

death threats, have contributed to me developing serious health issues, including Hodgkin's Lymphoma, a brain tumor, and recently Addison's disease. In the last month, I have spent 23 nights in hospitals, including multiple nights in the ICU. Along with my health, it has robbed me of my career. In 1996, I was fresh out of graduate school, and living the life that I had always dreamed, creating and selling art in New York City. When I was assaulted, threatened and held captive, my career was halted, and the trajectory of my life was thrown off course.

So many others had their dreams shattered by these crimes, and they could have been prevented. Individuals like Virginia Giuffre, who is the backbone of this case and remains the inspiration behind this fight. She's the reason my sister and I came forward publicly, so we could stand together. She faced also relentless attacks to her credibility, yet she fought.

While Virginia may no longer be physically beside us, she has been our shining star and guiding light and remains so today. The rest of humanity owes it to her legacy to continue this quest. We are still walking down the trail that Virginia blazed for us.

So let me be direct about what we need. The federal government owes us explanations, accountability for injuries caused, and a promise of systemic change when crimes against children are reported.

Accountability should start with the government's acknowledgement and responsibility for their repeated failures to act in response to my 1996 report. The government needs to take responsibility for endangering and injuring girls and young women. The government needs to start telling the truth, face my lawsuit, and be held to account to me and to all others who have been harmed. Had the FBI done their job, thirty years of child sex abuse and trauma could have been avoided. I want my full FBI file, including the 1996 and 2006 reports, including my art.

We also need the FBI and the Department of Justice to fully investigate every lead in this case. We need investigation and prosecution of everyone responsible, both men and women. This includes the officials who enabled the 2008 sweetheart deal, the other perpetrators and the many co-conspirators, and anyone who is currently shielding powerful individuals from justice.

No more protection for the guilty. There must be no pardoning or commuting the sentence of Maxwell, who sexually abused me, my minor sister, hurt so many girls and young women, and personally threatened to kill me, has shown no remorse, and has demonstrated no basis on which to believe she would ever be truthful.

As the Epstein case whistleblower, I have waited three decades for justice. It's a miracle I'm still fighting, especially considering what the stress of three decades of this case has done to my health and well-being. I will keep fighting for justice and transparency, for a better, safer future for the next generation.

Thank you.

TESTIMONY OF MS. COURTNEY WILD, "SURVIVORS FIGHT FOR JUSTICE: EXPOSING EPSTEIN'S CRIMES IN PALM BEACH AND ACROSS THE WORLD"

**HON. EMILY RANDALL**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 26, 2026*

Ms. RANDALL. Mr. Speaker on May 12, 2026, Oversight Committee Democrats con-

vened the first-ever hearing to solicit testimony from survivors of Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell's crimes. The hearing, "Survivors Fight for Justice: Exposing Epstein's Crimes in Palm Beach and Across the World," marked a critical step forward in the fight for justice and accountability.

On behalf of all the survivors of Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell's crimes, I rise to include in the Record the testimony offered by Ms. Courtney Wild:

Hello. My name is Courtney Wild.

When I was 14 years old, I was abused by Jeffrey Epstein. He abused me until I was 17 years old.

What happened to me was terrible. But what happened after that—by our own government—changed my life just as much.

I came here today to ask for one simple thing: Make sure this never happens again.

I filed a case under the Crime Victims' Rights Act because the government secretly made a deal with Jeffrey Epstein.

They signed a non-prosecution agreement.

They made that deal behind closed doors.

And they never told me. They never told any of us.

Instead, they sent letters telling us to "be patient," even though they knew that the case was already over.

For years, I believed there was an investigation happening. There wasn't.

When I found out the truth, I went to my lawyer, Brad Edwards.

He took my case in 2008, and he fought for me against the government—for over a decade—without ever being paid or knowing what would happen next. We wanted to do the right thing for all the victims.

Together, we just wanted answers to a simple question: How could this happen?

