



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 6, 2014

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***More than 130 Jewish Clergy and Leaders Come Together
to Support The Community Through This Difficult Time***

WASHINGTON, DC – Over the past two weeks more than 130 Jewish clergy and leaders have signed a community unity statement to express support for anyone experiencing pain or trauma as a result of the unfolding story regarding the recent arrest of Rabbi Barry Freundel.

With the help of Rabbi Jack Luxemburg, Rabbi Dovid Rosenbaum, Rabbi Michael Safra, Rabbi Fred Scherlinder Dobb, Rabbi Amy M. Schwartzman and Rabbi Uri Topolosky, the Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse (JCADA), Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and Jewish Social Service Agency (JSSA) asked clergy and leaders to sign the unity statement as an affirmation of their pledge to make the Jewish community and its institutions safe spaces where the relationships between clergy and community members are sacred.

The signatories of the statement are committed to working together to heal everyone impacted by this news. According to Elissa Schwartz, JCADA's Executive Director, "It is important during times of hurt and trauma, that we remind the community that we are one people and we need to support each other. We want everyone to be aware of the many community resources available."

Here is the statement in its entirety:

Greater Washington Jewish Community Unity Statement

The unfolding story following the arrest of Rabbi Barry Freundel continues to inflict pain throughout our community. As we all continue to look for answers and comfort as the factual investigation and legal process continue, we would like the community to know, that although there are divides across the Jewish spectrum, we are one people and support each other.

We are affirming our commitment to making our community and its institutions safe spaces where the relationships between clergy and community members are sacred.

We extend our support to all members of Keshet Israel, the National Capital Mikvah and the Greater Washington Jewish community. We encourage everyone, including those experiencing trauma, to utilize any and all community resources for comfort and support.

This has affected, and will continue to affect, all of us. You are not alone. The community is here for you. If you need further resources, please feel free to contact Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse's (JCADA) confidential helpline at 301-315-8041 or Jewish Social Service Agency (JSSA) at 301-838-4200.

Through their collaborative efforts, JCADA and JSSA are ensuring the community is provided with the best possible services and options to meet the needs of those affected. Support groups are now forming. For more information or to seek assistance, please contact JCADA at 301-315-8040 or JSSA at 301-838-4200.

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About JCADA

JCADA's mission is to **support** victims of domestic abuse to become empowered and obtain safe environments; to **educate** community professionals and others about domestic abuse and appropriate responses to it; and to **prevent** future generations from suffering domestic abuse by raising awareness. JCADA is committed to providing high quality services to all residents of the Greater Washington DC Jewish community as well as the community at large without regard to ability, background, faith, gender or sexual orientation. Learn more: www.jcada.org.

About JSSA

For more than 120 years the Jewish Social Service Agency (JSSA) has been helping individuals and families of all faiths across the metro DC area meet emotional, social, and physical challenges. JSSA provides services and support to more than 30,000 individuals annually through a wide range of counseling, educational, special needs services, in-home support, hospice and nursing care, and social services. Learn more: www.jssa.org.

About JFGW

The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington transforms shared resources into richer lives and a stronger community. The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington welcomes the participation of interfaith couples and families, and people of all abilities, backgrounds and sexual orientations. Learn more: www.shalomdc.org.



Complete List of Signatories

Arielle Nathan Teitelbaum, President
Elissa Malter Schwartz,
Executive Director
Jewish Coalition Against Domestic

Rabbi Fred Scherlinder Dobb
*Adat Shalom Reconstructionist
Congregation*

Rabbi Michael Safra
B'nai Israel Congregation

Joined by:

Rabbi David L. Abramson
Tikvat Israel Congregation

Laura Cohen Apelbaum,
Executive Director
*Jewish Historical Society of Greater
Washington*

Adam August, President
George Mason University Hillel

Rabbi Matthew Bellas
Lower School Principal
Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School

Rabbi Nehama Benmosche
*Machar: The Washington
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Adjunct Rabbi
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Liza Levy, President
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Rabbi Amy M. Schwartzman
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Ellen Agler, Executive Director
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Kehilat Shalom

Rayna Aylward, President
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Kemp Mill Synagogue

Rabbi Yaakov Bieler
Kemp Mill Synagogue

Rabbi Jacob Blumenthal
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Todd Schenk, CEO
Jewish Social Service Agency

Rabbi Dovid Rosenbaum
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Rabbi Jonathan Cohen
Mishkan Torah Synagogue

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