



3/19/2026

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**Statement by Rosa Beltré, President and CEO of the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence,
Regarding Allegations of Sexual Violence by César Chávez**

This is a deeply painful and complex moment—one that shakes communities, histories, and the narratives many of us have held for years.

But even in the weight of that tension, our responsibility remains clear.

We must believe survivors.

We must center their voices—not conditionally, not conveniently, but fully and without hesitation.

We believe Dolores Huerta.

We honor her bravery, and we recognize the profound weight it takes to carry truth for so many years—often in silence, often at great personal cost.

Honoring a legacy should never come at the cost of silencing harm. Both truths can exist, but only one demands our immediate action: standing with those who have had the courage to speak.

As leaders, as advocates, as a community—we are called to integrity.

That means confronting what is uncomfortable, naming what has been minimized, and refusing to repeat cycles of dismissal or erasure.

Survivors are not an afterthought to movements. They are the reason movements must evolve.

This moment requires more than statements—it requires alignment.

Alignment between what we say we value and how we show up when it matters most.

We will continue to stand unwavering in our commitment to survivors—amplifying their voices, protecting their dignity, and ensuring that accountability is not optional, but essential.

Because justice that does not include survivors is not justice at all.

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Interviews available upon request.

~~*As Ohio's statewide coalition, OAESV uses an anti-oppression lens to advocate for comprehensive responses and rape crisis services for survivors and to empower communities to prevent sexual violence.*~~

As Ohio's statewide coalition, OAESV advocates for better rape crisis services, trains programs around the state, and implements strategies that support communities in preventing sexual violence.