We had to fight all the way to the Eleventh Circuit, which took years, just to get the emails between the government and Jeffrey's lawyers to help us understand what happened. When we finally got them, they showed something I will never forget—

The government wasn't just negotiating with Epstein's lawyers, it looked like the government was trying to make him happy and make sure that he was okay with the punishment that they were going to give him. It seemed like they must have forgotten that there were 40 of us kids that he had abused. I was so confused because where I come from, if you commit a crime, you go to jail. I have never heard of the feds letting you help them decide which crimes they are going to charge you with or if you're cool with how long you're going to spend in jail. But I thought, what do I know? Maybe that's how it works for rich guys.

Finally, after more than 10 years of fighting, in 2019, a federal judge finally ruled that my rights—and the rights of the other victims—were violated by the Non-Prosecution Agreement. But there was nothing that could be done about it. There was no remedy.

I just want to say that again: The court found that the government violated the law . . . and nothing happened. That means the law—the Crime Victims' Rights Act, 18 USC 3771—does not matter. And if a law has no consequences, it doesn't protect anyone.

I was lucky. I had a lawyer willing to fight for me for over a decade. Most victims will never find that. So, I am asking you to fix that. Fix the Crime Victims' Rights Act so that it actually helps victims in the future. I have my own ideas, and I know my lawyers have more ideas, but I really hope that if nothing else comes of this, we can finally get this legislation right.

There needs to be a clear definition of what it means to "meaningfully confer" with victims. I still don't know what that means but I know that it never happened for me.

There must be real consequences and penalties in the statute that apply automatically when a court determines that a victim's rights have been violated. The answer after years and years of litigation cannot be that nothing happens when you finally win and prove that your rights were violated.

If prosecutors choose to ignore victims' those victims' voices must be put on the record, memorialized, and preserved—especially when a deal is made behind closed doors.

There needs to be an attorneys' fee provision, so victims can find lawyers who will stand up for them.

If those changes had existed back then, maybe what happened to me—and so many others—would not have happened.

My case against the government for violating the rights of at least 40 of us Palm Beach kids was happening from 2008 to 2019. Do you know how many other girls Jeffrey abused in that time period? I bet the FBI knows. If they don't know, I bet my lawyers can tell them. But the point is that Jeffrey Epstein continued to abuse other girls in New York, in New Mexico, around the world, and even still here in Florida after he was released in 2009 and everyone knew it. There were lawsuits. There were so many news articles. He was a registered sex offender. And still—nothing was done by the government. Not until 2019, when he was finally arrested.

None of those girls should ever have been abused. Jeffrey Epstein should have been in jail. If he had been in jail like any other man who did the same thing as him would have been, then he would not have had a single victim after 2009. But he wasn't and he did. He abused so many girls after 2009. At the exact same time that I was asking the government why he got that deal and why they violated my rights. That is the real injustice here, That is the real thing that we need to prevent from ever happening again in this country.

I was there for his bail hearing in 2019. I spoke to the judge right in front of him about how dangerous he was. His bail was denied. And for the first time, I thought we might finally get justice.

But a month later, he was dead. Once again, the system failed us. Someone let him die in a secure prison ensuring that he would never be held accountable for what he did to me when I was a kid. Since then, there have been prosecutions.

There have been civil cases. There have been settlements. But none of that changes what was lost. And none of that fixes what allowed this to happen in the first place.

Now Congress is holding hearings. This should not be about politics. It should not be about Democrats or Republicans. It should not be about headlines. It should be about two things: Letting victims peacefully move on with their lives and making sure this never happens again.

Right now, many of us cannot move on. Victims are struggling. Victims are being investigated in their home counties. Victims are checking into hospitals. This may make some people feel like something is finally being done. But you should ask yourselves:

What is the point—and when does it end? Because there needs to be an end date to this investigation.

If the point is to figure out who helped Jeffrey Epstein commit his crimes—then look at the professionals that were in his life.

If the point is to prosecute other men who abused girls—then tell the FBI to ask the girls who abused them.

If the point is to understand how the government failed victims—my case already proves that.

If the point is to fix legislation like the Crime Victims' Rights Act so that it actually helps people—then let's do that now.

