

# PRESS RELEASE

## SPEAK UP

Berlin, February 15<sup>th</sup> 2018

Inspired by the women and men everywhere, who have been shining a light on harrowing experiences of sexual harassment and abuse, the European film industry has decided to unite under the banner of **SPEAK UP**, to offer a clear lead in ensuring such behavior is not tolerated in the work environment, whether in offices or at external events, such as markets and festivals.

Sexual harassment is systemic, not just a matter of isolated incidents. It is now a clear duty to call out everyday harassment, sexism and improper power dynamics, so that powerful and long-lasting changes can be made in every workplace.

SPEAK UP is a campaign driven by European film industry professionals to address gross power imbalances, which have led to an unacceptable culture of abuse. We aim to partner with like-minded local organizations to fight for safety and equality within the workplace, striving to deliver concrete measures and steps to change the functioning of our industry.

SPEAK UP will be launched during the 68<sup>th</sup> Berlinale. Director Malgorzata Szumowska will introduce the campaign during the seminar "Closing the Gap: A Seminar With Creatives and Financiers on How to Take Action Towards 50/50 by 2020", which is hosted by WIFT Germany, WIFT Nordic and the Swedish Film Institute. The event will take place on Saturday, February 17, 10:00am – 1:00pm at Meistersaal (Köthener Strasse 38, 10963 Berlin).

Press is invited to attend the event. Please RSVP to [petra@kauraisa.com](mailto:petra@kauraisa.com).

The event will see the launch of the SPEAK Up website, which will list the variety of European organizations, working on issues of sexism and/or harassment and abuse in the workplace.

The initiative will also connect those who experience sexual misconduct with appropriate pro-bono legal assistance, including a help-line on its website during Festivals.

SPEAK UP intends to offer positive support with workshops and panels in the following months and in festivals to come to effectively engage members of the industry on the subject of harassment and abuse.

To learn more about SPEAK UP, please visit [www.speakupnow.eu](http://www.speakupnow.eu) (after Feb 17<sup>th</sup>) or send an email to Leo TESTE at [contact@speakupnow.eu](mailto:contact@speakupnow.eu).