker Fakhrriyyah Hashim tweeted her support with the hashtag #ArewaMeToo, Arewa being the relatively conservative northern region of Nigeria. Local #ArewaMeToo chapters now exist in the cities of Kano, Maiduguri, Niger, Sokoto, and Zamfara, and they have received more than 100 messages of sexual assault accounts. These activists have partnered with anti-assault organizations to create sexual violence prevention curriculum in schools. Hashim explained the cultural barriers her team is up against: “We have faced backlash, which was expected because we’re dealing with an ultraconservative society that sees topics relating to sex as a taboo and, unfortunately, has condemned sexual violence in the same league as sex rather than a criminal offence.”

Maryam Awaisu, one of the team’s lawyers, was arrested on defamation charges and taken in for questioning, a move that she believes was meant to intimidate #ArewaMeToo activists. She said, “I foresaw it because you cannot talk about these things that nobody dares talk about without consequences.”
Feminist Ana Gonzalez jump-started Mexico’s MeToo Movement on March 21, 2019, when she tweeted that writer Herson Barona had “beaten, manipulated, gaslighted, impregnated, and abandoned (on more than one occasion) more than 10 women.” Though she herself had not been abused by him, she explained that a close friend’s experience had prompted her to come forward.

In a similar spirit of anonymity, several #MeToo-related Twitter accounts sprouted up that allowed victims and survivors to share their stories while still protecting their identities. One such account is @MeTooEscritoresMexicanos (MeTooMexicanWriters).

Gonzalez was harassed online after her accusations spread, and she said that while it was scary and exhausting, she wouldn’t have done anything differently: “When you see how these women have been treated publicly, it makes perfect sense many victims want to protect themselves by staying anonymous,” González said. “Let’s just hope this time it will be different.”
In an article published on May 29, 2019, journalist Sarah Sunshine Manning opened up about her sexual harassment experience while working as a teacher at a school on the Sisseton Wahpeton Reservation. Manning, a member of the Shoshone Paiute Tribes of Nevada and Idaho, accused superintendent Roger Bordeaux of sending her inappropriate text messages. When other women told her they were experiencing Bordeaux’s harassment as well, she got the nerve to report him but was continuously dismissed by school officials. It took two hearings for Bordeaux to be fired.

“The reporting process utterly impoverishes victims,” said Manning. Sexual harassment is part of a broader problem for Native women, who experience sexual assault rates at 2.5 times the rate of any other ethnicity, as well as murder rates up to 10 times higher. The disappearances and murders of Native women is largely underreported by national media, even though there have been as many as 4,000 cases in the past 30 years. Organizations such as the Alaska Native Women’s Resource Center and the Indian Law Resource Center continue to work to address this issue.