



October 26, 2020

Open Letter Calling for U.S. Presidential Leadership to “End Sexual Violence Against Children”

Dear 2020 Candidates for the Offices of President and Vice-President:

Sexual violence against children and adolescents living in the United States is rampant, constitutes a public health pandemic, and causes grave physical and psychological trauma and social havoc.¹² To address this crisis, we call on you to launch a bold Presidential Initiative to “End Sexual Violence Against Children” during the first 100 days of your new Administration, inclusive of prevention, healing and justice. We recommend simultaneously launching the following actions:

- **Mobilize Congress to Approve Comprehensive National Legislation, the “End Sexual Violence Against Children Act,” Informed by a U.S. Presidential Commission:** As President, we call on you to effectively address the pandemic of sexual violence against children in the United States by mobilizing Congress to pass comprehensive national legislation, increase federal funding for programs and research, and expand federal incentives to improve state laws to launch large scale prevention, healing, and justice programs to prevent violence, protect survivors, and reduce the cost of sexual violence against children to society[KS1] .

As President, we call on you to institute a Presidential Commission to End Sexual Violence Against Children (The Commission). The Commission would be comprised of experts including researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and, importantly, adult survivors and would act as a catalyst to collect and synthesize data and research so that policymakers and the public would garner a comprehensive understanding of the crisis,

¹ Sexual violence consists of a range of sexual acts against a child, including but not limited to child sexual abuse, incest, rape, sexual violence in the context of dating/intimate relationships, sexual exploitation, online sexual abuse and exploitation, and non-contact sexual abuse.

² Children is defined as 0-18 years of age

the costs to society and the potential to scale-up available solutions to prevent, heal, and ensure justice.

- **Declare Sexual Violence Against Children a US Public Health Emergency:** As President, we call on you to use your executive authority to officially declare sexual violence against children under 18 years of age a public health emergency and mandate an annual U.S. Surgeon General's report.
- **Expand US Support for Global Programs to End Sexual Violence Against Children:** As President, we call on you to expand US leadership to galvanize global action to end sexual violence against children by increasing international funding to go to scale with prevention-healing-justice programs.

Should questions arise, if you need additional information, or if you or your staff would like to meet with members of this movement to discuss these issues, please contact Denise Edwards at National Children's Alliance: dedwards@nca-online.org, Jill Ruck at Child USA: jruck@childusa.org or Paul Zeitz at Together for Girls: drpaulzeitz@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

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Executive Director
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Katelyn Brewer
President and CEO
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Grace French
Survivor, Founder and President
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Executive Director
SNAP Network

Marci Hamilton
CEO
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Dr. Daniela Ligiero
Survivor and CEO
Together for Girls

Dr. Melissa Merrick
President and CEO
Prevent Child Abuse America

Additional National Organizations

Dr. Paige Alisen

Survivor and Author, "Finding Courage to Speak"

Gary Barker

President and CEO, Promundo-US

Scott Berkowitz

President, RAINN

Sarah Blakemore

Chief Executive, Keeping Children Safe

Brisa De Angulo, Esq.

Survivor, Founder and CEO, A Breeze of Hope Foundation

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Survivor and Director, Global Women's Institute, George Washington University

Dr. Howard R. Fradkin

Independent Trauma Psychologist

Dr. Jennifer J. Freyd

Founder and President, Center for Institutional Courage

Dr. Lyndon Haviland

Chair, Foundation Board, CUNY School of Public Health

Margaret Hoelzer

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Dr. Elizabeth Latourneau

Director, Moore Center for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

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President and Founder, Futures Without Violence

Karla Valentin

Executive Assistant, Vertex Pharmaceuticals

Dr. Paul Zeitz

Survivor and Executive Director, Build A Movement 2020

Local Organizations

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Ports

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Prescott House Child Advocacy Center

Megan Banet

Indiana Center for Prevention of Youth Abuse and Suicide

Marilyn Benefield

NCAC

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Vanessa Southworth

Family & Children's Center

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Center for Child Protection

Samuel West

Our Children Matter Mid-TN

Pamela Wallace

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Bilingual D2L Facilitator, Child Advocacy
Center of Rutherford County, Inc.

