

Golden Globes: star hails a new dawn for women

David Gardner, US Correspondent
in Los Angeles

OPRAH WINFREY brought many at the Golden Globes to tears with a speech declaring that a "new day is on the horizon" for women around the world.

The actress and presenter received a standing ovation from Hollywood stars after telling the audience that men could no longer act as oppressors.

In response to calls on social media for Winfrey, 63, to run for president in 2020, her partner Steadman Graham told the Los Angeles Times: "It's up to the people. She would absolutely do it."

In her speech, Winfrey referred to the #MeToo campaign, in which women shared their experiences of sexual harassment amid the scandal sweeping Hollywood, and the Time's Up initiative, set up by more than 300 women in the industry to fight for gender equality.

She said: "I want all the girls watching to know, a new day is on the horizon. When that new day finally dawns, it will be because of the magnificent women, and many of them are in this room tonight, and some pretty phenomenal men, fighting hard to make sure that they become the leaders who take us to the time when nobody ever has to say 'me too' again."

Hollywood's most influential actresses, as well as many men, wore black for the ceremony in a statement against sexual harassment. Since October, the industry has been rocked by scandals involving producer Harvey Weinstein, actor Kevin Spacey and other high-profile men. Winfrey, who became the first black actress to accept the Cecil



Uprighting: right, Big Little Lies stars Laura Dern,

Nicole Kidman, Zoë Kravitz, Reese Witherspoon and Shailene Woodley. The show won best limited TV series, and Dern and Kidman also picked up awards.

Oprah Winfrey, left, used her speech to declare that men could no longer act as oppressors. Below left, Harvey Weinstein at last year's Golden Globes ceremony with wife Georgina Chapman

Seeing black on the red carpet
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B DeMille award, the Golden Globes' highest honour, said: "What I know for sure is that speaking your truth is the most powerful tool we all have."

"I want tonight to express gratitude to all the women who have endured years of abuse and assault because they, like my mother, had children to feed and bills to pay, and dreams to

pursue. They're the women whose names we'll never know."

She paid tribute to Regey Taylor, who died last month aged 97, in Alabama in 1944, when she was 24. Taylor was abducted and raped at gunpoint by six white men while walking home from church. Although Taylor reported the crime to the police, her attackers were



our conversation right now: abuse," she said. "I do believe, and I hope, we can elicit change through the stories we tell and the way we tell them. Let's keep the conversation alive. Let's do it." Kidman's co-star, Reese Witherspoon, accepted Big Little Lies' award for best limited series or motion picture made for television. Acknowledging the

women who have spoken out about abuse, saying: "We see you, we hear you and we will tell your stories." Elisabeth Moss won the award for best actress in a television drama for her role in The Handmaid's Tale, the adaptation of Margaret Atwood's 1985 novel Moss, who plays one of the few fertile women in a world where they are

considered property, dedicated her award to Atwood. In an inversion of a quote from the novel, she told the audience: "We no longer live in the blank white spaces at the edge of print. We no longer live in the gaps between the stories. We are the stories in print and we are writing the stories ourselves." The Golden Globes are awarded by the

Hollywood Foreign Press Association, a collection of journalists and photographers. No women were nominated for best director - with Lady Bird director Greta Gerwig seen as a surprise omission - and Natalie Portman, who presented the award, said pointedly: "Here are all the male nominees." The prize went to Guillermo del Toro for The

Shape Of Water. The other big winner was the drama Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri, which won for best film and best actress in a motion picture for Frances McDormand. She also received a standing ovation, finishing her acceptance speech by saying: "The women in this room tonight are not here for the food. We're here for the work."

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