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September 25, 2018

NSVRC Statement on Sentencing in Bill Cosby Trial

Harrisburg, PA – Following the announcement that comedian Bill Cosby has been sentenced to 3 to 10 years in state prison, National Sexual Violence Resource Center Chief Public Affairs Officer Kristen Houser issued the following statement:

“This sentence acknowledges the experiences of the dozens of women abused by Cosby and sends a clear message that sexual harassment, misconduct and abuse cannot and will not be tolerated even years after the event.”

“Sexual assault is a serious and widespread problem that has a lasting impact on individuals, families and communities. *The reality for sexual assault victims is lifelong.* It is vital that we continue to hold those who commit sexual violence accountable, regardless of their position in the community, their power, their fame, or their wealth.”

“Healing and justice look different for every survivor, making it important that there are more pathways to justice. Effective investigation and prosecution of cases at every level is key to changing the way our society responds to survivors and the staggeringly low rate of cases resulting in charges.”

“The sentence handed-down bears particular significance today in the midst of our current national dialogue. We hope there is a renewed sense of purpose for the women who have bravely come forward and faced the shame, blame, and harassment all too commonly faced by survivors. Your experiences matter.”

“It is possible to prevent and eliminate sexual harassment, misconduct and abuse, and we all have a role to play. Enacting real and lasting change will require everyone to continue making prevention a priority now and in the future.”

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ABOUT NSVRC

The National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC) is the leading nonprofit in providing information and tools to prevent and respond to sexual violence. NSVRC translates research and trends into best practices that help individuals, communities and service providers achieve real and lasting change. The center also works with the media to promote informed reporting. Every April, NSVRC leads Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), a campaign to educate and engage the public in addressing this widespread issue. NSVRC is also one of the three founding organizations of Raliance, a national, collaborative initiative dedicated to ending sexual violence in one generation.

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