



**PRESS ADVISORY
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**THINK TANK CHILD USA RELEASES
SURVIVOR TOOL KIT
FOR SEX ABUSE VICTIMS**

The New York Child Victims Act, which was signed by Gov. Andrew Cuomo on February 14, 2019, will open a one-year window on August 14, 2019, so that victims from the past have an opportunity to seek justice against their abusers and the institutions who caused their abuse, public or private. Even in light of this great victory, we must remember to keep all sex abuse victims at the forefront of our attention during this time.

August 14, 2019, will long be remembered as the day when the people of New York embraced and protected some of the most vulnerable among us: child sex abuse victims. A one-year window of justice is opening that allows all victims to finally hold their abusers — and the institutions that shielded them — accountable for heinous crimes against children.

To support them, CHILD USA has created a “Survivor Tool Kit” so that all survivors entering the legal system know their rights and have access to resources for help during this often stressful time.

Chairman of CHILD USA’s Board of Directors and founder of the Marsh Law Firm, James R. Marsh Esq., said, “This is a historic time for sex abuse victims in this banner year for SOL reform. As part of our mission, we are dedicated to supporting the victims through the process.”

CHILD USA CEO Prof. Marci Hamilton and the nation’s leading expert on SOL reform, said, “A window dramatically alters the balance of power for the better. There was an unfair imbalance of power that led to the victim’s abuse in the first place. Then victims learned that our legal system had locked the courthouse doors. We know from other states that for the victims, a window is a path to empowerment and validation. The window also serves a larger public good by identifying the hidden child predators and educating the public. Let’s support the victims as they perform this vital service for the greater good.”

Kathryn Robb, Survivor and Executive Director of CHILD USA Advocacy, remarked, “The passage of the NY Child Victims Act and the opening of the one-year window represent a welcome tide of change - where children and victims are valued, and our legal system becomes a justice system — opening the doors to transparency, truth, equity and accountability. As a survivor of child sexual abuse I believe we must do more than tell our stories, we must stand up, speak out, and vote for leaders who put children and justice before the rights of predators and powerful institutions. I am grateful for the leadership of Governor Andrew Cuomo, Majority



Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Speaker Carl Heastie, their commitment to real justice has made the children of New York much safer.”

According to **Sarah Klein, Survivor, Victim’s Attorney and Advocate, and member of Child USAadvocacy Board**, “This week, time's up in New York. Time’s up for all of it. Abuse. Covering it up. Acting like it doesn't matter. The message is simple: if you fail to protect the children in your care from sexual predators, you will be held accountable in court. As a survivor of childhood abuse at the hands of Larry Nassar, I stand with my brother and sister survivors in New York who will no longer be silenced. This week, they take their power back. They raise the voices that were stolen from them as children. They will be believed. And with that, the healing process can finally begin.”

Steven Jimenez stated, “As a **survivor, journalist, and board member of CHILD USAadvocacy**, I urge all victims who suffered child sex abuse to learn their rights under the Child Victims Act and promptly seek the professional advice of an attorney and licensed therapist. And please remember: you are not alone in your pursuit of justice and truth. Our voices continue to multiply each day and will no longer be silenced or denied!”

AVAILABLE FOR COMMENTS AFTER

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About CHILD USA

CHILD USA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to ending child abuse and neglect through policy-based research. CHILD USA is the nation’s leading organization that tracks and analyzes child sex abuse statutes of limitations in the United States and internationally. Sexual abuse and the maltreatment of children often occur in secret, behind closed doors, but have public consequences. Victims, their families, and the public pay a high price even decades after the violence ends. CHILD USA draws on the combined expertise of the nation’s leading medical and legal academics to reach evidence-based solutions to persistent and widespread child abuse and neglect. For more information, visit <https://www.childusa.org>.



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