



**The Actors Fund,
for everyone
in entertainment.**

NYWIFT || New York Women
in Film & Television

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Women In Film Sexual Harassment HELP LINE
to Expand Services to New York State**

LOS ANGELES, CA—August 14, 2019—Women In Film, Los Angeles (WIF LA) is expanding the services of its Sexual Harassment Help Line to New York, in partnership with New York Women in Film & Television (NYWIFT) and The Actors Fund.

The WIF LA Help Line was launched in December 2017 as an active measure to provide support to those who have experienced sexual harassment or misconduct while working in the entertainment industry. In October 2017, the #MeToo movement transformed the landscape of the film and television production field, and WIF LA's Help Line has since emerged as a crucial resource serving our community. An integrated program designed to meet the specific needs of victims and survivors working in entertainment, the Help Line's trauma-informed responders provide emotional support and information on victims' rights, along with referrals to pro bono employment attorneys, a free and confidential support group, and low-fee individual therapy.

In partnership with NYWIFT, the Help Line is now expanding services to New York State. With extended hours to serve the East Coast, WIF LA's Help Line responders will provide services to New York based callers, with referrals to pro bono employment attorneys, low-fee individual therapy in the New York City area, and Safe Space at The Actors Fund NY—a free support group facilitated by The Actors Fund clinicians who advocate for the empowerment of survivors in entertainment.

WIF Executive Director Kirsten Schaffer said, "To reach gender parity in the entertainment industry, women need to feel safe in the workplace and to have recourse when their rights have been violated. In the nearly two years since the WIF Help Line launched, we have noticed a need coming from our colleagues in New York. By expanding the Help Line, in partnership with our dedicated colleagues at NYWIFT and The Actors Fund, we will provide crucial support to

film and television workers in two of our industry's busiest cities, and continue to empower our community to transform the culture of entertainment."

"NYWIFT is proud to partner on the Sexual Harassment Help Line's expansion to New York," said NYWIFT Board President Jamie Zelermyer. "Providing structured support, guidance, and actionable solutions – in addition to a caring and sympathetic ear – is vital to the creation of safe, equitable and inclusive working environments in our industry."

For support and more information about Safe Space at The Actors Fund New York, call the Women In Film Help Line toll-free at 855.WIF.LINE. The Help Line is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Eastern time (7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Pacific time), and Tuesday and Thursday from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern time (10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Pacific time). After-hours calls will be returned during business hours.

Women In Film Los Angeles, along with 17 other organizations working to end workplace sexual harassment, received a grant from CBS to support the expansion of the Help Line. Seed funding for the Help Line was provided by William Morris Endeavor.

About Women In Film, Los Angeles

Women In Film, Los Angeles (WIF LA) advocates for and advances the careers of women working in the screen industries—to achieve parity and transform culture. Founded in 1973, Women In Film supports all women working in film, television, and digital media from emerging to advanced career. Our distinguished programs include: mentoring, speaker and screening series, a production training program, writing labs, film finishing funds, legal aid, and an annual financing intensive. Women In Film advocates for gender parity through research, education, and media campaign. Women In Film honors the achievements of women in Hollywood through the Legacy Series, annual Emmy and Oscar parties, and our signature event, the Women In Film Annual Gala. Membership is open to all media professionals and more information can be found on our website: wif.org. Follow Women In Film on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).

About New York Women in Film and Television

New York Women in Film & Television (NYWIFT) advocates for equality in the moving image industry and supports women in every stage of their careers. As the preeminent entertainment industry association for women in New York, NYWIFT energizes women by illuminating their achievements, presenting training and professional development programs, awarding scholarships and grants, and providing access to a supportive community of peers. NYWIFT brings together nearly 2,500 women and men working both above and below the line. NYWIFT is part of a network of 50 women in film chapters worldwide, representing more than 15,000 members. NYWIFT is a nonprofit 501c3 public charity. Learn more at www.nywift.org. Follow on all social platforms @NYWIFT / #NYWIFT

About The Actors Fund New York

The Actors Fund is a national human services organization that fosters stability and resiliency, and provides a safety net for performing arts and entertainment professionals over their lifespan. Through offices in New York, Los Angeles and Chicago, The Fund serves everyone in film, theater, television, music, opera, radio and dance with programs including social services and emergency financial assistance, health care and insurance counseling, housing, and secondary employment and training services. Their free and confidential social services programs address a wide array of challenges faced by people in our industry, including sexual harassment. The Fund's clinical social workers offer confidential counseling and support groups, education and practical help. Visit www.actorsfund.org/Assistance for more information.

WOMEN IN FILM, LOS ANGELES PRESS CONTACT:

Catherine Olim

PMK•BNC

T. (310) 967-7242

Catherine.Olim@pmkbnc.com

NEW YORK WOMEN IN FILM AND TELEVISION PRESS CONTACT:

Katie Chambers, Community Engagement Director at NYWIFT

T. (212) 679-0870, ext. 23

kchambers@nywift.org

THE ACTORS FUND NEW YORK PRESS CONTACT:

David Engelman, Director of Communications & Marketing

T. (917) 281-5976

dengelman@actorsfund.org

Related Links

<https://womeninfilm.org/help-line>

<https://nywift.org>

<https://actorsfund.org>