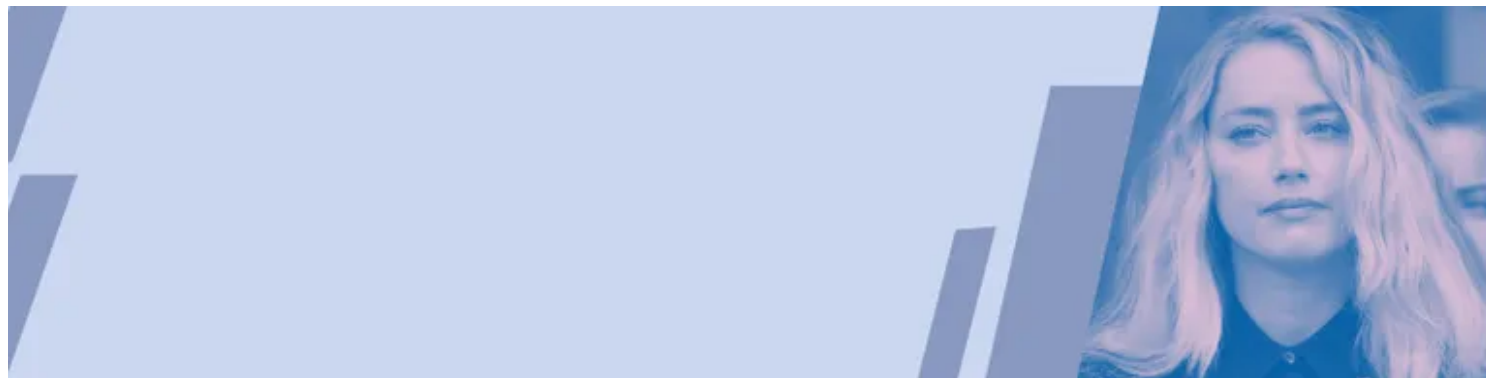




AMBER HEARD OPEN LETTER



EXPERTS SUPPORT AMBER HEARD

THE LETTER

An Open Letter in Support of Amber Heard

Five months ago, the verdict in the defamation trial between Johnny Depp and Amber Heard deeply concerned many professionals in the fields of intimate partner and sexual violence. As many, including A.O. Scott for [The New York Times](#) have noted, the vilification of Ms. Heard and ongoing online harassment of her and those who have voiced support for her have been unprecedented in both vitriol and scale.

Much of this harassment was fueled by disinformation, misogyny, biphobia, and a monetized social media environment where a woman's allegations of domestic violence and sexual assault were mocked for entertainment. The same disinformation and victim-blaming tropes are now being used against others who have alleged abuse.

In our opinion, the Depp v. Heard verdict and continued discourse around it indicate a fundamental misunderstanding of intimate partner and sexual violence and how survivors respond to it. The damaging consequences of the spread of this misinformation are incalculable. We have grave concerns about the rising misuse of defamation suits to threaten

incalculable. we have grave concerns about the rising misuse of defamation suits to threaten and silence survivors.

We condemn the public shaming of Amber Heard and join in support of her. We support the ability of all to report intimate partner and sexual violence free of harassment and intimidation.

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INDIVIDUALS

Renée B. Adams,
Professor, University of Oxford

Dr. Esohe Aghatise,
Executive Director, Associazione Iroko Onlus

Sara Ahmed,

Independent Scholar, Author, "Complaint!"

Kate Amber,

PgCert, Founder, End Coercive Control USA

Dr. Adrienne Barnett,

Reader in Law, Brunel Law School, Brunel University London

Dr. Nicole Bedera,

Sociologist

Nicole Bell,

Founder and CEO, LIFT Living in Freedom Together

Antoinette Bonsignore, J.D.,

Legal and Prosecutorial Analyst, Case Systems Training Review Program,
Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission

Anna Boucher,

Associate Professor in Public Policy and Political Science (LSE) and admitted
Solicitor, Supreme Court NSW, Australia

Lindsey Boylan,

Women's Rights Activist

Dr. Stephanie Ann Brandt MD,

Faculty and Chairman, Ethics Committee, New York Psychoanalytic Institute New
York, NY, Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Weill Cornell Medical College,
New York, Experienced Forensic Evaluation and Testimony in Family, Supreme and
Federal (EDNY + SDNY) Child focused Litigation

Susan J. Brison,

Eunice and Julian Cohen Professor for the Study of Ethics and Human Values,
Dartmouth College

Laura S Brown, Ph.D.

