

The Intelligencer

Opinion

Guest Opinion: Jeffrey Epstein's survivors mustn't be forgotten

By Penelope Ettinger

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Thank you for printing the editorial, "Epstein victims need justice." Jeffery Epstein's acts of coercing, raping and playing to the innocence of young girls is never to be forgiven. But more importantly, the bravery of the young women who came forward to protect other girls must never be forgotten.

Their bravery is a lesson for us all to take action. If they had not come forward, Epstein would continue his heinous acts, ripping away the innocence of young girls. We need to hold these girls in the light and never let the light dim until sex trafficking and the raping of young girls and boys comes to end in this country.

Let us not go to the safe place of comfort and complacency, as many of us have with the high profile cases that have come before us — Sandusky, the Catholic church, Boy Scouts, Robert Kraft, Dr. Larry Nassar and others.

Sexual abuse — whether through trafficking or in a child's home — is a public health epidemic in this country that is preventable. But it will take every one of us, not just those who work every day with children.

It's not difficult. Education is our best weapon, so we must all get educated on the facts, the signs of abuse and what to do and how to respond when you suspect a child is being abused. The County of Bucks, through the Network of Victim Assistance, NOVA, offers child sexual abuse prevention training — Darkness to Light, Stewards of Children — online or in-person.

It is free of charge to any adult who lives, works or worships in Bucks County. For more information, contact Grace Wheeler at grace@novabucks.org. If you are a survivor of child sexual abuse or trafficking and need help, call our confidential 24-7 hotline at 1-800-675-6900.

Let the light of the survivors of the Epstein case never be forgotten.

Penelope Ettinger is the executive director of Network of Victim Assistance in Bucks County.