

Victims and their families are not the criminals

PETRATORS AND THEIR ENABLERS ARE THE CRIMINALS

pedophiles must be stopped. All serious Rabbinic and secular authorities state that in the event of suspected child sexual abuse in a Western democratic society, one must go to the police immediately. No ifs or buts. One must also cooperate fully with the police—not evading, covering up or certainly not lying. Both individuals and institutions must assist the police and encourage others to do the same—certainly not discourage parents, witnesses or their families.

Sometimes, responsible media reporting can be an important adjunct to the police work, shining a light into unpleasant places which have remained hidden for many, many years, bringing forward other victims and witnesses. This is confirmed by Jewish law, and recognised by many Rabbinic authorities.

Individuals and institutions portraying themselves as a "light unto the nations" must

display morality, integrity and courage. It is disagreement between or within the leadership and their organisation, each individual should make their own moral choices. Excuses such as "you'll damage the institution" or "our lawyers warned us not to talk because of future civil litigation" are completely unacceptable.

- The fact that there was a different understanding about certain matters 20 years ago does not excuse one from cooperating fully now with police and authorities.
- Seeing justice done can help the healing and promote closure for the victims.
- Victims and their families should have the complete support of the community—under any circumstances should they experience additional victimisation.

PROTECT OUR CHILDREN

Following people support the statement above (selected to cover a cross-section of individuals / organisations)

Dr. Peter Bassin
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 Dr. Mark Dratch, JSafe USA
 Dr. Alan Feldman
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