

#MeToo trends in SA as women share stories of sexual harassment

By [Julia Breakey](#)

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Over the weekend, actress Alyssa Milano encouraged women to tweet the hashtag #MeToo if they had ever been sexually harassed, assaulted, or abused - and by Tuesday morning it was trending in the top spot in South Africa.



Image source: [@Memeburn](#)

“ Just finished reading [#Khwezi](#) and decided to come detox on these streets. Then I see [#MeToo](#). Women are going through the most — Thabi Pebane (@Thabip) [October 16, 2017](#) ”

The hashtag is in response to the Harvey Weinstein scandal that revealed Hollywood’s deep sexual harassment problem. Weinstein, one of the most influential producers in the industry, was found by *The New York Times* to have covered up three decades of sexual harassment allegations.

The New Yorker subsequently published a recording of Weinstein admitting he had groped an Italian model. He then begged her to watch him shower.

In an effort to broaden the discussion, Milano began #MeToo as a way to prove that the issue is endemic to not just one industry, but society as a whole.

“ If you’ve been sexually harassed or assaulted write ‘me too’ as a reply to this tweet. [pic.twitter.com/k2oeCiUf9n](#)— Alyssa Milano (@Alyssa_Milano) [October 15, 2017](#) ”

The tag was quickly picked up, and was widely popular in South Africa, where women face a high rate of sexual assault.

“ [#MeToo](#)

Stand Up Against Sexual Harassment and Assault!!— [#BLACKDIAMOND \(@LungiNaidoo\)](#) [October 16, 2017](#) ”

“ The complicity of so many to keep sexual assault, abuse and harassment buried needs to end. You’re not saving face. Just stop. [#MeToo](#)— munchkin (@Feiawesome!) [October 16, 2017](#) ”

“ Immensely proud of all who shared [#metoo](#) stories. Hoping the ripples become a tidal wave of societal change—

Alexis Telfer (@AlexisTelfer) [October 17, 2017](#) ”

Though most welcomed the tag as a means to have their stories heard, others didn't want to perform their trauma for people on Twitter so that a problem could be understood.

“ A [#womxn](#) in my family publicly shamed me for not writing "[#metoo](#)" yesterday. Let that sink in 💎💎 sick

💎💎💎of💎💎💎 performing 💎💎💎 for 💎💎💎 you 💎💎💎— Kathryn Cleary (@clearlykath) [October 17, 2017](#) ”

“ Reminder that if a woman didn't post [#MeToo](#), it doesn't mean she wasn't sexually assaulted or harassed.

Survivors don't owe you their story.— Alexis Benveniste (@apbenven) [October 16, 2017](#) ”

ABOUT JULIA BREakey

Julia is a junior writer at Memeburn; a UCT film graduate with a passion for dogs, media, and dog-centric media. If she's not gushing about the new television show that you need to watch, she's rewatching *The Good Place* (which you need to watch).

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