

Voice of the Faithful recognizes the life-long struggle of childhood victims and survivors of sexual abuse. It supports the reform of statutes of limitations in order to provide justice for victims and protection for children.

The Victims and Children Need Your Help . Please get involved in

Campaign for the Child Victims Act
(Markey #A5488)

- You can volunteer for emailing, writing, or visiting your state legislators. Just respond by return email and you will receive all the educational emails and instructions you need.
- For those available on Sunday, November 6 , there will be a Campaign Kick Off Meeting in Albertson, Nassau County , at 2 pm in the Shelter Rock Library, 165 Searingtown Road. For directions by car, call the library at 516-248-7363; select option 8. It's not required, but it would be great to meet you there!

This campaign is not just in response to the scandal of child sexual abuse in the Church. We recognize there is abuse throughout society—in schools, churches, synagogues, youth groups, and most of all in families. Department of Justice studies find that about 1 in 5 of all children have been sexually abused before the age of 18! We are challenged to help them and their families get justice, especially because of a negative role our Church chooses to play in New York State.

VOTF members have joined hands with other groups to form the NY Coalition to Protect Children. We are working to reform our state's unjust Statute of Limitations for child sexual abuse.

The Law Blocks JUSTICE and the Church Blocks REFORM.

An archaic Statute of Limitations that is too brief, arbitrary and unfair has made it difficult for victims to have justice and predators and protectors to be punished, or even to be named so families can know who they are.

Reports from district attorneys indicate that there are literally thousands of cases that can not be prosecuted despite DNA identification—all because the statute of limitations prohibits it. A grand jury of Suffolk County citizens concluded that NYS needed a law like California's, which detected more than 300 abusers who where previously unknown. Since predators are usually repeat offenders, imagine how many victims received justice and how many children will be

protected. Shouldn't New York have this for its victims and children?

Unfortunately, the Church is leading the opposition to reform by spending hundreds of thousands of dollars each year to lobby the NYS Legislature. Only about 4 percent of abuse is connected to clergy. Yet the Church obstructs reform that would help enormous numbers of children and families in all communities of New York--just to protect itself.

Now it's possible to have a *New Law*, called the **Child Victims Act (#A5488)** by Assembly woman Marge Markey of Queens.

The NEW Child Victims Act will achieve the following:

- Extend the limitations ahead by 5 years to age 28, which happens to be the limit set by canon law.
- Suspend the statute for one year while those who were denied justice in the past because of cover-up, traumatic stress disorder, intimidation or other factors may revive their claim, if certified by a mental health professional and subject to the normal rules of evidence.

Please send any questions by email - NYProtectChildren@gmail.com . They will be answered promptly. I look forward to hearing from you.

Bob Kristan, NY Coalition to Protect Children
303 W. 4th St, NY, NY 10014
212-989-1285
NYProtectChildren@gmail.com