



NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
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Recording Industry Association of America
% Chairman & CEO Mitch Glazier

American Federation of Musicians
% President Raymond Hair

All Music Industry Artists & Leaders

Dear Music Industry Leaders, Record Label Executives and all Musicians & Producers:

We are writing to urge the music industry as a whole - and you as leaders in the industry - to take a more active role in addressing child abuse and sexual assault. The alarming charges of child sexual assault dating back three decades and culminating in the powerful new Lifetime documentary SURVIVING R. KELLY must serve as a wake-up call to the music industry. Not only is action needed against Kelly. It is also clearly time for leaders to step up, speak out and do more to address this hidden epidemic.

Incidents of suspected child abuse are reported every ten seconds, on average, in the United States. This does not include the overwhelming number of incidents that go unreported or untreated. One in five girls and one in 20 boys is a victim of child sexual abuse. Studies show that these child victims typically develop low self-esteem and feelings of worthlessness that can lead to suicidal ideation and other long-term health impacts, including substance abuse and psychological disorders.

As some of the most powerful and influential voices worldwide in our society today, you have the ability to help Childhelp save lives, both individually and collectively. The documented cases involving Mr. Kelly are not singular incidents of alleged abuse in the music industry but simply the most high profile currently in the spotlight. Like many other powerful industries going through a period of reckoning, it is time for the music industry to take proactive action to prevent future cases of abuse and assault, setting the example for young music fans around the globe.

There are a number of ways you can join us in combating, preventing and treating abuse.

Here are two key steps we urge you to take immediately:

First, you can use your very public platforms to encourage reporting of suspected abuse and assault. The Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline (1-800-4-A-CHILD / 1-800-422-4453) is staffed 24/7 by professional child abuse counselors to respond to calls throughout the United States and Canada in over 170 languages.

Second, we encourage the music industry as a whole and your respective organizations to mandate training when working with underage children. We can work with you to offer the Childhelp Speak Up Be Safe prevention curriculum, which helps children and teens learn the skills to prevent or interrupt cycles of neglect, bullying, and child abuse—physical, emotional, and sexual.



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We applaud actions currently being taken by the music industry to address allegations of child sexual assault and abuse. But we remain concerned that an alarming number of alleged incidents appear to have been ignored and even covered up and enabled by music industry leaders. Each and every day, you lend your voices to making music one of the most powerfully healing and uplifting sources of sustenance available to young and old. We believe you can - and should - also do more to be a force for good when it comes to protecting and healing victims of abuse. We hope to work with you to be that force.

Please contact us to discuss ways we can work together to move forward.

Sincerely,

Sara O'Meara
Co-Founder & CEO

Yvonne Fedderson
Co-Founder & Chairman

Rebecca Cooper
Vice President, Public Affairs

About Childhelp®:

Since 1959, Childhelp® has brought the light of hope and healing into the lives of countless children as a leading national nonprofit organization dedicated to helping at-risk children. Childhelp's programs and services include residential treatment services, children's advocacy centers, therapeutic foster care, group homes and child abuse prevention, education and training. For more information, visit www.childhelp.org.