



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.<sup>12</sup> 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,

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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](mailto:dedwards@nca-online.org), Jill Ruck at Child USA: [jruck@childusa.org](mailto:jruck@childusa.org) or Paul Zeitz at Together for Girls: [drpaulzeit@gmail.com](mailto:drpaulzeit@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

**Teresa Huizar**  
Executive Director  
National Children's Alliance

**Katelyn Brewer**  
President and CEO  
Darkness to Light

**Grace French**  
Survivor, Founder and President  
The Army of Survivors

**Zach Hiner**  
Executive Director  
SNAP Network

**Marci Hamilton**  
CEO  
CHILD USA

**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

### **Dr. Mary Ellsberg**

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**

US Olympian, National Spokesperson, National Children's Advocacy Center

### **Dr. Elizabeth Latourneau**

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

### **Timothy Lennon**

President, SNAP Network

### **Gary Kosman**

CEO, America Learns

### **Patricia Lewis, Esq.**

Executive Director, Beau Biden Foundation

### **Erin Merryn**

President, Erin's Law

### **Tabitha Mpamira**

Survivor, Founder and Director, EDJA Program, Nyaka Global

### **Maya Rockeymoore Cummings**

Founder, President and CEO, Global Policy Solutions

### **Dr. Anita Raj**

Director, Center on Gender Equity and Health, University of California San Diego School of Medicine

### **Esta Soler**

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**

### **Curtis Ankunding**

Ports

### **Rachel Anderton**

Prescott House Child Advocacy Center

### **Megan Banet**

Indiana Center for Prevention of Youth Abuse and Suicide

### **Marilyn Benefield**

NCAC

### **Jetta Bernier**

Executive Director, MassKids/Enough Abuse Campaign

### **Kristen Bierma**

Executive Director, Beacon Hill

### **L. P. Black**

Skyart

### **Gia Brooks**

Chemehuevi Indian Tribe Health Board

### **Tammi Collins**

District Attorney, Columbus County

### **Amy Cozart**

District Social Service Counselor,  
Mooresville Graded School District

### **Kris Crim**

Memphis Child Advocacy Center

### **Sarah Drake Gilmer**

Forensic Interviewer, Children's Advocacy Center of Eastern Arkansas

### **Sharon Eberhard**

Life Stories Child & Family Advocacy

### **Bradford Ernser**

Dynamic

### **Michaela Gaither**

A Child's Voice Child Advocacy Center, Inc.

### **Astrid Gamez**

Executive Director, Family Services Network

### **Margaret S. Girdler**

Tech Coordinator, CCR&R

### **Priti Griffin**

Raise Me Up Foundation

### **LaDonna Hall**

Clinical Services Director, Southwest Virginia Children's Advocacy Center

### **Brittney Hernandez**

Founder and Pastor, Dwelling Place Church

### **Diana Rojas Hohenberger**

Realtor, Palmer House Properties Atlanta

### **Donna Hopkins Britt**

Education Facilitator, Children's Trust

### **Niga Jackson**

Not Alone

### **Melisa Jacobi**

Bandwidth

### **Debbie Jenae**

Founder, Inspired 101

### **Lindy Keefe**

YWCA York

**Tiffany Kelly**

Clinical Program Director, Lutheran  
Community Services Northwest

**Lauren Kennedy**

Consultant, Redwoods Group

**Kevin Koscielniak**

Founder, The Buffalo Survivors Group

**Kristen Kraskouskas**

Hockomock Area YMCA

**Joann Leone**

YOYO Young & Old Youth Organization

**Tracy McQueen**

Trauma Advocacy Coordinator, ASSIST  
Indiana

**Elliott C. Michaels**

Bandleader, Galleon!

**Carol Neal Rossi**

President, Issues Consulting, LLC

**Pamela K. Orgeron**

ABC's Ministries

**Hannah Palm**

Oxbow Farm and Conservation Center

**Amy Paulson**

Survivor, Founder and CEO, Gratitude  
Alliance

**Beth Plyler**

First Presbyterian Church

**L. T. Pridgen**

Founder, Stomp Out the Silence

**Jennifer Samartano**

Prevent Child Abuse Illinois

**Meredith Stewart**

Consultant, The Redwoods Group

**D. L. Stroup**

HCSO

**Nicole Schrock**

The Child Advocacy Center

**Marquita Smiley**

Alabama Dept of Human Resources

**Suzanne Snyder**

North County Christ the King Church

**Vanessa Southworth**

Family & Children's Center

**Roberta Teran**

Crossroads Reach Out

**Ashley Thomas**

Founder and CEO, Bridge II Sports

**Christopher Thomas**

C. Thomas Works

**Dr. Joanne Thomas**

Executive Director, Delta Crisis Center, Inc.

**Mollyanne Vasquez**

Center for Child Protection

**Samuel West**

Our Children Matter Mid-TN

**Pamela Wallace**

Program Coordinator, Project Child

**Jessica Wauchek**

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

**Theresa Woods**

Triad Mega Women's Conference Inc.

**Individuals**

**Corina Akiyama**

**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**

**Vincent Dorio**

**Tammy Dunne**

**Elizabeth Durham**

**Eldridge Fantroy**

**Karen Fain**

**Marie Freeman**

**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**

**Mary Ashley Shelton**

**Roxanne Sierra**

**Constance Simmons**

**Cecelia Simon**

**Arlene Smith**

**Author D. Smith, Jr.**

**Cynthia Smith**

**Johanna J. Smith**

**Rosemary Spatafora**

**Rita Spaulding**

**Carla Springer**

**Naeemah Staggs**

**Brian Tjugum**

**Richard Tollner**

**Letitia Tomaszewski**

**Patricia Tomsic**

**Alexandra Tucci**

**Pamela Ulloa**

**Michele VanWinkle**

**Gina Virgilio**

**Melanie Walker**

**Anna Westbrook**

**Kimberly Westerfield**

**Heather Wildrick Holman**

**Kimberly Wiley**

**Mike Wilhelm**

**Theresa Wnenta**

**Rebecca K. Zebley**

**Kate Zielke**