Instead, what we see is a continued investigation into a man who has been dead for six years. And the longer this goes on, the more victims continue to suffer. We can't take that much more.

We fought for years to have Jeffrey Epstein arrested.

We fought to hold people accountable.

We did not fight so that this would turn into something political—or so that victims would be used again.

I lost years of my life fighting this.

So did many others.

We did that so the next victim wouldn't have to.

Please don't let that work be in vain.

Let's end this the right way,

Thank you.

TESTIMONY OF MS. DANI BENSKY,  
 “SURVIVORS FIGHT FOR JUSTICE:  
 EXPOSING EPSTEIN’S  
 CRIMES IN PALM BEACH AND  
 ACROSS THE WORLD”

**HON. SUMMER L. LEE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 26, 2026*

Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on May 12, 2026, Oversight Committee Democrats convened the first-ever hearing to solicit testimony from survivors of Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell's crimes. The hearing, “Survivors Fight for Justice: Exposing Epstein's Crimes in Palm Beach and Across the World,” marked a critical step forward in the fight for justice and accountability.

On behalf of all the survivors of Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell's crimes, I rise to include in the RECORD the testimony offered by Ms. Dani Benschky:

Hello, my name is Dani Benschky, I was abused by Jeffrey Epstein in 2004–05. That was 8 years after the FBI was first alerted.

Although my abuse is nowhere near “easy” to discuss and I live with diagnosed PTSD from that experience, my story is one of the safest to tell. The key abuser who caused me physical harm is dead. It's imperative to understand that the stories that you are hearing today are a tiny fraction of the whole. I am one of more than 1,200 girls and women, and each story is unique. I don't face the same level of threats of defamation lawsuits and serious risks to my health and physical safety as some of my survivor sisters do. The main perpetrator in my story is no longer in a position of power. While there are co-conspirators who need to be held accountable for the parts they played in the operation of my abuse, I was trafficked only to Epstein, which was unfortunately not the case for so many others.

I'm here to tell you my story, which happens to fall in the middle of the 30 years of the Epstein timeline. I was groomed prior to meeting Jeffrey Epstein. I grew up in the dance world. Perfectionism and body image issues ran rampant in a world built on hierarchy and at times, secrecy. Older teachers, artistic directors, and company members had unique access to young dancers. I was accustomed to private lessons with a ballet mistress that I was not allowed to tell anyone about. The secrecy was because she hand selected dancers to develop. I would go to her apartment, strip off my sweatpants to my leotard and tights and have my body be criticized, critiqued, and manipulated, not so different from what I initially experienced with Jeffrey.

I was trafficked to Jeffrey. It happened in broad daylight on Manhattan's Upper East Side. I had two recruiters, one was a late teen, the other was only 15 years old and just trying to escape her own abuse and make it for herself. There was a process of systematic manipulation. Jeffrey weaponized my aspirations and dreams by speaking the language of dance, making false promises, and continuing to prey on my body image issues. My mom had been diagnosed with a brain tumor. I had seen the name “Epstein” listed on a donor wall and believed that his wealth and power had come from the medical profession. I brought him her scans. I was hoping to understand her diagnosis. He told me that he could help ensure the best doctors and care, or he could have it taken away. He held my mother's brain scans over me, giving me an ultimatum: either recruit more girls or do more for him. I didn't recruit anyone and instead endured the abuse. In May of 2005 my mother had a successful operation at Mount Sinai to remove the tumor. Jeffrey was not in charge of her care, nor did he provide financial support for her surgery. Once my mother was rehabilitated, and I knew she would live, I finally extricated myself from Jeffrey Epstein and his web.

The Epstein case demonstrates that institutional systems have failed survivors time and time again. I was first subpoenaed in 2008 for an interview. I was truly terrified entering the FBI. I was just 20 years old and without a victim's rights advocate or a lawyer; I didn't know I was entitled to those protections. No one told me I was safe, and many parts of the interview felt like an interrogation. Jeffrey had already threatened my friend, and he had told me that I would be charged with prostitution if I ever interacted with law enforcement. That thought was pervasive, it sat deep in me, haunting me. Shame cloaked in fear prevented me from speaking out. To say that I feared for my safety is an understatement. He made it clear that he held the cards.

