

Kol v'Oz - Preventing Child Sexual Abuse in the Global Jewish Community

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Jewish leaders and rabbis who support Child Victims Act (New York)

We, the undersigned rabbis and Jewish leaders, write this letter in support of the Child Victims Act, A2872/S63.

After decades of denial, cover-ups and darkness across New York state, light is finally being shone on the scourge of child sexual abuse. The lasting and far-reaching damage caused by abusers is intolerable, and it is incumbent upon all the citizens of New York State to work to reduce it.

Shockingly, when victims have come forward to seek justice and stop abusers from causing more harm, they have been blocked by current New York State law.

While mental health experts have shown that it can take decades for a victim of child sexual abuse to overcome the fear, shame, and trauma of abuse and be able to come forward to confront their abuser, our current law allows survivors of abuse to pursue criminal or civil justice only until the age of 23, a statute of limitations of, in some cases, only five years.

We are embarrassed that New York state has been ranked among the very worst in the US, alongside Alabama, Michigan and Mississippi, for how the courts and criminal justice system treat survivors of child sex abuse.

Therefore, we urge you to help New York join states like California, Delaware, Minnesota, Hawaii, Illinois and Florida that have recently passed legislation extending or eliminating the statute of limitations, thus creating windows for survivors to come forward.

This legislation will no doubt bring justice, but, it will also prevent further abuse. When similar legislation was passed in California, over 300 previously unknown abusers were identified.

Many rabbis and Jewish leaders have seen in our communities the wounds caused by sexual predators; wounds whose pain cannot be overstated, wounds that may never be fully healed. We also painfully acknowledge that rather than being a source of healing for victims of child sexual abuse, religious institutions have too often been a part of the problem.

Though we cannot undo the pain that was done, we can stand with victims and survivors of child sexual abuse in their quest for justice. We can and must stand with survivors of child sexual abuse in their quest for justice. We stand with all those children who are still at risk from abusers still at large because of our broken statute of limitations laws. We ask you to do the same: help all survivors of child sexual abuse receive the justice they deserve and help deter future abuse by supporting the Child Victims Act.

| | Title | Name | Affiliated organization |
|----|--------------|------------------|--|
| 1. | Rabbi | Ari Hart | Hebrew Institute of Riverdale |
| 2. | Rabbi | Yosef Blau | Yeshiva University |
| 3. | Mr | Manny Waks | Kol v'Oz |
| 4. | Rabbi | Sharon Kleinbaum | Congregation Beit Simchat Torah |
| 5. | Rabbi | David Dunn Bauer | Congregation Beit Simchat Torah |
| 6. | Rabbi | Jill Jacobs | T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights |

