

OpenTable Advocates for Gender Equality and Inclusion in the Restaurant Industry
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Prominent chefs and restaurateurs lend their voices to "Open Kitchen" PSA to raise awareness and call for action

SAN FRANCISCO, March 13, 2018 /PRNewswire/ -- OpenTable, the world's leading provider of online restaurant reservations and part of [Bookings Holdings, Inc.](#) (NASDAQ: BKNG), today unveiled its "[Open Kitchen](#)" initiative at [SXSW](#) 2018. The PSA-style campaign spotlights the need for the restaurant industry to make a shared commitment to put an end to an exclusionary, abusive culture and refocus on creating safe and respectful workplaces in restaurants. OpenTable collaborated with prominent restaurant owners, GMs, and chefs to release a public service announcement in which they advocate for professionalism, inclusiveness, and equality.

"No matter who you are or your role in a restaurant, whether you work in the kitchen or front of house, everyone deserves a safe seat at the table," said Christa Quarles, CEO of OpenTable. "It's on all of us – chefs, managers, restaurateurs, leaders, and more – to call out and stamp out inappropriate behavior and hold offending parties accountable. Together, we can bring about real change to ensure a positive and safe work environment for all."

Quarles debuted the [Open Kitchen](#) campaign and [PSA video](#) at her SXSW presentation today in Austin entitled "[Silicon Valley to Restaurants: The Path to Equality](#)". The PSA stars chefs and restaurateurs who have committed to Open Kitchens in their restaurants, including: Tanya Holland ([Brown Sugar Kitchen](#), Oakland), Mary Sue Milliken ([Border Grill](#), LA), Edward Lee ([Succotash](#), DC), and Nicole Krasinski and Stuart Brioza ([State Bird Provisions](#), SF).

"We as an industry put a heavy emphasis on quality and service when it comes to our guests, yet great service begins within, in the way we interact with one another and treat our staff," said Mary Sue Milliken, Chef and Restaurateur, Border Grill. "Moving forward, we must continually engage with our employees, lead by example, and emphasize respect and diversity to cultivate a healthy and more hospitable culture."

To underscore a restaurant's commitment, OpenTable has also released a 'pledge poster' that restaurateurs can display in the back of house asserting their restaurant to be one where everyone has a "safe seat at the table" and pledging to an Open Kitchen where they: 1. Uphold a zero-tolerance policy for harassment of any kind; 2. Treat one another with the same hospitality as they treat their guests; 3. Listen to one another with care, compassion, and respect; 4. Grow the team with a focus on diversity and inclusion; and 5. Cultivate a professional environment always.

To commit to an Open Kitchen and learn more about the campaign, visit: <https://openkitchen.opentable.com>. To read more of Quarles' thoughts on this important topic, visit <https://medium.com/@christaquarles>. Join the conversation with #openkitchen.

About OpenTable:

[OpenTable](#), part of [Bookings Holdings, Inc.](#) (NASDAQ: [BKNG](#)), is the world's leading provider of online restaurant reservations, seating more than 25 million diners per month via online reservations across more than 45,000 restaurants. The OpenTable network connects restaurants and diners, helping diners discover and book the perfect table and helping restaurants deliver personalized hospitality to keep guests coming back. The OpenTable service enables diners to see which restaurants have available tables, select a restaurant based on verified diner reviews, menus, and other helpful information, and easily book a reservation. In addition to the company's website and mobile apps, OpenTable powers online reservations for nearly 600 partners, including many of the Internet's most popular global and local brands. For restaurants, the OpenTable hospitality solutions enable them to manage their reservation book, streamline their operations, and enhance their service levels. Since its inception in 1998, OpenTable has seated over 1.5 billion diners via online reservations around the world. OpenTable is headquartered in San Francisco and has bookable restaurants in more than 20 countries, including Australia, Canada, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Spain, United Kingdom and the United States. Restaurants are available for reservations in Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, and Spanish languages.

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