If authorities had listened to Maria Farmer in 1996, when she first reported Jeffrey to the FBI, hundreds of girls, including myself, might have had a completely different life trajectory. Yet, time and time again, these systems have failed survivors.

The systemic failures of survivors extend beyond the victims of Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell, as documented by the passage of the Epstein Files Transparency Act. Survivors from across the nation contacted their congressional leaders and fueled this fight. Survivors, advocates, and constituents across the country wanted to see change. Yet, despite the Act's passage, a moment in which survivors hoped and believed that we might see some reckoning, we were met with yet another harsh disappointment. Prior to the Transparency Act passing, we met with lawmakers on both sides of the aisle where we made two things abundantly clear. 1. We are not political, we are human. 2. Protections for survivors are imperative, no redactions for perpetrators. Out of an abundance of caution, my lawyer then teamed up with another law firm representing survivors, and together they submitted 350 victims' names to the DOJ as names that needed to be redacted prior to the deadline on December 19th.

In that first round of documents, I saw my name in two places. Then in the January dump, there were more and the redactions were far worse. Seeing my information exposed in those documents triggers intense PTSD. There's a feeling that shoots through my body like a hot flash on a bullet and a nausea that lives in the deepest parts of my being. With every exposure survivors are re-victimized. I am just one of hundreds of the survivors exposed. These files displayed my

name, phone number, old address, where I worked at the time, where I was studying, and other identifying information. What's important to understand is that these documents weren't somehow just overlooked and not redacted at all, on one document my nickname is redacted, while Danielle Hannah Benschky is left completely unredacted.

A few weeks ago, a legal analyst reached out to share that yet again, my name appeared in a 3rd batch of only 20 documents. After my lawyer continued to contact the DOJ on multiple occasions for protection my name and information remained attached. These documents hold disturbing, yet incomplete accounts of my abuse, and they were viewable not only by the entire world, but also by my child, my students, my students' parents, my friends, my employers, my colleagues, and my family. I'm public, however in my FBI 302, a Jane Doe who has never wanted to be revealed was exposed. She is someone I have tried to protect. This outing of survivor names does real irrevocable damage.

The passage of the Epstein Files Transparency Act was meant to be a moment when survivors could regain their power and finally obtain the truth, transparency, and justice they deserve. It was a time for our institutions, created to protect the American people, to, for once, side with survivors. As survivors we have said time and time again this is not political. This requires coming together and not prioritizing political showmanship.

I recently had the opportunity to return to Jeffrey's mansion on the Upper East Side. Normally, when you're a child, everything feels massive, and when you revisit those same places as an adult, they seem smaller. That was certainly not the case here. Jeffrey's mansion on the Upper East Side of Manhattan still felt immense, the doors towering and the architecture looming, designed in a way to make you feel small. This reflects something deeper. Our entrenched systemic failures have allowed powerful people like Jeffrey to make others feel small. When institutions prioritize protecting the powerful and their enablers over protecting victims, individuals like Jeffrey become normalized.

If we continue down this path, the question isn't whether the abuse will happen again, but who? Who is the next Jeffrey Epstein? What will be the next mansion used to exploit privilege and enable the abuse of young girls? I'm always asked “what does accountability look like?” Getting perpetrators out of positions of power, seeing arrests be made, and a complete culture shift to not only believe our most vulnerable populations, but protect them.

This moment is critical. It is time to reform our system to protect our survivors, not perpetrators, and to ensure the truth can come to light.

TESTIMONY OF MS. JENA-LISA  
 JONES, “SURVIVORS FIGHT FOR  
 JUSTICE: EXPOSING EPSTEIN’S  
 CRIMES IN PALM BEACH AND  
 ACROSS THE WORLD”

**HON. YASSAMIN ANSARI**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 26, 2026*

Ms. ANSARI. Mr. Speaker, on May 12, 2026, Oversight Committee Democrats convened the first-ever hearing to solicit testimony from survivors of Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell's crimes. The hearing, “Survivors