

REDACTED

Begin forwarded message:

From: yosef feldman <[REDACTED]>
Date: 26 July 2011 11:17:08 pm AEST
To: Joshua Levi <[REDACTED]>, zeddy@jewishnews.net.au, Zeddy Lawrence
 <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Rabbi Moshe D Gutnick <[REDACTED]>, Rabbi Wolf - Leible
 <[REDACTED]>, cc Mendel Kastel <[REDACTED]>, Rabbi
 Kluwgant <[REDACTED]>, Wernick Family <[REDACTED]>, Rev
 Ben Skolnik <[REDACTED]>, Rev Aron Amzalak
 <[REDACTED]>, "<rabbisolomon@[REDACTED]>"
 <[REDACTED]>, Rabbi Yossi Braun <[REDACTED]>, Rabbi
 Yanky Berger <[REDACTED]>, Rabbi Y Ulman <[REDACTED]>, Rabbi
 Tov-Lev Samuel <[REDACTED]>, Rabbi Shmuel Cohen
 <[REDACTED]>, Rabbi Schapiro Nachum <[REDACTED]>, Rabbi
 Rogut David <[REDACTED]>, Rabbi Pinchus Feldman <[REDACTED]>, Rabbi Motti
 Feldman <[REDACTED]>, Rabbi Michoel Gourarie
 <[REDACTED]>, Rabbi Lewin Paul <[REDACTED]>, Rabbi Levi Wolff
 <[REDACTED]>, Rabbi Lawrence Jeremy <[REDACTED]>, Rabbi
 Ham Perez <[REDACTED]>, Rabbi Feldman Eli
 <[REDACTED]>, Rabbi Eli Schlanger <[REDACTED]>, Rabbi

Eli Cohen <REDACTED>, Rabbi Dovid Slavin <REDACTED>, Rabbi Doniel Kaye <REDACTED>, Rabbi Davie Blackman <REDACTED>, Rabbi David Freedman <REDACTED>, Rabbi Dadon Menachem <REDACTED>, Rabbi Chriqui Michael <REDACTED>, Rabbi Chaim Rosenthal <REDACTED>, Rabbi Chaim Ingram <REDACTED>, Rabbi Benzion Milecki <REDACTED>, Rabbi Apple Raymond <REDACTED>, Garber Alan <REDACTED>, Jenny Mendel <REDACTED>, Rabbi Mordechai Gutnick <REDACTED>, "Rabbi Barber, Yanki" <REDACTED>, "Rabbi Brown, Yehudah" <REDACTED>, "Rabbi Coleman, S" <REDACTED>, "Rabbi David (OYH)" <REDACTED>, Rabbi Engel - Yosef <REDACTED>, "Rabbi Engel, Jack" <REDACTED>, Rabbi Freilich - David <REDACTED>, "Rabbi Garfunkel, Yirmi" <REDACTED>, Rabbi Genende - Ralph <REDACTED>, "Rabbi Goodhardt, Ian" <REDACTED>, "Rabbi Greenbaum, Elisha" <REDACTED>, "Rabbi Groner, Chaim Tzvi" <REDACTED>, "Rabbi Groner, Mendy" <REDACTED>, Rabbi Gurevitch - Nir <REDACTED>, "Rabbi Gutnick, Mordi" <REDACTED>, "Rabbi Gutnick, Yossel" <REDACTED>, "Rabbi Heilbrunn, Philip" <REDACTED>, "Rabbi Joffe, Levi" <REDACTED>, "Rabbi Liberow, Motty" <REDACTED>, Rabbi Link <REDACTED>, "Rabbi Link, Steven" <REDACTED>, Rabbi Moshe Serebryanski <REDACTED>, Rabbi Mosheh M Serebryanski <REDACTED>, "Rabbi Raskin, Mendel" <REDACTED>, "Rabbi Rubinfeld, Dovid" <REDACTED>, "Rabbi Solomon, Marcus" <REDACTED>, "Rabbi Tenenbaum, Levi" <REDACTED>, Rabbi Yaakov Kermaier <REDACTED>, Rabbi Yurkowitz - Shimshon <REDACTED>, Rabbi Pincus Feldman <REDACTED>, Rabbi Tayar <REDACTED>, rabbi.telsner@REDACTED

