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Addressing Sexual Violence, Silence, and Complicity in the Music Industry: An Open Letter to Music Professionals, Creatives, and Companies

As the curtains fell in 2023, the music industry was stunned by seismic allegations of sexual violence against towering figures. Yet, this upheaval signifies more than individual scandals; it rips the veil off a systemic rot that's evaded accountability for far too long—a disturbing chapter in what some are calling the music industry's #MeToo moment.

Art, a mirror to society, reflects a distressing reality drowning in misogyny, sexism, and brutality. In a system where a mere five out of a hundred rapists face conviction, and only three see the inside of a prison cell, the resounding message is clear—the system just doesn't care enough.

The infamous "Sex, drugs, and rock'n roll" lifestyle serves as a hotbed for rape culture, uniting suits and creatives despite their industry divides. This culture transcends music genres, reigning atop charts, claiming accolades, filling arenas, and decaying within the corridors of corporate power. The disturbing revelation that some revered figures might be capable of such horrendous acts unveils the complicity of the system in these crimes.

Consider the immense hush money that fills the slush funds of institutions to silence victims, leaving them jobless and shunned from future opportunities should they dare speak up. Meanwhile, the powerful perpetrators keep their positions and plush offices with no consequences for their actions.

For the past year and a half, I've devoted myself to a groundbreaking project set to launch this April, the [Safe Music Business Pledge](#). This initiative stands poised

to revolutionize the music industry by fostering safer workplaces through education, awareness, and tangible action. We're extending an earnest call to music professionals, creatives, companies, organizations, and recording studios to pledge their commitment toward a safer and more respectful industry.

Numerous prominent organizations and companies, such as NMPA, The Recording Academy, SONA, Industry Blackout, HRDRV, Even, and Artistry Group, have taken the pledge. Yet, garnering support from most publishers, record labels, and studios has posed a considerable challenge.

Throughout this journey, I've tirelessly approached numerous companies. Yet, the response has been disheartening. Many have either ignored my impassioned plea or outright declined to participate. Others, albeit a few, are hesitating to take action. This reluctance echoes an undeniable truth—the system isn't just flawed; it's complicit in perpetuating this culture of silence, abuse, and negligence.

This pushback against change only reinforces the depth of the industry's brokenness. The refusal to prioritize safety and accountability is a stark testament to the entrenched nature of the issue. This pervasive culture shatters the aspirations of countless creatives and executives and deprives the world of exceptional music.

The question beckons: What steps will we take to confront and change this narrative?

It's time for a reckoning—an industry-wide introspection and overhaul that transcends the surface of scandal. It's a call for fundamental change, demanding accountability, support for victims, and the dismantling of a toxic culture that erodes lives and stifles creativity.

In this pivotal moment, we must unite as a community. It's time to reclaim the industry's soul, ensuring creativity flourishes in a safe and empowering space for all of us. The road ahead is challenging, but it's our collective responsibility to pave it with integrity, empathy, and a commitment to lasting change.

Alongside the Safe Music Business Pledge, we are launching the [Abuse In Music Recovery Fund](#), dedicated to aiding victims of sexual harassment and abuse within the music community. Your contribution will directly support vital resources, including legal fees, therapy, financial assistance for recovery time away from work, coverage for potential medical expenses, and more. Together, let's cultivate a safer, more supportive environment for everyone involved in the industry.

Your support holds immense value—let us stand united to foster positive change and aid those in need.

Respectfully,



Tiffany Red
Founder & Executive Director
100 Percenters Foundation