Ex-model accuses Harvey Weinstein of sexual assault after film mogul 'lured her to apartment when she was 16 years old'

S thesun.co.uk/news/10590107/model-harvey-weinstein-sexual-assault-teen-poland

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A FORMER teen model claims she was sexually abused by Harvey Weinstein when she was just 16 years old, according to a new lawsuit filed today.

Kaja Sokola had just moved to the US from Poland in 2002 when she was introduced to the now-shamed movie mogul, the Manhattan Supreme Court lawsuit claims.

It goes on to state he then arranged to meet her for lunch to <u>help her with her hopes of becoming</u> a big screen actress.

But when they met, "instead of taking her to lunch, as promised, Harvey Weinstein took Sokola without her consent to his apartment," claim the legal papers.

"He would not let her leave until after he terrified and sexually abused her," the court documents allege.

Weinstein "pressured Sokola, saying that he had 'made' the careers of Penelope Cruz and Gwyneth Paltrow, and that neither would be working without him" before fondling her and forcing her to masturbate him, the suit says.

<u>Sokola had previously been known as 'Jane Doe'</u> in an earlier class action lawsuit but she is now removing herself from that suit and going public.

The move comes after Weinstein and his former film studio's board <u>reached a multi-million</u> <u>pound settlement</u> with more than two dozen actresses and former employees who claim Weinstein sexually harassed them.

"I cannot accept the proposed 'global settlement' as fair or just. There is no accountability for the perpetrators, insufficient compensation for all of the victims, and millions of dollars going to people that I believe enabled Weinstein," Sokola said in a statement.

"Therefore, today I am filing my own case, in my own name, under New York's Child Victims Act," she added.

Scores of <u>women have accused Weinstein of sexual misconduct</u> and he faces criminal trial in New York on rape and sexual assault charges in state court in January.

He has pleaded not guilty to all the charges against him and has vehemently denied any non-consensual sex allegations by his accusers.

In the new lawsuit Sokola recounts the alleged incident in 2002.

She alleges Weinstein "aggressively and threateningly demanded sex and "instructed her to take off her clothes", and forced her to touch his penis while he "grabbed at her breasts."

She said her experience caused her to quit her acting career, reports the LA Times.

"I have long since moved on from modelling and, because of Harvey Weinstein, gave up on my dreams of acting" she said.

"I have learned that some wounds never fully heal. Memories of sexual abuse are like a scar after a burn, but because the injury is to the psyche, it is invisible to everyone except the victim.

"By revealing my own scar, I hope to encourage others to speak up about their own experiences."

Her lawyer Douglas Wigdor said: "We hope that the filing of this complaint encourages other victims and the New York attorney general to join us as we continue our efforts at holding Harvey Weinstein and his enablers accountable."

Harvey Weinstein assaulted 16-year-old model and forced her to touch him, lawsuit claims