



**For Immediate Release:**

March 19, 2026

**STATEMENT FROM ILLINOIS LATINO AGENDA:**

**Latino Leaders Condemn Sexual Assault within the United Farmworkers Movement, Call for Protection of Women and Children and Changes to Public Recognitions**

**CHICAGO** - The following is a statement from the Illinois Latino Agenda in response to the revelation that women and children were sexually abused by Cesar Chavez:

“Sexual violence, especially of minors, is inexcusable and has harmful, long-term effects on survivors. As a society, we must commit ourselves to end sexual violence. It’s deplorable that an individual who while advocating for human rights disregarded the dignity of women and children. No amount of influence, history, or impact can justify the harm they inflicted.

“We stand with the survivors who have come forward and recognize the strength it takes to speak up. Accountability matters. That includes not only those who caused harm, but those who enabled it or failed to provide safety for women and girls that were being groomed and assaulted. Our communities, women and children deserve better.

“The work of advancing equity and justice must always be grounded in dignity, safety, and respect for every person. The Illinois Latino Agenda remains committed to building a future where our communities can thrive free from harm.

“And while Cesar Chavez is not alive to face consequences, we believe the streets, monuments, and celebrations honoring him should be canceled and removed, and replaced by expressions and practices that inspire hope and love. To keep these honors in place is to accept hypocrisy and sweep the truth aside.”

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