



## HAPPY TO SEE ALLRED

BY CAMMY PEDROJA, PHD

Legendary Women's Rights Lawyer, Gloria Allred, made a career of defending victims of sexual violence and prejudice before it was en vogue. Will the strength of the #MeToo movement become her legacy?

**F**or over four decades, attorney, Gloria Allred has been a leader for women's rights - fighting for women, and representing them against high-profile defendants like O.J. Simpson, Bill Cosby, and Harvey Weinstein. She's currently representing Summer Zervos in her defamation case against President Trump.

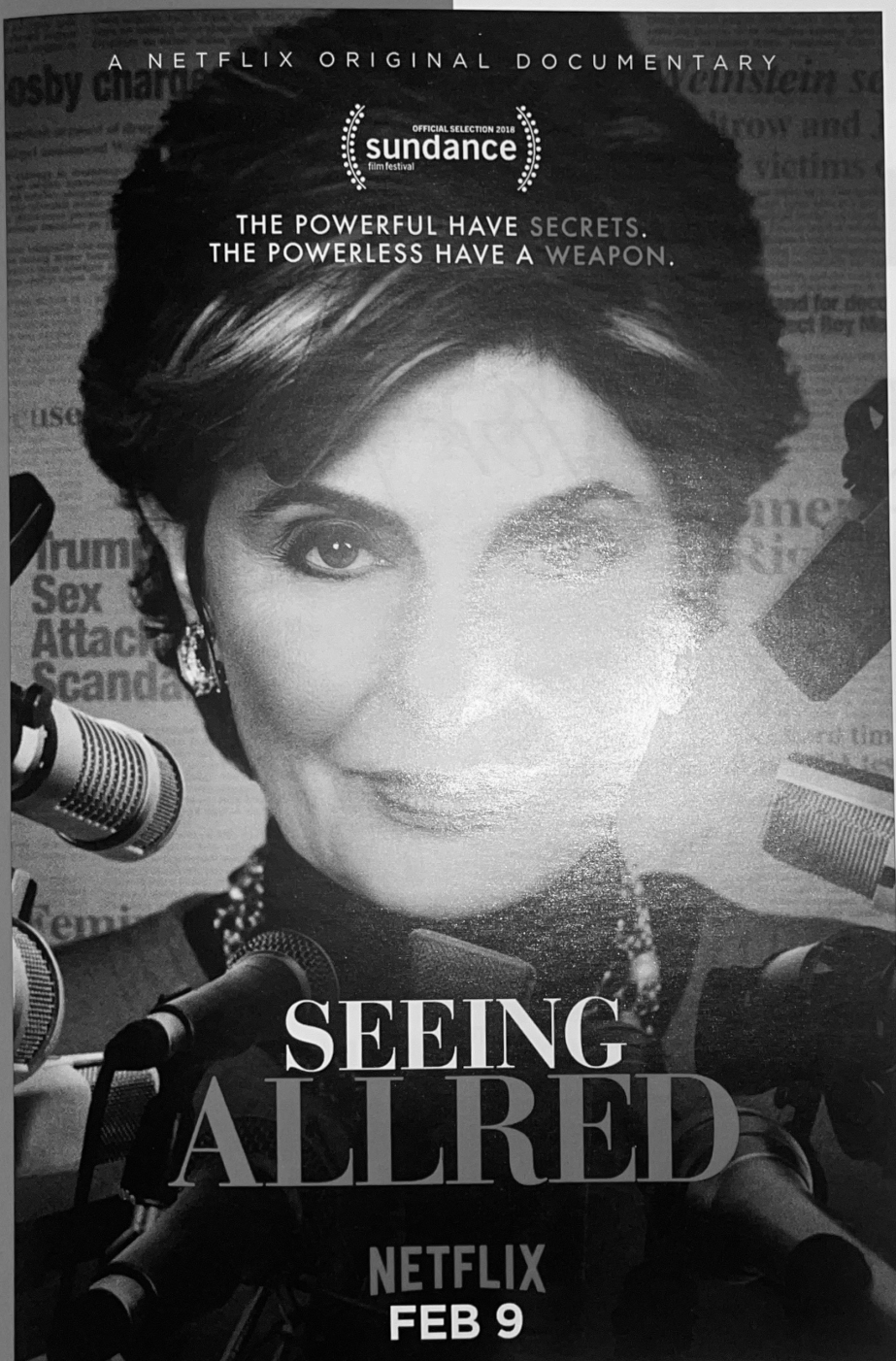
Now, in a moment that many are calling a "tipping point," for women's rights, Allred talks accountability and shifting power dynamics with *ROSA Magazine*.

**ROSA Magazine:** *Much of your work over the last 40 years has been paving the way for the #MeToo and Women's March movements. Where should all this gathered momentum go next?*

**Gloria Allred:** Not only are women speaking out [about sexual violence] on the internet using #MeToo, and feeling empowered because they did, many more women than before are also reaching out to me and other attorneys to find out if they have any legal rights they can assert, and if they are still within the time period set by law to assert those rights.

**RM:** *Which is a big change from suffering in silence?*

**GA:** More women are saying, well, do I have any rights? Instead of sitting there shaking in fear and thinking if I speak out something bad will happen to me, they're reaching out to find out their rights. Knowledge is power, and the more information a victim has about what their options are, the better. So, I believe there will be an increase of legal actions as result of the #MeToo movement.



**RM:** So, an increased culture of accountability.

**GA:** That's the key word - accountability - and I use it every day because that's what this is all about. Making the wrongdoer accountable in some way. What we're seeing is a shift from victim-blaming and victim-shaming, to the accused being shamed and blamed. So, the power dynamic has shifted... So, a lot of [victims] want to know more about what action they can take, including legal action - in other words, beyond just speaking out (which does have risks and benefits), the women themselves are thinking - well, can I sue? Do I have legal rights?

**RM:** Speaking of legal accountability - now you've been calling for lawmakers to finally pass the Equal Rights Amendment. Now that more women than ever are running for political office, do you think that will happen before the 100-year anniversary of women's suffrage?

**GA:** What we can hope for is the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment and the election of a feminist, female president. Need I say anything more? That would be a double whammy. That would be wonderful. And that would be a real affirmation of the empowerment of women. Because the ERA would guarantee their rights under the United States Constitution, where our rights are not secured right now, because even any law statute that might be passed to guarantee equal rights could be repealed by a Congress easily. But an amendment is very hard to repeal. So that would be a true guarantee of equality, and then of course, to have a woman president.

This is all about our daughters. And I think [through these movements] there are more men now who are supporting the rights of their daughters to be free from gender violence, sexual abuse, and sexual harassment. And I think [men] have a better understanding that they have quite a bit at stake as well, in this movement of change. It's an inch forward politically that there are more women running for office. I think that's part of the empowerment of women. So now we'd like to see the 2018 and 2020 election results demonstrate that the voters want that as well. **R**

▲  
SEEING ALLRED  
documentary by  
NETFLIX provides a  
candid look at one  
of the most public  
crusaders against  
the war on women.