

On July 23, 2017, just weeks before his highly publicized fight with Floyd Mayweather Jr., Conor McGregor was photographed wearing a Golden State Warriors basketball jersey bearing the number 23. In response to an Instagram post by Draymond Green, number 23 of the Golden State Warriors (@money23green), McGregor posted a comment explaining his reasons for wearing the number-23 jersey:

“That’s C.J Watson mate. I don’t know who the f–k you are. No disrespect tho kid, keep hustling and stay in school.” “Now ask yourself why I’m rocking C.J. when I don’t know or give a f–k about basketball. I dribble heads off the floor. Not a ball. This is no game here kid.” (@thenotoriousmma)

McGregor’s clarification that the jersey was a reference to point guard C.J. Watson, who wore the number 23 for the Golden State Warriors until 2010, was apparently aimed at taunting Mayweather as part of the ongoing publicity and promotional feud between the two fighters. Specifically, the Watson reference relates to the early-morning hours of September 9, 2010, when Mayweather attacked and beat Harris in front of her and Mayweather’s three children—acts of domestic violence that were incited in part by Mayweather’s jealousy over a suspected relationship between Harris and Watson. Mayweather was convicted and served jail time for domestic violence. Conor made a similar reference to C.J. Watson in a Twitter post on January 11, 2017, when he posted a cartoon of him standing over a knocked-out Mayweather with the caption “Call me C.J Watson!”

Conor McGregor’s exploitation of the events surrounding Mayweather’s violent beating of Josie Harris, for the sole purpose of promoting an upcoming boxing match and taunting his opponent in the ongoing media-driven feud between the two fighters, demonstrates not only an insensitivity toward the emotional wellbeing and privacy of the victim of Mayweather’s domestic violence, but also a general disregard.

for the physical and emotional trauma and long-lasting psychological impacts suffered by victims of domestic abuse.

In the aftermath of the events of September 9, 2010, Josie Harris, like many other victims of domestic violence, continues to endure the emotional and psychological trauma, shaming, humiliation, blaming, and embarrassment caused by Mayweather's violence and further perpetuated by his continued public denials, disclaimers, excuses and deferrals of responsibility for his actions, including Mayweather's defamatory statements against Harris made during a 2015 interview with Katie Couric leading up to his fight with Manny Pacquiao.

Although McGregor played no part in Mayweather's physical and emotional abuse of Harris, his exploitation of the events of September 9, 2010, for publicity, entertainment, and personal gain, demonstrates a lack of sensitivity toward Harris and her three children who witnessed Mayweather's violence and the trauma they have suffered, and continue to suffer, as a result of Mayweather's conduct. By sensationalizing Mayweather's past acts of domestic violence to create entertainment and promotional value, McGregor trivializes domestic violence in disregard for the privacy and wellbeing of those who have suffered at the hands of an abuser, further compounding the emotional and psychological trauma, shaming, humiliation, blaming, and embarrassment suffered by so many victims.

On behalf of Josie Harris, her and Mayweather's three children, and all victims of domestic violence, we ask that Conor McGregor refrain from capitalizing off of the trauma suffered by her and other victims of domestic abuse.