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“I knew I was in the presence of someone committed to creating change.”

- Lindsey Horvath, President of Hollywood Chapter, Young Feminist VP, California National Organization for Women

SOPHIE MOKHTARI AND HOLLYWOOD NOW BEGIN COLLABORATION DISCUSSIONS

LOS ANGELES (June XX, 2008) – NBC Universal Executive and Author Sophie Mokhtari has begun discussions with the Hollywood Chapter of the National Organization for Women (Hollywood NOW) to determine how she can partner with the organization to support their mutual efforts to create an environment for women of all ages to thrive safely in their communities.

“When I met Sophie Mokhtari, I knew I was in the presence of someone committed to creating change,” said Lindsey Horvath, president of the Hollywood Chapter of NOW. “She does it all - excels in the entertainment industry, ... raises a fantastic daughter ... writes of racial, ethnic, and religious differences in the context of women's life experiences; and reaches out to local, state, national, and international organizations to help share her work and make a difference for women and girls. By encouraging intergenerational conversations of diversity and gender, Sophie is changing the way we look at activism.”

For 25 years, Mokhtari swept her shame underneath the carpet and it took her another five years to finally talk about her father molesting her. Recently in her blog, Mokhtari, for the first time, acknowledged that the character Lily, in her new novel “China Girl: A Daughter’s Journey,” is in fact, based on her, and Lily’s heart-wrenching story is her own.

“My hope is to share my experiences with women who are struggling with abuse or any other type of challenge that life presents,” said Mokhtari. “Hollywood NOW’s focus, in conjunction with their state chapter, California NOW, includes helping women to recognize their rights on various issues such as consensual sex, reproductive rights, athletic equality, ending violence, and more. It’s clear we are advocates of the same issues, and I am excited about the opportunity to collaborate with them on their efforts.”

“China Girl” tells the story of two women - a mother and daughter - who are raised in a culture that demands silence. Each one endures a series of life-altering events, including alcoholism, unwanted pregnancy, incest, sexual abuse, and abandonment. It will be released in August by Writers of the Round Table Press.

To learn more about Mokhtari’s stories, both personal and fictional, visit chinagirlbook.com. For interviews with Mokhtari or to request an advance copy for review, contact Sue Publicover, 207.752.4802 sue@writersoftheroundtable.com or Kim Jackson, 802.345.9730 kim@writersoftheroundtable.com.

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