



## **CHILD USA Statement on Recent Events Concerning the Death of John Geddert**

**March 4, 2021**

In light of recent events in the gymnastics world, CHILD USA would like to express our solidarity with, and support of, survivors. We share in the disappointment of seeing another perpetrator escape accountability. The death of disgraced coach John Geddert unfortunately re-traumatizes many survivors, as the hope of accountability for this man - who was charged with felonies of sexual assault and human trafficking, and who enabled and covered up Larry Nassar's abuse - has vanished. With his death, many questions are left unanswered. Why did it take so long for him to be held accountable? Why was he not taken into custody when the charges were announced? Too often, we see perpetrators receive the benefit of the doubt, and time and again they prove they are unworthy.

### **The Game Over Commission to Protect Youth Athletes Is the Only Independent Investigation into the Systemic Failures Surrounding Larry Nassar's Abuse**

During this challenging time, CHILD USA wants survivors to know we support you. We are working to ensure people like John Geddert are held accountable. **With the Game Over Commission to Protect Youth Athletes--a 16-member group of leading national experts--CHILD USA is conducting the only independent investigation to determine how every institution that should have protected youth athletes let Larry Nassar and his enablers endanger so many.** This groundbreaking Commission has taken the following steps to ensure that these institutional failures are not forgotten and that the culpable institutions and individuals are held accountable moving forward:

1. The Commission conducted **nationwide hearings** in 2019 and 2020 to understand where and why failures occurred and how athletes and their families were affected. You can view them [here](#).
2. The Commission created and consistently updates a publicly searchable **database** to preserve all documents related to the case so the mistakes are never forgotten. You can access the database [here](#).
3. The Commission is currently conducting a **survey** to hear directly from survivors and their families about their experiences in a scientifically sound study. You can access the survey [here](#).
4. The Commissioners are in the process of drafting the formal **White Paper** of their assessment of the system, its failures, and recommendations for the safety of athletes in the future. It will be available later in 2021.



## **For the Survivors of Larry Nassar and Their Families: Please Take the Commission’s Survey to Help Us Prevent Abuse of Athletes in Future**

CHILD USA is ready to take action and to help survivors take action during this difficult time. The Game Over Commission Survey is designed for participation by the survivors and their families to ensure that their facts are gathered, and their stories are heard. With participation from survivors and their families, the Game Over Commission White Paper will be able to include recommendations that will prevent the same from happening to someone else in the future. Click [here](#) for the survey.

### **Extra Resources for Survivors**

Additionally, CHILD USA would like to offer extra support to those who may be struggling during this time. CHILD USA is providing free access to our “Child Sex Abuse Membership Portal” – a place where survivors can find resources vetted by the experts at CHILD USA to help them learn, heal, and grow. Use the code “STRONGERTOGETHER” at [www.childusa.org/members](http://www.childusa.org/members) to register for a free month of access to the portal.

### **Please visit [childusa.org](http://childusa.org) to take action with us:**

- View the [Game Over Commission Hearings videos](#)
- Search the [Game Over Commission Database of the Institutional Failures Contributing to Dr. Larry Nassar’s Abuse of Youth Athletes](#)
- Take the [Game Over Commission Survey “Studying the Contextual and Systemic Factors that Surrounded LN’s Abuse Crimes”](#)
- Join [Child Sex Abuse Membership Portal](#) with code “STRONGERTOGETHER”
- Read [CHILD USA Blog Posts](#)

In Solidarity,



Marci A. Hamilton, CEO

CHILD USA is the leading national nonprofit think tank working to end child abuse and neglect in the United States. CHILD USA engages in high-level legal, social science, and medical research and analysis to derive the best public policies to end child abuse and neglect in America. CHILD USA produces evidence-based solutions and information needed by policymakers, organizations, media, and society as a whole to increase child protection and the common good. Visit [www.childusa.org](http://www.childusa.org) for more information.

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