ABPP, psychologist in private practice, past President, APA Division of Trauma Psychology and Society for The Psychology of Women

Twiss Butler,

Feminist

Rachel Camp,

Professor from Practice and Co-Director, Georgetown University Domestic Violence Clinic (title for identification purposes only)

Nancy Chi Cantalupo,

Associate Professor of Law, Wayne State University Law School (title and institution provided for identification purposes only)

Kali Casab,

The Voices and Faces Project

Lauren B. Cattaneo,

Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, George Mason University

Gillian Chadwick,

Professor of Law, Washburn University School of Law

Debra Chopp,

Clinical Professor of Law, University of Michigan Law School

Seo-Young Chu

Associate Professor Queens College, CUNY

Andrew Thomas Cicchetti,

Ph.D. LCSW-R

Dr. Christine Marie Cocchiola,

DSW, LCSW Coercive Control Advocate, Educator, Researcher & Survivor

Dr. Elizabeth Dalgarno,

SHERA Research Group

Michele Landis Dauber,

Frederick I. Richman Professor of Law, Stanford Law School (title and institution for identification purposes only)

Ella Dawson,

Author

Drew Dixon,

Producer, Activist

Margaret B. Drew,

Associate Professor of Law, UMass Law School

Prof. Dr. Jennifer Drobac

Danielle Pelfrey Duryea

Boston University School of Law (institution for identification purposes only)

Erin Dwyer-Frazier,

Attorney and Domestic Violence Advocate

Heidi Eilers, Ph.D.,

BCBA-D, CCTP, Board Certified Behavior Analyst-Doctoral, Certified Clinical Trauma Professional

Deborah Epstein,

Agnes Williams Sesquicentennial Professor of Gender, Violence, and Law,
Georgetown Law University Center

Ray Epstein,

President/Founder of Student Activists Against Sexual Assault at Temple University

Heidi Li Feldman,

Professor of Law, Georgetown University Law Center

Bill Flack,

Professor of Psychology, Bucknell University

Professor Michael Flood

Queensland University of Technology

Terry Forliti,

Communication Coordinator for Upside Sex Trafficking Initiative, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Jaclyn Friedman,

editor of “Yes Means Yes” and “Believe Me”

Professor Aisha K. Gill, Ph.D.

CBE | Professor of Criminology

Professor Leigh Gilmore,

Ohio State University, Author, “The #MeToo Effect: What Happens When We Believe Women”

Lisa Goodman,

Ph.D., Professor, Boston College

Leigh Goodmark,

Marjorie Cook Professor of Law and Co-Director, Clinical Law Program

Julie Green,

Research Assistant, Violence Against Women and Children team, Department of Social Work, The University of Melbourne

Kit Gruelle,

Advocate, Survivor, Film Subject for HBO Documentary Private Violence

Emiliana Guereca,

Founder and Executive Director Women's March Action and Women's March Foundation

Yasmeen Hassan,

Global Executive Director, Equality Now

Tirion Havard,

Associate Professor, England UK

Judith L. Herman, M.D.,

Professor of Psychiatry (Part Time), Harvard Medical School

CarlLa Horton, M.P.A.,

Executive Director, Hope's Door

Doreen Hunter,

Co-Founder, Americas Conference to End Coercive Control (ACECC)

Holly Jacobs, PhD

Founder, Board Member, Cyber Civil Rights Initiative

Hans Johnson,

President, East Area Progressive Democrats

Dr. Emma Katz, Ph.D.,

Senior Lecturer, Liverpool Hope University, UK

Mara Keire

Senior Research Fellow, Rothermere American Institute, University of Oxford, UK

Dr. Margaret Kertesz,

Senior Research Fellow, University of Melbourne

Amanda Kippert,

Editor-in-Chief, DomesticShelters.org, Co-Host, Toxic the Podcast

Judge Judy Harris Kluger,

Executive Director, Sanctuary for Families

Dean Laurie Kohn,

George Washington Law School

Kellyann Kostyal-Larrier,

Executive Director, Fearless! Hudson Valley, Inc.

