

(<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/impact>)

Edition: U.S. ▾

Like 95k

Follow

Newsletters

Huffington Post Search

**FRONT PAGE**

**POLITICS**

**BUSINESS**

**ENTERTAINMENT**

([HTTP://WWW.HUFFINGTONPOST.COM](http://www.huffingtonpost.com)) ([HTTP://WWW.HUFFINGTONPOST.COM/POLITICS/](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/politics/)) ([HTTP://WWW.HUFFINGTONPOST.COM/BUSINESS/](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/business/)) ([HTTP://WWW.HUFFINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT/](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entertainment/))  
[Impact](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/impact/) (<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/impact/>) · [Opportunity](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/news/opportunity-working/) (<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/news/opportunity-working/>)

- [Impact X](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/news/impactx/) (<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/news/impactx/>) · [Global Motherhood](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/news/global-motherhood/) (<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/news/global-motherhood/>)
- [Millennial Impact](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/news/millennial-impact/) (<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/news/millennial-impact/>) · [Third Metric](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/news/third-metric/) (<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/news/third-metric/>)
- [Food For Thought](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/news/food-for-thought/) (<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/news/food-for-thought/>) · [Inspiring Leaders](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/news/inspiring-leaders/) (<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/news/inspiring-leaders/>)
- [Love Matters](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/news/love-matters/) (<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/news/love-matters/>) · [Veterans](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/news/veterans/) (<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/news/veterans/>)



Featuring fresh takes and real-time analysis from HuffPost's signature lineup of contributors

**HOT ON THE BLOG**

**Greta Van Susteren**

([http://www.huffingtonpost.com/greta-van-susteren/benghazi-house-committee-report-2016\\_b\\_7118214.html?utm\\_hp\\_ref=Impact](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/greta-van-susteren/benghazi-house-committee-report-2016_b_7118214.html?utm_hp_ref=Impact))

**Christine Pelosi**

([http://www.huffingtonpost.com/christine-pelosi/on-earth-say-clean-up-our\\_b\\_7117310.html?utm\\_hp\\_ref=Impact](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/christine-pelosi/on-earth-say-clean-up-our_b_7117310.html?utm_hp_ref=Impact))

**Sen. Dianne Feinstein**

([http://www.huffingtonpost.com/sen-dianne-feinstein/we-must-protect-our-child\\_b\\_7121002.html?utm\\_hp\\_ref=Impact](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/sen-dianne-feinstein/we-must-protect-our-child_b_7121002.html?utm_hp_ref=Impact))

**Ted Danson**

([http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ted-danson/five-years-after-the-bp-o\\_b\\_7111300.html?utm\\_hp\\_ref=Impact](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ted-danson/five-years-after-the-bp-o_b_7111300.html?utm_hp_ref=Impact))



**Ariel Zwang** ([ariel-zwang/](http://ariel-zwang/))

Become a fan

([users/becomefan.php?of=hp\\_blogger\\_Ariel\\_Zwang](https://users.becomefan.php?of=hp_blogger_Ariel_Zwang))

([twitter.com/safehorizon](https://twitter.com/safehorizon))

CEO, Safe Horizon

# Child Abusers Shouldn't Be Able to Run Out the Clock

Posted: 04/22/2015 3:02 pm EDT | Updated: 04/22/2015 3:59 pm EDT



Getty Images

58 (javascript:void(0))

Like

2

At [Safe Horizon](http://www.safehorizon.org/) (<http://www.safehorizon.org/>), we help thousands of abused children every year to tell their stories, often detailing horrors that most adults would find unimaginable. And then we work closely with the police and prosecutors to bring those who have harmed them to justice. However, there is another side to this story.

We know from our work that too many child abusers are never held accountable for their crimes. This can happen because the abuse was never reported, because it wasn't investigated properly, or because there simply wasn't enough evidence to prove the case. Sometimes it happens because a parent makes the difficult choice to shield an already traumatized child from testifying in court.