Theresa Woods

Triad Mega Women's Conference Inc.

Individuals

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Clara Alemann

Debra Anderson

Rev. William M. Anderson

Carolyn Baddorf

Lelia Barrios

Tammy Bertsch

Rebecca Bevans

Lillah Bezara

Marla Bivens

Ruth Boice

Kimberly Bolden

Andrea Boldt

Brandy Boles

Alisha Boyce

Lorrie Brennan

Seterria Brodnex

Sarah Bridges

Toni Brock-Levi

John Brooks
Survivor

Shirley Brothers

Elizabeth Brown

Rhonda Brown

Lisa Bush

Lauren Byers

Candace Butler

Brandon Calhoun

T. J. Carter

Bridget Clark

Amy Carr

Christina Marie Castro

Nelly Chavez

Jane Christensen

Laura Crave

James Crawford

Cheryl Crick

Joy Crist

Kayla Crossen

Dena Cunningham

Kim Cunninghis

Jennifer Daniel

Dr. John Dannenberg

Debbie Dappen

Ashley Davis

Courtney Davis

Sharon De Boer

Amanda de Geneste

Natalia Devore

Beth Dickinson

Leslie Donovan

Lisa Donze Jacob, LCSW

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Tammy Dunne

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Karen Fain

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Kinshasa Garrett

Barbara Goldman-Sherman

Dale Goldstein

Sarah Gonyon

Madelyn Gonzales

Stevi Gray

Lauren Gregory

Leslie C. Griffin

Anna Groff

Roxanne Guillen

Art Hanson

Cheryl Hartman

Cynthia Hatley

Chelsey V. Heaney

Ashley Henderson

Sherrye Henry

Jan Heverly

Rhonda Herring

Jennifer Hill

Christie Holyfield

Courtney Holyfield

Debra Hopkins

Carol Hogue

Dana Huckleberry

E. Hudson

Cathy Humphrey

Jennie Hutchins

Liz Rosen-Hughes

Rebecca Ianni

Amanda Irving

Taryn Jackson

Herbert Jansen

Evie Jefferies

Janet M. Johnson

Christine Jones

Lou Jurgens

Brent Kahut

Rosalyn Kindell

Jessica H. Kim

Jane Kirkwood

Marlene Knight

Jana Kolukanova

Brant Kotch

Diane W. Kyle

Jeff Lapchinsky

Lisa Lavene
Survivor and Advocate

Yolma Ledbetter

Beth Lee

Katherine Lee

Tracy Leonard

Elizabeth Lewis

Leslie Little

Claudia Librett

Lorraine Lomas

Robert Lombardi

Kathryn Lyons

Valeria Marcus

Mr. Loraine Marquardt

Carrie M. McCarter

Michael A. McKay

Worth McMillan

Maria Teresa Mendoza

Jasmine Metzgar

Carol Midboe

Jordan Miller

Liz Miller

Hawk Moore

Cara Morris

Lizzetta Mosley

Hysha Nesmith

Russell Novkov

Francesca Odom

Joseph Oluyemi

Stephen Olsick
Survivor

Michelle O'Neill

Telsche Overby

Attallah Pamoja

Angela Pang

Susan Paquette

Katie Parks

Terri Pauls

Courtney L. Pentecost

Emma Pesis

Rhonda Peters

Sarah Pharr

Megan Pickard

Nancy Pieffer

Danielle Pollack

Terri Pond

Cassandra Porter

Derek Post

Miguel Prats

Tonya Prejean

Sarah Pryce

Jeff A. Reilly

Michele Reed

Alice Rich

Mandy Roberts

Zoraida Rodriguez

Emily Roebuck

Jen Roeser

James Rogers

Priscilla Rogers

Suzanne Ruck

Brian Rule

Erin Rutherford

Rusty Rutherford

Karen Sablich

Melanie Sakoda

Allyson Santiago

Caryn Sappelli

Mary Stalvey

Toby Stark

Danny Sutton

Amber Savoy

Patricia Schoene

Paula Sellars

Lisa Shanklin

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Roxanne Sierra

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