



NATIONAL CENTER ON SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

November 14, 2024

The Honorable Michael Guest, Chairman
The Honorable Susan Wild, Ranking Member
Honorable Members, U.S. House Committee on Ethics
1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE Urgent Request for Immediate Release of Report on Former Representative Matt Gaetz

Dear Members of the House Ethics Committee,

On behalf of the National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE), we extend our sincere gratitude to each of you for your ongoing efforts to uphold the integrity of our government and hold public officials accountable for wrongdoing. Your work, often conducted in the face of public scrutiny and pressure, is invaluable in ensuring that Americans can trust those in positions of power. **It is with deep respect for your work that we write today to request the immediate release of your committee's report on former Representative Matt Gaetz's conduct during his time in office, including his possible involvement in prostitution and sex trafficking of a minor.** Mr. Gaetz's suitability for the position of U.S. Attorney General cannot be determined absent the public release of your report.

As the nation's highest law enforcement officer, Mr. Gaetz would be responsible for enforcing our nation's laws prohibiting sex trafficking, child sexual abuse material, prostitution, obscenity, and many others. Unfortunately, much concern exists regarding his suitability for this position—a position requiring an impeccable personal record and the highest ethical standards—given the aforementioned allegations of criminal sexual misconduct against him. The victims and survivors we serve deserve no less than a complete resolution of the allegations of his engaging in sex buying, possibly of a minor. The people of this country deserve assurance that their leaders are committed to executing justice and upholding our nation's laws without exception.

Mr. Gaetz's resignation from Congress, just days before the House Ethics Committee was poised to release its findings, raises serious concerns. While his resignation means the committee no longer has jurisdiction over him, this should not serve as a reason to conceal the results of an investigation that has been years in the making. The public has a right to know the full extent of the findings, especially as Mr. Gaetz has been nominated to serve as the nation's highest law enforcement officer—the Attorney General.

The committee's work has been thorough and exhaustive. As noted in your June 2024 statement, the committee has reviewed thousands of documents, spoken to multiple witnesses, and issued 25 subpoenas. You have worked with diligence to investigate allegations of sexual misconduct, illicit drug use, and corruption. It is critical that the conclusions of this extensive process be shared, as they are directly relevant to assessing Mr. Gaetz's fitness for the office of Attorney General.

It is also crucial that your committee be fully apprised of the connections between prostitution, sex trafficking, and so-called “sugar dating.” While some may attempt to mask the practice of paying for sex via “gifts” or “tuition” for girlfriends, the reality is that these arrangements serve as a veil for prostitution and sex trafficking. Many of those involved in such arrangements are vulnerable young women, often from marginalized communities, who are struggling to make ends meet. The power dynamics at play in these situations—where wealthy, powerful men offer financial support in exchange for sexual favors—are deeply exploitive.

As Attorney General, Mr. Gaetz would be responsible for enforcing the laws meant to protect vulnerable people from sexual exploitation and sex trafficking, laws he is alleged to have violated. Given the immense public interest and the stakes involved, the American people deserve the opportunity to review the results of your work. This transparency is vital for the assurance of the public that those in positions of power are held to the highest ethical standards.

Thank you again for your commitment to ethical oversight and accountability in Congress and your service to our country.

Sincerely,



Marcel van der Watt, Ph.D.
President



Dawn Hawkins
CEO



Benjamin W. Bull
General Counsel