

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

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. Jena-Lisa Jones:

Chairman, Ranking Member, and Members of Congress, my name is Jena-Lisa Jones. I was 14 years old when I was abused by Jeffrey Epstein in Palm Beach. It has taken me many years to find my voice. For a long time, I stayed silent because I was afraid—and because I did not understand why this happened to me. When I finally came forward, I made a commitment to use my voice responsibly. I am here today to do exactly that.

Last September, I went to Washington, D.C., alongside other survivors, with a simple request: transparency and accountability. We asked you to help us understand how Jeffrey Epstein was given a non-prosecution agreement, even though the government had evidence that he had sexually abused dozens of children, including me. We asked how he was allowed to leave jail in 2009 and continue harming young girls. We asked for answers—answers that would hold our government accountable for its actions. We still do not have those answers.

Instead, what we received caused harm all over again, including to many of our survivor sisters who had never come forward before and who never wanted their names or abuse to become public. The Department of Justice released documents that exposed our names, our Social Security numbers, and deeply personal information. Survivors' identities were made public. Husbands learned about the abuse of their wives for the first time. Children learned about the abuse of their mothers from reporters, from strangers on the internet, and, in some cases, from other kids at school. Some survivors learned that friends had also been abused only because they saw their names in those documents. Others saw the most intimate details of their own trauma publicly exposed. Our privacy was violated. The government promised us, over and over again, that our information would be protected and properly redacted. Those promises were broken.

This is not the transparency we asked for. It is not the transparency our government should ever have wanted, allowed, or defended. In fact, this was not transparency at all. This was re-traumatization. We came to you seeking answers for why our rights were violated in 2007. And in the process of asking for those answers, our rights were violated again. I want to believe that each of you in this room is listening because you truly care—not just about us, but about every child in this country who survives sexual abuse.

If Congress and the Department of Justice truly want to do right by survivors, the path forward is not complicated: acknowledge the failures—when Jeffrey Epstein was set free in 2009, and again when our privacy was shattered earlier this year. Take responsibility. And provide meaningful remedies to the women who have been harmed, over and over again. Please do not force us to relive this through more litigation against the very government that promised to protect us. You are the government too. You have the power to make this right—to ensure the Department of Justice does right by survivors and gives us some measure of justice, however small, for these profound violations of our privacy. Please, pass a law requiring the Department of Justice to compensate victims

for the harm that was caused by releasing their names and information. That would show that this is truly about helping victims. With respect to your ongoing investigations, please remember this: Jeffrey Epstein is dead. Ghislaine Maxwell is in prison.

But for many of us, this is not in the past—and it may never feel like it is. It continues to live on through repeated exposure, through ongoing investigations, and through being asked, again and again, to relive what we endured.

Mr. President, do not pardon Ghislaine Maxwell. If there are other men who hurt women, then hold them accountable.

But please—leave the survivors alone. If you have subpoenaed someone to testify before your committees and she tells you she is a victim, listen to her. Believe her. Respect her trauma. Sharing our stories should be a choice—the choice I was able to make today. It should never be something survivors are forced to do. The girls who were groomed by Ghislaine Maxwell and abused by Jeffrey Epstein should not be treated like criminals. Please, I implore you: learn the stories of the women who have been harmed before you force them to testify—before a room full of strangers—about the worst moments of their lives. Jeffrey Epstein destroyed so many of our lives, and Ghislaine Maxwell helped him do it. Do not blame their survivors for the crime of abusers. That is not how this story should end. Find a way to bring closure to the story of Jeffrey Epstein—to allow survivors, and this country, to finally begin to move forward so that one day (and I pray soon) Jeffrey Epstein's name is no longer something we are forced to hear every single day. I am not here today only to talk about the past. I am here for the children who are sitting in classrooms today—children who may be vulnerable, confused, and unsure of what is happening to them.

When I was a teenager, I did not have the language to understand what was happening to me. I did not know who to tell. I did not know where to go. Many of us didn't. We were young, and we were manipulated. We were left without the tools or the support systems we needed. That is something Congress can change.

Every middle school and high school student in this country should receive education on the signs of sexual abuse and exploitation—what it looks like, how to recognize it, and how to safely report it. Schools should have trained adults and accessible resources so that no child feels as lost or as alone as we did. I have worked with other survivors to start a nonprofit organization called The Survivors, Inc., because not everyone who has been abused has access to strong legal representation, therapy, or support systems. I became a certified life coach because I believe in giving others the support I wish I had. Through The Survivors, we are able to provide life coaching services to people who have been abused so they can begin to find their way forward. I am proud of that work. But individual efforts are not enough. Real change requires leadership at the national level.

You have the power to make sure that what happened to us does not happen again on this scale. I believe one of the most important places to begin is in our schools. Train teachers. Educate students. Give children a place to turn when they feel they have nowhere else to go. Together, we can do better—for the next generation—through education, awareness, and making sure help is always within reach. Most importantly, I can't imagine how busy you must be, so thank you all for taking the time to be here today.

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

HON. MAXWELL FROST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 26, 2026

Mr. FROST. 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. Lauren Hersh:

Hello, I am Lauren Hersh, CEO of World Without Exploitation (WorldWE), the largest national coalition in the United States dedicated to ending human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. Our coalition represents nearly 200 organizations across the country, and our work is grounded in close partnership with survivors to advance survivor-centered policy, education, and advocacy.

I want to begin where this conversation must begin: with survivors.

What we have witnessed in the handling of the Epstein files is not simply a bureaucratic misstep—it is a profound and deeply troubling failure to protect the very people the system is meant to serve. Survivors were promised dignity, confidentiality, and care. Instead, we have seen a breakdown in the protection of their identities and personal information. That failure is unacceptable.

The Department of Justice did not comply with the requirements of the Epstein Files Transparency Act. This raises urgent and fundamental questions: Why did this happen? Where, procedurally, did the system fail? Who made the decisions that led to this outcome? And what safeguards were either ignored or insufficient?

These are not abstract questions. They demand clear, transparent answers. Survivors—and the public—deserve a full accounting of what went wrong inside the Department of Justice. But accountability cannot stop at process. It must extend to outcomes. We must now turn to the question of accountability moving forward—both criminal and civil. Recent assertions by Kash Patel that there are no credible investigative leads, echoed by Todd Blanche, are deeply concerning. From my perspective as both the CEO of WorldWE and a former prosecutor, that conclusion is not only premature—it is inconsistent with the available record.

There is an abundance of potential investigative leads that warrant serious, independent review. The notion that no viable paths forward exist undermines public trust and risks foreclosing justice before it has even been pursued.

We are looking at a pattern of systemic failure:

A failure to protect survivors as promised
A failure to ensure transparency and proper process

And increasingly, a failure to pursue meaningful accountability

This cannot stand. There are known areas that demand further investigation. These include individuals whose names have surfaced