

August 1, 2023

Dear Non-Profit Board Chair/Executive Director/c3Decisionmaker,

We represent dozens of local, state, and national organizations that advocate for survivors of sexual violence. Considering the serious and credible sexual harassment, bullying, and verbal abuse claims against Senator Daniel Ivey-Soto, we are calling on him to immediately resign from the New Mexico State Senate.

For a detailed report of all allegations and findings by a special counsel to the state, please view the attached PDF document.

As survivors and leading advocates in this space, we've seen the damage that can be done to our workplaces, institutions, and democracy when we allow those in positions of power to intimidate and bully others from participation. Black, Indigenous, trans, queer, Latina, and Asian women are the likeliest to experience sexual abuse at some point in their lives, and they are also the least represented in the halls of power.

Political work environments are often distinct from other work settings in a number of ways, including both being informal settings with no human resources departments and where abuse often takes place with no witnesses present at the time of reported incidents. In fact, due to these challenges, our coalition created the Fair Process Principles aimed to help campaigns address sexual harassment and assault allegations in a way that does not politicize or weaponize the claims.¹

Our three-year vetting process included extensive input from multiracial, multiethnic, and multidisciplinary employment attorneys, direct service providers, survivor advocates, policy experts, political candidate organizations, and socially-minded investors interested in rooting out sexual violence in our politics. Parts of the Fair Process Principles were published in *The Washington Post* on the eve of an investigatory process launched by New York Attorney General Letitia James into allegations of sexual harassment against then-New York Governor Andrew Cuomo. The Survivors' Agenda worked with Attorney General James' office to refine the processes following her office's investigation of Cuomo.²

Similar to what we saw in New York, we are distressed that New Mexico Senator Ivey-Soto remains in the state legislature with almost no accountability for his harmful actions. Senate leadership has pressured him to step down as chair of the senate Rules

¹ Fair Principles for Equitable Political Workplaces and Spaces, Survivors' Agenda, <https://survivorsagenda.org/fair-principles-for-equitable-political-workplaces-and-spaces/>

² Women's groups propose rules for sexual harassment investigation of New York Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo, *The Washington Post*, March 5, 2021, https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/andrew-cuomo-harassment/2021/03/05/79de76ac-7db5-11eb-b3d1-9e5aa3d5220c_story.html

committee for creating a hostile work environment that included verbal abuse and sexual harassment.

And while state legislators and advocacy groups were right to call on Ivey-Soto to resign from his post as chair of the powerful Rules committee, he continues to be in a position of power to cross-examine, embarrass, and even intimidate the very same advocates who had accused him of harassment. Even now, he serves on legislative interim committees where the same women who he has harassed and bullied are forced to deal with him. He has the power to influence the outcome of bills supported by these women.

As Ivey-Soto has been credibly found to break basic rules of workplace conduct, he should not be in any position of power. To avoid any conflicts of interest and humiliating situations for women and survivors of sexual violence, we call upon your organization to sever ties and take any other appropriate action within your power to support the many women and survivors, including removing Ivey-Soto from panels, boards, committees; ending contracts with him; and finally, to call on him to resign from the State Senate.

We know from experience that these actions are necessary and good for our institutions and democracy. By helping us remove him from all positions of power, your organization is helping create a culture of consent, an equitable work environment for all, and setting a precedent for how accountability in political office happens across the country.

Thank you for taking the experiences and needs of survivors seriously. We look forward to hearing back from you.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

[EducateUS](#)

[End Rape on Campus](#)

[Equality Labs](#)

[Girls for Gender Equity](#)

[IAmProSe](#)

[I Have The Right To](#)

[me too. International](#)

[National Organization of API Ending Sexual Violence](#)

[National Survivor Network](#)

[National Women's Law Center](#)

[Professor Victoria Burke](#)

[SafeBAE](#)

[Tewa Women United](#)

[The Every Voice Coalition](#)

[UltraViolet](#)

[Women's March](#)

New Mexico Organizations

[Center for Civic Policy](#)
[Common Cause New Mexico](#)
[Empowerment Congress of DAC](#)
[Equality New Mexico](#)
[New Mexicans to Prevent Gun Violence](#)
[New Mexico Asian Family Center](#)
[New Mexico Dream Team](#)
[New Mexico Working Families Party](#)
[NM Native Vote](#)
[NM Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice](#)
[OLÉ \(Organizers in the Land of Enchantment\)](#)
[Planned Parenthood Votes New Mexico](#)
[ProgressNow New Mexico](#)