

Dear Sisters

By Chloe Kardasopoulos

With the start of the new year, 300 Hollywood actresses, agents, lawyers, and other prominent women released a unifying initiative, called Time's Up, to combat the systemic and established sexual harassment present in the workforce, regardless of economic demographic. A legal defense fund supporting women with skim finances, legislation penalizing companies guilty of harassment, and a statement of solidarity with women present at the Golden Globes to wear black are just a sample of some of Time's Up goals for this upcoming year.

Tick, tock.

In an open letter, the movement's fiery and outspoken founders rooted their passion in a fight against the normalization of female abuse: "The struggle for women to break in, to rise up the ranks and to simply be heard and acknowledged in male-dominated workplaces must end; time's up on this impenetrable monopoly," says the letter.

Tick, tock.

In a poll published by ABC News and The Washington Post, more than half of American women admitted to experiencing sexual harassment in the workplace. Waitresses being grabbed, actresses trading sexual favors for key roles, and young business women intimidated by their bosses characterize yet do not define the breadth of this issue currently pervading our nation. Not to mention a Huffington Post survey revealing 71 percent of sexual harassment cases that never get reported as women fear retaliation, losing their jobs, and simply resolve such abuse as normal. This is the state of our nation as several eyes scan these words and must digest a horrific truth of abuse. A nation supposedly grounded in equal rights and liberties for *all* its citizens.

Tick, tock.

To explicate on one formerly mentioned objective, Time's Up supporter Tina Tchen, Michelle Obama's former chief-of-staff, is forefronting the Legal Defense Fund, with over \$13 million in donations already. This fund will aide women without the financial means to defend themselves from sexual misconduct in the workplace nevermind the balance of reporting issues.

Tick. tock.

Shonda Rhimes, an executive TV producer and key supporter explained her necessary resilience as difficulties arise hindering forward progress: “We’re a bunch of women used to getting stuff done,” she said. “And we’re getting stuff done.”

Time’s Up.