Subject: Statement to the AJN

B"H

Dear Josh,

As I understand that emails have been leaked and that you are writing an article that will be quoting myself, I have put together a statement clarifying my personal position. This is in addition to the formal RCNSW Statement which Rabbi Ingram sent to you earlier today.

I would appreciate if the following statement is printed in full.

I have cced this email to Zeddy as well, being that he is the editor and that this is a matter of extreme communal sensitivity.

Many thanks,

Yossi

STATEMENT BY RABBI YOSEF FELDMAN TO THE AJN

Over the past few days there has been an internal Halachic debate amongst the Rabbinate of Australia relating to the serious and reprehensible issues of Child abuse and the appropriate response.

Notwithstanding the complex Halachic nuances and varied opinions, the Rabbinat of NSW under my Presidency has unanimously endorsed the attached RCV resolution from 2010 on this matter.

I would like to unequivocally publicise my support and encouragement of the adoption of that resolution within the NSW Rabbinat and the wider Jewish community.

President: Rabbi Yaakov Glasman
Executive Director: Ari Morris

Immediate Past President: Rabbi Meir Shlomo Klugant
Vice President: Rabbi Ralph Genende
Secretary: Rabbi James Kennard
Treasurer: Rabbi Yirmy Garfunkel
Committee Member: Rabbi Mordechai Gutnick
Committee Member: Rabbi Zvi Telsner



Rabbinical Council of Victoria
Religious Leadership for the Jewish Community
ועד הרבנים דויקטוריה

RCV Resolution Condemning and Combating Child Abuse

Whereas we have become increasingly aware of incidents of the sexual and physical abuse of children in our community; and

Whereas the lives and futures of many of these victims and their families are harmed in significant ways: suicide, post traumatic stress syndrome, inability to form healthy relationships, inability to develop healthy intimate relationships, etc.; and

Whereas many victims of abuse in our community still remain silent and do not come forward to accuse perpetrators or seek help for fear of stigma, personal and familial consequences, or perceived *halachic* concerns; and

Whereas the Rabbinical Council of Victoria condemns abuse and proclaims its censure of abusers, and affirms that the prohibitions of *mesirah* (reporting crimes to the civil authorities) and *arka'ot* (adjudication in civil courts) do not apply in cases of abuse and in fact, it is *halachically* obligatory to make such reports; and

Whereas reiterating this long held position can serve to provide pastoral and *halachic* leadership, support, direction and affirmation to abuse survivors and their families and advocates.

Therefore, the Rabbinical Council of Victoria resolves that:

- It affirms its unqualified condemnation of all forms of child abuse.
- It affirms its *halachic* position that the prohibitions of *mesirah* (reporting crimes to the civil authorities) and *arka'ot* (adjudication in civil courts) do not apply in cases of abuse.
- It will regularly issue on its website and to the media appropriate statements of condemnation when public attention is drawn to a case in which Jews are either victims or perpetrators of abuse.
- It will regularly evaluate the competence of its members in understanding and responding to issues of child abuse and initiate training and continuing educational opportunities for all of its members in this area.
- The members of the Rabbinical Council of Victoria address the issue of child abuse in their communities in at least one sermon per year, and that it be encouraged that contact information for local abuse services be displayed in a public place in all synagogues and Jewish community institutions serviced by its members.

The RCV works in partnership with the Jewish Taskforce Against Family Violence (JTAFV) and responds to disclosures of abuse confidentially and effectively. The RCV liaison to the JTAFV may be contacted on (03) 8517-5684.