



**Statement of Esta Soler, Founder and President, Futures Without Violence**

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**A Historic Choice, at a Historic Moment: Joe Biden and Kamala Harris Have Made Violence Prevention a Priority Throughout Their Careers**

We applaud and celebrate former Vice President Joe Biden’s selection of U.S. Senator Kamala Harris – a true champion for women, families and the prevention of violence against women and children – as his vice-presidential running mate.

Sen. Harris has been a friend and ally to Futures Without Violence for decades, even before she became California’s Attorney General. She shares our deep commitment to preventing childhood trauma, stopping sexual and domestic violence, ending human trafficking, and supporting all survivors so they can heal and thrive. We were proud to work with then-California-Attorney-General Harris when she ran initiatives to keep children from being pushed out of school and heal children who survived trauma – not typical priorities for attorneys general, but unwavering priorities for her. As their records make clear, she and Joe Biden are among the strongest violence prevention champions ever to serve in the U.S. Senate.

Sen. Harris is the proud daughter of immigrants, the first Black and Indian-American woman to be the vice-presidential candidate on a major party ticket, and a person of shining intellect and boundless compassion. Like so many others, we have been disturbed by the sexist and racist comments and overtones that have been evident in the coverage and commentary as former Vice President Biden made his choice. We call on all candidates, party officials, commentators, and others who speak out during this election season to judge all candidates on their positions and records and to avoid sexist and racist tropes. The time for bigotry and insults is over and our country deserves nothing less.

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**About FUTURES**

Futures Without Violence is a national health and social justice nonprofit that develops groundbreaking programs, policies, and campaigns to empower individuals and organizations working to end violence against women and children. Striving to reach new audiences and transform social norms, we train professionals such as doctors, nurses, judges, educators and athletic coaches on improving responses to violence and trauma. We also work with advocates, policymakers, and others to build sustainable community leadership and educate people everywhere about the importance of respect and healthy relationships. For more information, visit [www.futureswithoutviolence.org](http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org).