Dr. Ingeborg Kraus,

Clinical Psychologist, Psychotraumatologist

Julianna Lee,

Clinical Assistant Professor of Law, University of Michigan Law School

Dorchen A. Leidholdt, Esq.,

Director, Center for Battered Women's Legal Services at Sanctuary for Families

Edward Lloyd,

Evan M. Frankel Clinical Professor Emeritus in Environmental Law, Columbia University School of Law

Dr. Laura E. Ludtke,

Independent Scholar

Linda MacDonald,

Persons Against Non-State Torture, co-author "Women Unsilenced Our Refusal To Let Torturer-Traffickers Win"

Catharine A. MacKinnon,

Elizabeth A. Long Professor of Law at Michigan Law, and the long-term James Barr Ames Visiting Professor of Law at Harvard Law School (all titles for identification purposes only)

David Mandel,

Executive Director, Safe and Together Institute

Jane Manning,

Director, Women's Equal Justice Project

Joan Meier,

National Family Violence Law Center, Professor of Clinical Law, George Washington University Law School

Carolyn Modeen,

Sun Cities West Valley NOW

Amy Myers,

Acting Director, Gender Justice Clinic, Washington College of Law (for identification purposes only)

Natalie Nanasi,

Associate Professor, SMU Dedman School of Law, Director, Judge Elmo B. Hunter Legal Center for Victims of Crimes Against Women

Laura Beth Nielsen, JD, Ph.D.,

Professor & Chair, Department of Sociology, Northwestern University, Research Professor, American Bar Foundation, President, Law and Society Association, Author, "License to Harass: Law, Hierarchy, and Offensive Public Speech" (titles for identification purposes only)

Emer O'Toole, Ph.D.,

Professor, Concordia University

Natalie Page,

#TheCourtSaid Founder, Survivor Family Network Director

David Palumbo-Liu,

Louise Hewlett Nixon Professor, Stanford University

Reena Parikh,

Director of Civil Rights Clinic, Boston College Law School (title for identification purposes only)

Jaime Cabeza Pereiro,

Professor of Labor and Social Security Law, University of Vigo

Alison Phipps,

Professor of Sociology, Newcastle University

Christie Pitts

Nicole Prause, Ph.D.,

Senior Statistician, University of California, Los Angeles (title for identification purposes only)

Dr. Charlotte Proudman,

Barrister and Academic

Dr Shivaun Quinlivan

Associate Professor, University of Galway

Professor Tracey Raney,

Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto, Canada

Anne K. Ream,

Activist and Founder of The Voices and Faces Project

Jennifer Robinson,

Australian human rights lawyer and barrister at Doughty St Chambers, U.K. counsel to Amber Heard, author of How Many More Women?

Diane Rosenfeld,

Lecturer on Law, Director, Gender Violence Program, Harvard Law School

Lily Kay Ross, MDiv, Ph.D.

Feminism and Ethics Research Fellow, Psymposia

David A. Santacroce,

Clinical Professor of Law, University of Michigan Law School

Jeanne Sarson,

co-author, “Women Unsilenced Our Refusal To Let Torturer-Traffickers Win,” Co-Founder Persons Against Non-State Torture.

Purna Sen,

Ph.D. Visiting Professor, Child and Woman Abuse Studies Unit, LMU Special Advisor to the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Court

Dr. John Simister,

Ph.D., Domestic Violence and Economics Researcher, Senior Lecturer, Business School Manchester Metropolitan University

Ann Simonton,

Founder Director of Media Watch: For Improving image of Women in Media

Rita Smith,

National Expert on Violence Against Women, Former Executive Director of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV)

Rachel Louise Snyder,

Professor, American University, Author, “No Visible Bruises”

Evan Stark, Ph.D., MSW,

Professor Emeritus, Rutgers University

Gloria Steinem,

Writer, Activist

Leslie Morgan Steiner,

Advocate, Author, “Crazy Love”

Ruth Silver Taube,

Adjunct Professor of Law, Santa Clara University, Legal Services Co-Chair, South Bay Coalition to End Human Trafficking, Delegate, Santa Clara County's Human Trafficking Commission (all titles for identification purposes only)

Dr. Jessica Taylor,

Chartered Psychologist, CEO of Victim Focus

Alison Turkos,

Survivor + Advocate

Vanessa Tyson,

Associate Professor of Politics, Scripps College

Robin West, J.D.,

Professor of Law, Georgetown Law School

Sophia Yen, M.D.,

Adolescent Medicine Specialist, CEO/Founder of Pandia Health

Amy Ziering,

Filmmaker

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Letter

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