

# CARDOZO LAW

BENJAMIN N. CARDOZO SCHOOL OF LAW • YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

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November 16, 2015

The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

RE: A call for the formation of a National Commission to stem the epidemic of child sex abuse in the United States

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the Catholic Whistleblowers and myself, supported by over 25 organizations dedicated to child protection, I present to you an impassioned call for the formation of a National Commission to investigate the sexual abuse of children in the United States in public, private, and religious institutions, secular and religious, including the family.

The Australia Royal Commission has set the global standard for national protection of children in all settings and presents a template for the United States to follow so that children are truly protected from sexual abuse. To date, no arm of the United States federal government has taken any action to protect children from sex abuse in institutions despite the rapidly increasing list of scandals involving religious institutions, schools (public and private), sports, and celebrities and public figures like Bill Cosby, Woody Allen, Josh Duggar, Dennis Hastert, and Jared Fogel. This epidemic touches every corner of our country regardless of economic level, prestige, or contributions in other spheres.

The time has come for the federal government to move from silence--which favors predators and institutions that protect image over children--to action. Some states have made some improvements in their laws but overall the United States remains a safer place for predators and the institutions that protect them than children.

Catholic Whistleblowers has asked me to present to you the attached letter, because it is now clear that the protection of children from sexual predators cannot be accomplished by leaving institutions to their own devices. It includes signed support from dozens of other national and esteemed organizations that have been laboring in the vineyard of child protection as well and that strongly support a national investigation to stem this epidemic and to prevent child sex abuse in the future.

Letter to the President  
November 16, 2015

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marci A. Hamilton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Marci A. Hamilton  
Paul R. Verkuil Chair in Public Law  
Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law

Senior Fellow  
University of Pennsylvania  
Program for Research on Religion and Urban Civil Society  
Co-chair, Common Ground for the Common Good Project

cc: Vice President Joseph Biden  
Loretta Lynch, United States Attorney General