

## Leifer to face extradition

ADAM KAMMEN

SIX years after she fled to Israel following allegations of child sexual abuse, former Adass Israel Girls' School principal Malka Leifer (pictured) could be forced to return to Australia to face the music.



The AJN understands that moves are afoot to extradite Leifer, who was sacked by the school in 2008 and fled to Israel soon after, following complaints from several students in her care that she had acted inappropriately.

A spokesperson for the Israeli Embassy said he had "no further information" on the extradition proceedings, while the Attorney-General's Department said in a statement it was "the longstanding policy of the Australian government not to disclose whether an extradition request has been made or received by Australia, unless and until such time as a person is arrested in relation to such a request". The Australian Federal Police declined to comment.

It is believed statements were made to police by alleged victims of Leifer in 2012 and that extradition proceedings were launched some 18 months ago.

It was revealed in *The Age* on the

weekend that a former student had lodged a civil suit with the Supreme Court last year against the school and its former principal, and that a second suit lodged by another former student had been dropped.

The AJN can reveal that the second suit was settled out of court, though the details of settlement are unknown. The news comes just weeks after historic charges of child sexual abuse against a former bus driver at the ultra-Orthodox school were dropped.

The man had been facing six counts of indecent assault, alleged to have occurred in the 1980s, but was deemed unfit to stand trial. It is believed the man sustained serious injuries after he was attacked.

A spokesperson for the Office of Public Prosecution told *The AJN*: "Having regard to all the circumstances of the case, including the nature and seriousness of the offence and the fact that there was evidence that the accused was unfit to stand trial, it was determined that it was not in the public interest to prosecute."

In other news, child rapist and former Yeshivah (Melbourne) employee David Cyprys has been unsuccessful in an attempt to appeal his conviction on five counts of rape.

Cyprys is currently serving eight years in jail.

## Police probe possible cover-up

JOSHUA LEVI

NSW Police and the NSW Ombudsman are investigating if there were any breaches of mandatory reporting legislation in relation to child abuse in the Jewish community.

Eastern Suburbs crime manager Ana Loughman and the NSW Ombudsman's Office confirmed that investigations are ongoing following the successful prosecution of Daniel Hayman for indecent assault of a person under the age of 16 by a person in authority.

The offence took place at a Jewish camp during the 1980s.

"We are liaising with the Ombudsman on whether there are any identified breaches of mandatory reporting," Loughman told *The AJN*.

"They may be rabbis, who may have been involved in a disclosure from a victim, or they may be other persons in authority such as teachers or leaders of the community or camp groups."

The NSW Ombudsman Act 1974 states that it is an offence for the leaders of a government and non-government agency to fail to report allegations of child sexual abuse to the Ombudsman.

The AJN has learned a person who was a part of the Sydney Jewish community in the 1980s told police that he was present when two victims disclosed their abuse to a rabbi.



Daniel Hayman leaving court last month.

Photo: AAP image/Jane Dempster

The person said the rabbi spoke to the victims to try and determine if their claims had a factual basis.

"I was present when [name withheld] spoke to the boy in the synagogue," the person told police.

"By the end of the conversation, I had no absolutely no doubt that the kids were telling the truth."

Melbourne's Rabbi Meir Shlomo Klugant, president of the Organisation of Rabbis of Australia, said this week, "ORA has been on the record a number of times stating that it encourages victims of child sexual abuse and people with information

about the perpetration of child sexual abuse to report these matters to the police and appropriate authorities.

"While in the past a culture across many communities including the Jewish community may have been to address such matters internally, ORA has acknowledged that this approach is inappropriate.

"ORA's position on this matter has been received by the full spectrum of religious leaders in the Australian Jewish community, and we are confident that the message that 'cover-ups' must not take place, has been clearly heard!"

### HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR PENSION CHANGES: INCOME LIMIT RAISED & OPEN GHETTOS

Claims Conference recent negotiations with the German government have resulted in two significant changes to the Article 2 Fund, which issues monthly pensions to eligible Holocaust survivors:

#### Income Limit Raised

Through negotiations, applicants for payments from the Article 2 Fund are allowed a higher annual net income (now AUD \$34,201 for residents of Australia) to meet the income eligibility requirement for this monthly pension. There are numerous types of payments that are not included in calculation of income; the list of excluded payments is included in the detailed eligibility criteria found at [www.claimson.org/article2](http://www.claimson.org/article2).

Survivors who believe that they may be eligible for Article 2 Fund payments and did not previously apply due to the income limit should apply immediately. If you have applied in the past but were not eligible for payment due to the income limit, please contact the Claims Conference to re-open your case.

Eligibility is also determined by persecution-related and other criteria. Information about the program is at [www.claimson.org/article2](http://www.claimson.org/article2).

#### Open Ghettos

Jews who lived in certain "open ghettos" for at least 3 months may now be eligible for Article 2 Fund payments. If you believe you may be eligible, please apply.

To receive payments, applicants must meet all program criteria. Eligibility information and applications are at [www.claimson.org/article2](http://www.claimson.org/article2).



Claims Conference ועדת חתונות  
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The Claims Conference has an Ombudsman. To contact the Office of the Ombudsman, please email [ombudsman@claimson.org](mailto:ombudsman@claimson.org) or write to The Ombudsman, PO Box 585, Old Chelsea Station, New York, NY 10113, USA



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