

**Published: 22 December 2017**

**Country: United States**

*by Angelo Boccato*



The “Me Too” movement has led to a change in the media approach towards sexual harassment allegations against men in position of power, but it has also exposed the lack, or a different standard of representation of black women who have denounced sexual harassment.

While the #MeToo hashtag was launched on [Twitter](#) in October 2017 by actress Alyssa Milano in the wake of sexual harassment allegations against [Harvey Weinstein](#), the actual movement was founded back in 2006 by a black activist Tarana Burke. Although Burke was included in the story Person of the Year: [“The Silence Breakers”](#) by the TIME, she was omitted from the magazine’s cover.

Burke, who is the Senior Director of the Brooklyn-based Girls for Gender Equity ( [GGE](#) ) was

mentioned in a

[tweet](#)

by journalist Britni Danielle as the founder of the movement “Me Too”. Burke itself explained in an interview for

[Democracy Now!](#)

how she being a survivor of sexual violence herself, launched the movement with the aim of reaching out to young victims of sexual violence, and particularly young women of colour who could not find support in their local area. The motto of the movement is “empowerment through empathy”.

“It [Me Too] wasn’t built to be a viral campaign or a hashtag that is here today and forgotten tomorrow. It was a catchphrase to be used from survivor to survivor to let folks know that they were not alone and that a movement for radical healing was happening and possible”, Burke [to](#)  
[Id](#)  
Ebony.

Despite Burke’s aim and desire to avoid divisions in the “Me Too” movement, their existence in the media cannot be denied.

“The message of #MeToo is the same across the board. Sexual violence knows no race, no colour, no gender, or class. But the response to sexual violence does, and I don’t want us to get pigeonholed into a racialised or classist or sexist or gendered response to this moment,” Burke says.

For example, the Oscar-winning actress Lupita Nyong’ o was one of the few actresses whose sexual harassment allegations Harvey Weinstein denied in the personal statement saying he has [different](#) recollection of the events.

