



Laureates:

Mairead Maguire, Ireland (1976)
Rigoberta Menchu Tum, Guatemala (1992)
Jody Williams, USA (1997)
Shirin Ebadi, Iran (2003)
Leymah Gbowee, Liberia (2011)
Tawakkol Karman, Yemen (2011)

Ottawa—10 February 2019

Nobel Women's Initiative statement on allegations against Oscar Arias

Yesterday, we heard —through the media— of the allegations of sexual assault made against former President and 1987 Nobel Peace Laureate, Oscar Arias. We have also learnt that a criminal complaint was filed against him in Costa Rica.

The #MeToo era is revealing how much abuse women from all walks of life have had to endure, silently, for so long. It also shows that sexual harassment and violence is a widespread culture that knows no boundaries.

We stand by the brave survivors of sexual violence and assault wherever they are.

We salute their courage to come forward and to confront their perpetrators, including those in high positions of power.

We recognize that this is an ongoing criminal case, and it would be premature to comment further at this stage. We fully support a thorough investigation and due process. Justice should, and must, take its course.

Our commitment, as women and as Nobel Peace Laureates, is to a world free of violence, and there can be no peace as long as sexual violence, sexual harassment and sexual assault remain the daily experience of women around the world.

Advocating for peace, justice and equality