

“No One, Not Even Harvey Weinstein, Is Above the Law”: Weinstein’s Victims Speak About What They’ve Won—And the Road Ahead

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Rich McHugh, h, Joe Pompeo, Maureen O’Connor, Yohana Desta, Maureen O’Connor, Maureen O’Connor, Hillary Busis

It was one of those historical moments that has a time stamp: 11:30 a.m., February 24. And though the evidence against **Harvey Weinstein** could seem quite overwhelming, none of his victims, having waited so long, took his conviction yesterday morning at all for granted. “This is the day that truth has won,” said **Lysette Anthony**, a British actor who accused Weinstein of raping her in her London flat in the 1980s. “Courage won. Belittling women is done.”

Weinstein, despite being found not guilty of the most serious charges—predatory sexual assault and first-degree rape—was convicted of both a criminal sexual act in the first degree and rape in the third degree. (Weinstein has denied all allegations of nonconsensual sex.)

I began investigating sexual-misconduct allegations against Harvey Weinstein with **Ronan Farrow** at NBC in 2017. But until last weekend, when reports of the jury’s deliberations began making their way to the press, there was never a time this outcome seemed likely. In some of the victims’ reactions, there was a sense of awe that they had come so far—it was personal, and it was also history. “I never thought I would see the day someone so rich and so powerful would be held accountable for their actions,” said **Dawn Dunning**, a former actor and one of the six women who testified during the trial. “He’s in prison where he belongs. The fact that justice was actually served is amazing.”

Tarale Wulff, who also testified in court, described the flood of emotions she has been going through. “Every so often tears start welling up,” she said. “I am just in awe of what everyone has done, what the prosecution has done, and really, really pleased with the verdict.”

In a statement, **Annabella Sciorra** wrote, “My testimony was painful but necessary. I spoke for myself and with the strength of the 80-plus victims of Harvey Weinstein in my heart. While we hope for continued righteous outcomes that bring absolute justice, we can never regret breaking the silence. For in speaking truth to power, we pave the way for a more just culture, free of the scourge of violence against women.”

Rose McGowan, the first to speak out publicly against Weinstein, said, “For once he will know what it’s like to have power wrapped around his neck.” **Caitlin Dulany** spoke of how difficult and dark the past two years have been, but said today “the sky is blue again, justice

has been done," adding that "no one, not even Harvey Weinstein, is above the law."

For the women who testified, it meant confronting Weinstein face-to-face in court. "We owe them an indescribable debt," said **Rowena Chiu**, who accused Weinstein of attempting to rape her during a meeting at the 1998 Venice Film Festival. The hardest part, said Dunning, "was testifying and having to tell the whole story of what happened. When I had to identify him, I stood up and I looked him in the eye and pointed him out, and he kind of smiled and waved at me like we were old friends or something." Wulff said testifying "redefined me in a way, because I didn't know that I was capable of being strong and vulnerable at the same time. It has given me new eyes."

Others spoke of being the vanguard of a movement, and the sense of solidarity. "I am proud to be a part of the immense group of women whose bravery and honesty eventually toppled a monster," **Mira Sorvino** said from Los Angeles. "This is such an important victory because it gives hope, because no matter how much money and how long you have been preying on people, justice is possible." Ultimately, Sorvino had the most praise for the women who testified. "What they had to endure, I wouldn't wish on my worst enemy, and yet they prevailed."