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| 7. | Mrs | Ruth W. Messinger | Former Manhattan Borough President |
| 8. | Rabbi | Michael Fessler | Reconstructionist Rabbinical College |
| 9. | Rabbi | Brian Fink | JCC Manhattan, Director of Engage Jewish Service Corps |
| 10. | Rabbi | Lina Zerbarini | Sid Jacobson JCC |
| 11. | Rabbi | Irving Yitz Greenberg | Retired |
| 12. | Rabbi | Joe Potasnik | |
| 13. | Rabbi | Pesach Sommer | |
| 14. | Rabbi/Prof | Benny Forer | Jewish Community Watch |
| 15. | Rabbi | Micha Berger | The AishDas Society |
| 16. | Rabbi | Shmuel Skaist | Yeshivas Isser v'Yitzchak at IDT |
| 17. | Mr | Chaim Levin | Kol v'Oz |
| 18. | Rabbi | Jonah Geffen | Congregation Shaare Zedek |
| 19. | Rabbi | Joshua Hess | Congregation Anshe Chesed |
| 20. | Rabbi | Sam Reinstein | Congregation Kol Israel |
| 21. | Mr | Eli Nash | Survivor and Victim Advocate |
| 22. | Rabbi | Ysoscher Katz | Prospect Heights Shul |
| 23. | Rabbi | Mordechai Harris | Baron Hirsch Congregation |
| 24. | Rabbi | Zelig Mandel | |
| 25. | Rabbi | Rachel Esserman | |
| 26. | Rabbi | Chuck Davidson | International Rabbinic Fellowship |
| 27. | Rabbi | Kleinberg | |
| 28. | Rabbi | Michael Rothbaum | Congregation Beth El Berkeley |
| 29. | Rabbi | Asher Lopatin | Yeshivat Chovevei Torah |
| 30. | Rabbi | Chaim Steinmetz | Kehilath Jeshurun |
| 31. | Rabbi (stu) | Gabriel Kretzmer Seed | Yeshivat Chovevei Torah |
| 32. | Mr | Ed Landesman | |
| 33. | Cantor | Adina Frydman | |
| 34. | Rabbi | Menachem Creditor | Congregation Netivot Shalom |
| 35. | Rabbi | Joshua Yuter | |
| 36. | Rabbi | Paula Marcus | |
| 37. | Rabbi | Debbie Israel | Congregation Emeth |
| 38. | Rabbi Dr | Zev Farber | Project TABS |
| 39. | Rabbi | Michael Leo Samuel | |
| 40. | Mr | Mordechai Levovitz | JQY |
| 41. | Rabbi | Gil Student | |
| 42. | Mr | David Zinberg | Columnist |
| 43. | Rabbi | Yehoshua Looks | |
| 44. | Maharat | Ramie Smith | Yeshivat Maharat |
| 45. | Rabbi | Aaron Potek | Hillel |
| 46. | Rabbi | David Bauman | US Navy |
| 47. | Rabbi | Mel Gottlieb | Academy for Jewish Religion, California |
| 48. | Rabbi | Zachary Truboff | Cedar Sinai Synagogue |
| 49. | Mr | Mark Meyer Appell | Voice of Justice |
| 50. | Rabbi | Sarah Freidson | Temple Beth Shalom |
| 51. | Rabbi Dr | Yehudah Mirsky | |
| 52. | Rabbi Dr | Michael Chernick | Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion |
| 53. | Rabbi | David Kalb | Jewish Learning Center of New York |
| 54. | Rabbi | Shmuly Yanklowitz | Uri L'Tzedek |
| 55. | Rabbi | Dov Linzer | Yeshivat Chovevei Torah Rabbinical School |
| 56. | Rabba Dr | Anat Sharbat | Hebrew Institute of Riverdale |
| 57. | The Hon | Dov S. Zakheim | Former Under Secretary of Defense |
| 58. | Rabbi | Sarit Horwitz | B'nai Jeshurun |
| 59. | Rabbi | Jason Herman | International Rabbinic Fellowship |
| 60. | Rabbi | Yonah Berman | |

