

26 September 2023

From: Association to end sexual harassment and sexual assault in the film and moving image industry

We, the undersigned, are victims of sexual harassment and sexual assault in the film and moving image industry, together with our supporters.

Approximately one year and a half have passed since we issued our joint statement in April 2022.

During that time, voices against sexual abuse and sexual violence have been raised not only in the film industry but also in other areas, laws have been revised, and society has become less indifferent to these issues than before.

We see this as a good start, but at the same time we feel a sense of exhaustion and hopelessness at the current situation in which victims are not being helped. We are faced with a problem that cannot be solved by existing laws, while victims are still being ignored in media reports and face defamation lawsuits if they take action on their own.

Under these circumstances, the alleged perpetrators are trying to make a comeback by various routes without making a proper apology or responding appropriately to the victims about the damage they caused. Furthermore, there are other people complicit in facilitating their comeback. These actions are causing further hurt and anger. Careless use of the term "cancel culture" can be a threat to the victims, another way to silence those who have not received any relief. We know from experience that accepting only the perpetrator's words at face value and minimizing the damage they caused is a form of secondary harm.

We strongly urge them to first examine the past before taking any step toward the future.

We will never accept the words of the perpetrators at face value and we protest against any words or actions that defend them.

Association to End Sexual Abuse in the Film and Moving Image Industry:

Kaori Haga (production designer)

Shin Hayasaka (cinematographer)

Kaga Kenzo (film director)

Takuya Kawakami (sound designer)

Takehiko Minato (screenwriter)

Tsuyoshi Shoji (film director)

Midori Suioren (actor, writer)

Ryo Ushimaru (actor, film director)

E-mail: info@harassment-assault-end.info