ADVERTISEMENT



PRESENTED BY THE GREAT AMERICAN MILK DRIVE



([http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/04/08/how-to-solve-americas-hunger-crisis-feeding-america\\_n\\_6436642.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/04/08/how-to-solve-americas-hunger-crisis-feeding-america_n_6436642.html))

And the fact of the matter is, many abused children don't have the emotional strength to face their abusers until adulthood. But here in New York State, adult survivors are faced with the devastating news that if they are over the age of 23, they cannot file civil or criminal charges against their abusers.

### **For victims of childhood sexual abuse, the consequences can last a lifetime. So why is there a statute of limitations on holding abusers accountable?**

There are many stories that inspire us at Safe Horizon to advocate for the removal of the statute of limitations, but one particularly stands out for me.

During a routine check-up at her doctor's office, Kathy\*, 25 and pregnant with her first child, unexpectedly broke down in tears. After witnessing her breakdown and suspecting Kathy had endured a terrible trauma, Kathy's doctor referred her to Safe Horizon's Counseling Center, the only state licensed mental health facility dedicated exclusively to treating trauma resulting from violence and abuse.

It was here that Kathy spoke -- for the first time in 13 years -- of the childhood sexual abuse she had faced at the hands of her own father. From age seven, Kathy's father had repeatedly sexually molested her. When Kathy confided in a trusted family member at age 12, she wasn't believed. Alone and disheartened, Kathy didn't speak of the abuse again until she arrived at Safe Horizon's offices.

Kathy's counselor helped her realize that the trauma of her childhood sexual abuse had resurfaced because she was now bringing her own child into the world. With therapy, Kathy was able to come to terms with the abuse and finally begin to heal.

For many victims, part of the healing process involves speaking out about the abuse and seeking to hold their abusers accountable. For Kathy, it was heartbreaking to learn that it was too late to bring her father to justice. Worst of all, she was tormented by the possibility he might still be preying on children.

Many states have already adjusted the time limits for adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse who seek justice. New York is one of only five states that have not yet extended their statute of limitations for survivors of these crimes. That's why the Child Victims Act is so important.

The Child Victims Act is a bill to reform the statute of limitations for childhood sexual abuse and enable justice for more victims of this heinous crime. Child predators should not be able to simply run out the clock. We are grateful to the champions in this effort, including New York State Assemblywoman Margaret Markey, New York State Senator Brad Hoylman, and dozens of their colleagues in the New York State Legislature who are sponsoring the Child Victims Act. Safe Horizon is also a proud advocate of the bill.

What will this legislation do? It will eliminate the statute of limitations for felony-level sex crimes against children and it will create a one-year window for adult survivors like Kathy to seek civil damages against their offenders.

### **Please join us in standing up for justice by signing our petition in support of the Child Victims Act.**

Most victims of childhood sexual abuse continue to struggle with the impact of the abuse they experienced long after the abuse ends. The Child Victims Act will allow victims to move on with their lives knowing that justice has been served. Just as crucial, it will protect additional children from suffering abuse at the hands of serial offenders by getting these abusers off our streets.

[Please sign our petition supporting the Child Victims Act now.](http://www.safehorizon.org/page/child-victims-act-352.html)  
(<http://www.safehorizon.org/page/child-victims-act-352.html>)

\*Name has been changed to protect the victim's identity.

**Follow Ariel Zwang on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/safehorizon](http://www.twitter.com/safehorizon)**  
(<http://www.twitter.com/safehorizon>)

**MORE: [Ariel Zwang](#), [Child Victims Act](#), [Child Abuse](#), [Child Sexual Abuse](#), [Child Sex Abuse](#), [Rape](#), [Child Neglect](#), [Safe Horizon](#), [Child Advocacy Center](#)**

## **Why Canned Food Drives Alone Won't Solve America's Hunger Crisis** ([http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/04/08/h-to-solve-americas-hunger-crisis-feeding-america\\_n\\_6436642.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/04/08/h-to-solve-americas-hunger-crisis-feeding-america_n_6436642.html))

Quick Read

([http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/04/08/h-to-solve-americas-hunger-crisis-feeding-america\\_n\\_6436642.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/04/08/h-to-solve-americas-hunger-crisis-feeding-america_n_6436642.html)) | Comments  
([http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/04/08/h-to-solve-americas-hunger-crisis-feeding-america\\_n\\_6436642.html#comments](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/04/08/h-to-solve-americas-hunger-crisis-feeding-america_n_6436642.html#comments)) | 04.22.2015

