

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE  
QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION  
MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS LIST  
BETWEEN

Claim No. HQ18M01923

JOHN CHRISTOPHER DEPP II

Claimant

-and-

- NEWS GROUP NEWSPAPERS LTD
- DAN WOOTTON

Defendants

FIRST witness statement of  
KATHERINE KENDALL

I, **Katherine Kendall**,

WILL SAY as follows:

- I am an actress, survivor of abuse and a public advocate for the #MeToo movement. I was presented as one of the two #MeToo advocates quoted and named as a source supporting the view of the article published by The Sun on 27 April 2018, titled "*How can JK Rowling be 'genuinely happy' casting wife-beater Johnny Depp in the new Fantastic Beasts film?*" ("**the Article**"). The Article is the subject of these proceedings.
- Unless stated otherwise, the facts and matters referred to in this witness statement are within my own knowledge and true or are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief based on sources stated within this witness statement.
- I make this witness statement in support of the Claimant's claim in these proceedings.
- I do not know the full details of the Claimant's claims against the Defendants in these proceedings. However, I have been shown the Defendants' Amended Defence. The purpose of this witness statement is to comment on the Amended Defence.
- In approximately April 2018, prior to first publication of the Article, a woman I did not know named "Zoe" came to my apartment. I told her that I was not free to speak with her then or subsequently. However, Zoe was extremely persistent and frequently called me. Ultimately, I spoke briefly with Zoe with her out of politeness, and she recorded our conversation.
- It later became apparent that I had been interviewed for quotation in support of the view presented in the Article. I do not know Dan Wootton who wrote the Article, however, the Article described its purpose as to "*reveal a significant backlash from within the #MeToo and Time's Up movement because the Scot [JK Rowling] is hellbent on backing her famous pal [Johnny Depp] – despite his clearly inexcusable behaviour towards ex-wife Amber Heard.*" I immediately understood after reading this that The Sun's purpose was to present the appearance of a #MeToo backlash against JK Rowling for casting John

Christopher Depp II in her "Fantastic Beasts" film.

- The Article went on: "*But today two brave members of Me Too/Time's Up – both victims of Harvey Weinstein – go public to question her decision.*" Although it was true that I was a victim of Harvey Weinstein, the rest was a lie. I was not "going public", on behalf of #MeToo or myself, to criticize JK Rowling's decision to cast Mr Depp, nor did I accuse Mr Depp of hurting Amber Heard, about which I have no first-hand knowledge.
- Nevertheless, the Article asserted: "*Actress Katherine Kendall adds: "I don't stand behind hitting people or abusing people. It seems that Amber got hurt. As someone who has been the victim of sexual abuse and a supporter of Me Too and telling my story to help others, I cannot advocate violence. I think it is a confusing message to put people in roles that are aimed at children and young people if there is a suggestion they have done something of that nature."* When I read the article, I realized that I had been completely misquoted and misused by The Sun to accomplish their goal. In my brief interview, I had actually said many of the opposite things that The Sun had falsely quoted me as saying.
- I immediately texted Zoe, The Sun reporter who had stalked me and stated: "*I felt like I was misquoted, or that my words were taken out of context. I never meant to be in an article that called Johnny Depp a "wife beater" I told you that I didn't know that to be true at all! I have heard SEVERAL times that she in fact was abusive to him. That's why I only wanted to make a comment in general about not being supportive of people being violent with each other, whichever direction it goes ... It seems that the whole article was about de-faming him.*" Zoe replied: "*Hi Katherine, I'm sorry you feel that way...*" I was shocked by this and responded: "*I'm not telling you how I feel. I'm telling you that you misquoted me and intentionally took things I said out of context in what I now realize was your purpose in defaming Johnny Depp. I told you I have heard Amber had hit him, which is why as you know I don't condone "any" violence. You have tried to use the #me too movement to your purposes by using me in this way.*"

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed:  Dec. 12, 2019

**Katherine Kendall**

Date: 10 December 2019

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**Defendant**

**WITNESS STATEMENT OF  
KATHERINE BUTLER**

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