



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Liz Krueger

Senator Krueger Joins Women's Rights Leaders in Statement Condemning Use of Rape and Sexual Assault as Weapons of War

LIZ KRUEGER December 8, 2023



New York - State Senator Liz Krueger today joined the following statement signed by women's rights leaders condemning the use of rape and sexual violence as a weapon of war during the October 7th Hamas attacks. To view the full list of signatories, go to www.womensrightsleadersspeakout.org.

Women's Rights Leaders Condemn the Atrocities of October 7th

Statement by Women's Rights Leaders on Rape Atrocities During the October 7th Attacks

As women's rights activists and leaders, we stand for the right of every woman and girl, of every nationality, religion, and community, to live free of all forms of violence, including rape and sexual assault.

In the weeks since October 7th, overwhelming evidence has emerged that widespread, horrific acts of rape and sexual violence were systematically perpetrated by Hamas attackers against Israeli women and girls during the October 7th assault. The evidence includes **forensic examinations** of Israeli victims' bodies bearing signs of rape and torture; **eyewitness testimony** by **survivors** of the Oct. 7th attacks who **saw** women being raped and mutilated; the testimony of first **responders** who found the bodies of Israeli women and girls in their bedrooms amid unmistakable and virtually **unspeakable evidence** of having been raped; video footage filmed by Hamas attackers and recovered from their devices, which recorded evidence of sexual assault, and which has been viewed and attested to by American journalists and elected officials; videos which have been made public showing a young Israeli **woman** with bloodied pants, being dragged by her hair in and out of a vehicle by Hamas abductors, and another young woman stripped to her underwear with Hamas abductors on top of her; and testimony being compiled by an **independent, nongovernmental commission** investigating war crimes perpetrated against women and children by Hamas on October 7th.

The undersigned have marched, organized, and spoken out for women of every race, religion, identity, and nationality. Our hearts break for all victims of gender-based atrocities, and our hearts break for these specific victims, the Israeli women and girls raped and sexually

tortured on and after October 7th. Despite our different backgrounds and perspectives, we stand united in these principles:

- We denounce the use of rape as a weapon of war, which is a crime against humanity.
- We call for a thorough, skillful, and unbiased investigation by international human rights investigators of acts of rape and sexual violence perpetrated by Hamas and other terrorist groups against Israeli women and girls on and after October 7th; we call for perpetrators of war crimes to be held accountable by all relevant authorities including the International Criminal Court.
- We demand the immediate, unconditional release of all remaining hostages so that they can receive desperately needed treatment for trauma and other serious medical conditions; we affirm that continuing to hold these kidnapped hostages captive is an ongoing violation of international law; and we say to these hostages and their loved ones: you are not alone.

We grieve as we witness the heartbreaking anguish of women, children, and all those who suffer through no fault of their own in both Israel and Gaza. We mourn the deaths of so many Palestinian and Israeli civilians who have been killed in this war. We long for a just peace. To denounce rape as a weapon of war is not to express approval or alignment with the governing coalition in Israel, nor does it signal support for the bombings in Gaza. But as feminists we are committed to the universal principle that rape must always be condemned; we bear witness to the mountain of evidence that Hamas and other terrorist groups used rape as a weapon of war against Israeli women and girls; and we demand accountability for crimes that must never be tolerated by the world community. Most of all, we stand with the victims of gender-based atrocities, with the survivors and with those who did not survive, and we raise our voices in solidarity with them.

Signed by

Governor Kathy Hochul, New York State

Letitia James, Attorney General, New York State

Hon. Carolyn Maloney, President, National Organization for Women-NY

Gloria Steinem

Mariska Hargitay, Founder, Joyful Heart Foundation

Hon. Judy Harris Kluger, Executive Director, Sanctuary for Families

Letty Pogrebin, Founding Co-Editor, Ms. Magazine

Jayne Bigelsen, Chief Policy Officer, Women's Justice NOW

Rachel Foster, Founding Co-Chair, World Without Exploitation

Lauren Hersh, National Director, World Without Exploitation

Jane Manning, Director, Women's Equal Justice

Alexi Meyers, Co-Chair, New York State Anti-Trafficking Coalition

Sonia Ossorio, Executive Director, National Organization for Women-NYC

Rebecca Zipkin, Policy Director, World Without Exploitation

Lori Cohen, Chief Executive Officer, PACT

Ane Mathieson, Project Director, EMPOWER Center

Christine Pelosi, Co-Founder, We Said Enough

Judi Polson, Chair, NOW-NYS

Anne Ream, Founder, Voices and Faces Project

Maria Trusa, Founder, Yo Digo No Mas

Shannon Watts, Founder Emeritas, Moms Demand Action

Sheryl Sandberg

Rabbi Sharon Brous, Founder and Chief Rabbi, Ikar Temple

Mandana Dayani, Human Rights Activist

Diane Von Furstenberg

Ashley Judd, Actor and Activist

Ambassador Eleni Kounalakis, Lieutenant Governor, California

Amy Paulin, New York State Assemblymember

Liz Krueger, New York State Senator

Mimi Rocah, Westchester District Attorney

Joyce Vance, former U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama

Congressman Ritchie Torres

Congresswoman Grace Meng

Andrea Stewart Cousins, New York State Senate Majority Leader

Carl Heastie, New York State Assembly Speaker

Mayim Bialik

Helen Hunt

Jill Kargman

Téa Leoni

Seth Meyers

Alysia Reiner

Paul Rudd

Amy Schumer

Jessica Seinfeld

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Leandra Medine Cohen, Author

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