## **SUGGESTED FOR YOU**

- 1. [A Helpful Guide For The Future](#)



4 days ago [huffingtonpost.com](#)  
[HuffingtonPost.com \(AOL\)](#)  
[updates@huffingtonpost.com](mailto:updates@huffingtonpost.com) (The  
[Huffington Post News Team](#))  
[updates@huffingtonpost.com](mailto:updates@huffingtonpost.com) (The  
Huffington Post News Team)  
huffpost show

- 2. [Not Even Her Parents Burning Her Textbooks Could Keep Woman From Becoming A Teacher](#)



6 days ago [huffingtonpost.com](#)  
[HuffingtonPost.com \(AOL\)](#) [Kimberly Yam](#) Kimberly Yam Most Popular on HuffPost

- 3. [Nun In Uganda Has Educated 2,000 Girls Victimized By Joseph Kony](#)



7 hours ago [huffingtonpost.com](#) [AOL](#) [Forex](#) [Robbie Couch](#) Robbie Couch Ira

- 4. [New Study Shows Household Income's Effect On Child Development](#)



6 days ago [huffingtonpost.com](#)  
[HuffingtonPost.com \(AOL\)](#) [HuffPost Live](#) HuffPost Live whatsworking

- 5. [New Orleans Ends Veteran Homelessness, Proves It's 'Not An Impossible Problem'](#)



## You May Like



- 1. [Sean Penn And Clint Eastwood Aren't As Different Politically...](#) a month ago [live.huffingtonpost.com HuffingtonPost.com \(AOL\)](#) haiti



- 2. [Sarah McLachlan Opens Up On Her Sad Pet PSAs](#) a month ago [live.huffingtonpost.com HuffingtonPost.com \(AOL\)](#) angel



Sponsored Links



### Best Way to Reduce Puffy Eye Bags

70 Year Old Grandma Looks 40 Again  
<http://www.thedailylivingtips.com>



### New Rule in New York

If you drive in New York, this hidden rule can save you \$347/yr..  
[www.SmartWaysToLive.com](http://www.SmartWaysToLive.com)

## Conversations



Add a comment...

Also post on Facebook

Posting as **Madison Wiles-Haffner** ▾

Facebook social plugin

a day ago [huffingtonpost.com HuffingtonPost.com \(AOL\)](#) Eleanor Goldberg Eleanor Goldberg Most Popular on HuffPost

- 6. [Here's Proof That Helping Homeless Isn't About Donating.. It's About Investing In Your Community](#)



a week ago [huffingtonpost.com HuffingtonPost.com \(AOL\)](#) Robbie Couch Robbie Couch Most Popular on HuffPost

- 7. ['Homeless' Man Gives People Cash In Eye-Opening Experiment](#)



a day ago [huffingtonpost.com HuffingtonPost.com \(AOL\)](#) Robbie Couch Robbie Couch youtuber

- 8. [Artist Creates Quick Fix That Humanizes Ebola Aid Workers Inside Their Intimidating Suits](#)



a week ago [huffingtonpost.com HuffingtonPost.com \(AOL\)](#) Kimberly Yam Kimberly Yam Most Popular on HuffPost

## FOLLOW HUFFPOST

The Morning Email  Impact

Get top stories and blog posts emailed to me each day..

Huffington Post Search

[Advertise \(Http://Advertising.Aol.Com/Brands/Huffington-Post\)](#) | [Log In \(/Users/Login/\)](#) | [Make HuffPost Your Home Page \(/Makehome/\)](#) | [RSS \(/Svndication\)](#) | [Careers \(/Jobs/\)](#) | [FAQ \(/Faq/\)](#)

[User Agreement \(/Terms.Html\)](#) | [Privacy \(Http://Privacy.Aol.Com/\)](#) | [Comment Policy \(/Comment/Policy/\)](#) | [About Us \(/P/Huffington-Post.Html\)](#) | [About Our Ads \(Http://Adinfo.Aol.Com/About-Our-Ads/\)](#) | [Contact Us \(/Contact/\)](#)

