



POLITICS

#TimesUp: Cuomo, Actress Sorvino Vow Sexual Harassment Law Changes

BY ERIKA LEIGH | NEW YORK STATE
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Wednesday, Governor Andrew Cuomo put the spotlight on legislation surrounding the #TimesUp and #MeToo movements, during a press conference.

He is not only asking to change the language in the statute for sexual harassment, which says it has to be "severe and pervasive," but he also wants to get rid of the five-year statute of limitations for second and third-degree rape.

"There comes a moment in time where society stands up and says 'enough is enough,' and I believe we are at that moment. I believe we have exposed the truth," Cuomo said.

Cuomo said too many powerful people over decades have been able to get away with sexual harassment and assault, and now it's time to hold them accountable.

"You have some dispicable acts that have been performed repeatedly, where the court has determined they're not 'severe enough' or they are 'not pervasive enough,' they're only sporadic,' the court says," Cuomo said. "There should be no statute of limitations for rape in the second and third degree as far as I'm concerned."



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Cuomo is talking about all the progress the state has made on gun control, LGBTQ laws and more ... and now there's "a moment" for this "dirty little secret" that's sexual harassment and abuse against women is a "widespread, pervasive issue that's been going on for years."

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Cuomo was joined by several actresses who are leaders in the #TimesUp movement — most notably Mira Sorvino, who is largely pushing for the removal of "severe and pervasive" from the harassment law as well.

Sorvino has been public in her allegations against movie mogul Harvey Weinstein, but on Wednesday, she shared new details about her experiences.



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WATCH: Actress and [#TimesUp](#) advocate [@MiraSorvino](#) reveals new, compelling and emotional details about her own sexual assault experience in a push for NY to remove the 5-year statute of limitations on rape, and to remove 'severe and pervasive' from sexual harassment language.

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Sorvino cited North Dakota, the only state with a shorter statute of limitations on rape than New York — just three years. She says it's important to give survivors a chance to gain the courage to report and get criminals off the streets.

"Let's prevent this, let's stop the triage and start changing the landscape now to say time is up for sexual assault, sexual battery, sexual harassment, and rape," Sorvino said.

In 2018, Cuomo signed a law requiring all unreported rape kits to be kept for at least 20 years, to give survivors time to decide on pursuing criminal charges.

Earlier this year, he introduced language to address both of these issues in his budget, and it's possible the

Assembly and Senate could still introduce legislation for it and pass it in the next week.

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