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| 61. Rabbi | Barry Gelman | |
| 62. MD | Michelle Friedman | Director of Pastoral Counseling, Yrshivat Chovevei Torah Rabbinical School |
| 63. Mrs | Dina Najjman | The Kehila |
| 64. Mr | David Cheifetz | Mi Li |
| 65. Rabbi (stu) | Daniel Atwood | Yeshivat Chovevei Torah |
| 66. Rabbi | Aviad Bodner | Statnton Street Shul |
| 67. Ms | Rahel Bayer | Hebrew Institute of Riverdale |
| 68. Mr | Jordan Hirsch | Torah Academy of Bergen County |
| 69. Rabbi | Ben Greenberg | |
| 70. Rabbi Dr | Marc Gopin | George Mason University |
| 71. Rabbi | Jeremy D. Sher | Harvard Divinity School |
| 72. Rabbi | David Ingbar | Romemu |
| 73. Rabbi | Iris Richman | |
| 74. Rabbi | Chaim Seidler-Feller | IRF |
| 75. Rabbi | Avram Mlotek | Base Hillel Downtown |
| 76. Rabbi | Ayelet S. Cohen | |
| 77. Rabbi | Adam Baldachin | Rockland Clergy for Social Justice |
| 78. Rabbi | Jon Kelsen | |
| 79. Rabbi | Raquel S. Kosovske | Beit Ahavah |
| 80. Rabbi | Howard Stecker | Temple Israel of Great Neck |
| 81. Rabbi | Will Keller | Yeshivah Chovevei Torah |
| 82. Ms | Anna Shpilkovskaya | United Support Network |
| 83. Rabbi | Linda Henry Goodman | Union Temple of Brooklyn |
| 84. Ms | Judy Mitzner | Survivor and Victim Advocate |
| 85. Rabbi | Shira Koch Epstein | 14th Street Y |
| 86. Rabbi | Marc Margolius | West End Synagogue |
| 87. Rabbi | Ari Kahn | |
| 88. Rabbi | Matti Futterman | Temple Beth El, Cedarhurst |
| 89. Rabbi | Yosef Goldman | Temple Beth Zion |
| 90. Rabbi | Daniel Brenner | |
| 91. Rabbi | Daniel Geretz | Maayan of West Orange |
| 92. Rabbi | Maya Resnikoff | Nursingatshul.wordpress.com |
| 93. Rabbi | Robyn Fryer Bodzin | Israel Center of Conservative Judaism |
| 94. Rabbi | Uri Regev | Hiddush |
| 95. Rabbi | Yehuda Kaploun | |
| 96. Mr | Ariel Weisz | |
| 97. Rabbi | Ariel Russo | Congregation Sons of Israel |
| 98. Rabbi | Pinchos Woolstone | |
| 99. Mr | Naftuli Moster | Yaffed |
| 100. Dr | Sharon Weiss-Greenberg | Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance |
| 101. Ms | Tully Harcsztark | SAR High School |
| 102. Rabbi | Paul Drazen | United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism |
| 103. Ms | Shanie Reichman | |
| 104. Ms | Victoria Jacobi | |
| 105. Mrs | Chaya Schneps | Young Israel of West Hempstead |
| 106. Rabbi | Rachel Weiss | Congregation Bit Simchat Torah |
| 107. Ms | Lani Santo | Footsteps |
| 108. Rabbi | David Gelfand | Temple Israel of the City of New York |
| 109. Rabbi | Guy Austrian | Fort Tryon Jewish Center |
| 110. Attorney | Elliott B. Pasik | Jewish Board of Advocates for Children |
| 111. Rabbi | Suzanne Singer | Temple Beth El, Riverside, CA |
| 112. Rabbi Dr | David A. Teutsch | Reconstructionist Rabbinical College |
| 113. Rabbi | David Lerner | Rabbinical Assembly |
| 114. Rabbi (stu) | Melanie Levav | The Jewish Theological Seminary |

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| 115. Mr | Larry Marx | The Children's Agenda |
| 116. Ms | Ava Katz | |
| 117. Dr | Karen Abrams Gerber | |
| 118. Rabbi | Maurice Appelbaum | Congregation Ahavas Israel - Greenpoint Shul & Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center |
| 119. Ms | Cindy Chazan | |
| 120. Rabbi | Amy Eilberg | |
| 121. Rabbi | Goldie Milgram | Reclaiming Judaism |
| 122. Rabbi Dr | Leslie Schotz | Academy for Jewish Religion and Aleph |
| 123. Ms | Rena Blatt | |
| 124. Rabbanit | Devorah Zlochower | Yeshivat Chovevei Torah |
| 125. Ms | Dove Kent | Jews for Racial and Economic Justice |
| 126. Ms | Lea New Minkowitz | |
| 127. Rabbi | Moishe Feiglin | The Aliya Institute |
| 128. Rabbi | Jean Eglinton | B'nei Sholom Congregation |
| 129. Mr | Joshua Chadajo | Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies |
| 130. Mr | Dorron Katzin | Mi Li |
| 131. Rabbi | Fred Hyman | |

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