

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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January 14, 2026

Ms. Claire Shipman  
Acting President  
Columbia University  
2960 Broadway  
New York, NY 10027

Dear Ms. Shipman:

For decades, Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell, as well as their co-conspirators, accomplices, and enablers, operated a billion-dollar international sex trafficking operation. The House Committee on the Judiciary is investigating how this massive criminal conspiracy was able to operate successfully, and with impunity, for years and victimize more than 1,000 women and girls from around the world.

My staff has recently received detailed information from numerous survivors that Mr. Epstein repeatedly lured young women into his network by promising to help them gain admission into colleges and universities, including Columbia University (Columbia). According to these survivors, Mr. Epstein and his co-conspirators promised victims that he would ensure they were admitted to Columbia and then paid for their classes—all while he and his co-conspirators continued to sexually assault and rape them.<sup>1</sup> I write to you today to request that Columbia do whatever it can to assist the Committee's important investigation into understanding how Mr. Epstein was able to use Columbia and other academic institutions to lure victims and silence survivors into his operation.

For years, Jeffrey Epstein engaged in various schemes to traffic hundreds of women and girls into the United States and keep them under his power. *The Miami Herald's* influential reporting on Mr. Epstein detailed how he used an international modeling agency, Mc2, "to recruit girls as young as 13 from Europe, Ecuador and Brazil. The girls lived in a New York building owned by Epstein, who paid for their visas."<sup>2</sup> After Mr. Epstein's 2008 Florida conviction, he arranged for celebrities to write letters of recommendation for models on his behalf.<sup>3</sup> Mr. Epstein also used promises of improved career prospects to keep these women and

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<sup>1</sup> Whistleblower Information Provided to House Committee on the Judiciary, Minority Staff.

<sup>2</sup> Julie K. Brown, *How A Future Trump Cabinet Member Gave a Serial Sex Abuser the Deal of a Lifetime*, MIAMI HERALD (Nov. 28, 2018), [www.miamiherald.com/news/local/article220097825.html](http://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/article220097825.html).

<sup>3</sup> HOUSE\_OVERSIGHT\_019086.

girls under his sway: “Epstein counseled the girls about their schooling, and told them he would help them get into college, modeling school, fashion design or acting.”<sup>4</sup>

This twisted promise to facilitate college admission for his sex trafficking victims was not an idle one. Mr. Epstein maintained close ties to multiple academic institutions. He donated millions of dollars to dozens of colleges such as Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Ohio State University, Penn State University, Hunter College, City College of New York, and Bard College, as well as art schools such as the Interlochen Center for the Arts and the New York Academy of Art (NYAA). He also donated to high schools such as the Palm Beach Academy in Florida, the Dalton School in New York, and the Ivanna Eudora Kean High School in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Public records associated with Mr. Epstein’s foundation, which have been partially preserved between 2010 to 2014, indicate that he was a donor to Columbia and Columbia University College of Dental Medicine between 2010 and 2012.<sup>5</sup>

Mr. Epstein used his relationship with some of these prestigious academic institutions to procure girls for his sex trafficking operation. During the trial of Mr. Epstein’s co-conspirator, Ghislaine Maxwell, a survivor testified that she first met Mr. Epstein and Ms. Maxwell in the mid-1990s “in between classes at Interlochen Arts Camp,” where Mr. Epstein was a donor.<sup>6</sup> In 1996, Mr. Epstein met a different victim at NYAA, where he had served as a board member, and later arranged for students from NYAA to play sexualized games at a dinner party at his ranch in New Mexico.<sup>7</sup> As late as 2018, less than a year before Mr. Epstein’s arrest, bank compliance officers flagged his payment of tuition for women with Eastern European surnames, noting that the unusual transaction appeared suspicious. When questioned about the payment, Mr. Epstein’s accountant, Richard Kahn, justified it as being “sent to a friend for tuition for school.”<sup>8</sup>

The House Committee on the Judiciary has now received substantial and detailed information that Mr. Epstein promised young women that he would arrange for them to be admitted to Columbia. In other cases, Mr. Epstein personally paid for their Columbia tuition.<sup>9</sup> By doing so, Mr. Epstein not only lured young women whom he and his co-conspirators would come to sexually abuse and rape, he also ensured his victims were indebted to him and less likely to come forward to report crimes to law enforcement.

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<sup>4</sup> Julie K. Brown, *How A Future Trump Cabinet Member Gave a Serial Sex Abuser the Deal of a Lifetime*, MIAMI HERALD (Nov. 28, 2018), [www.miamiherald.com/news/local/article220097825.html](http://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/article220097825.html).

<sup>5</sup> Wayback Machine, Jeffrey Epstein Philanthropy (Apr. 24, 2014), <https://web.archive.org/web/20140324053157/http://www.jeffreyepstein.org/Recipients.html>.

<sup>6</sup> Interlochen Center for the Arts, *A Statement from Interlochen Center for the Arts* (Dec. 3, 2021), <https://www.interlochen.org/interlochen-responds-to-maxwell-trial>.

<sup>7</sup> Margaret Carrigan, *New York Academy of Art Issues Apology to Epstein Accuser and Alumna Maria Farmer After Claims Of ‘Victim Blaming’*, THE ART NEWSPAPER (Aug. 10, 2020), [www.theartnewspaper.com/2020/08/10/new-york-academy-of-art-issues-apology-to-epstein-accuser-and-alumna-maria-farmer-after-claims-of-victim-blaming](http://www.theartnewspaper.com/2020/08/10/new-york-academy-of-art-issues-apology-to-epstein-accuser-and-alumna-maria-farmer-after-claims-of-victim-blaming); Connor Perrett, *Art Students Say Guggenheim Relative Brought Them to Jeffrey Epstein’s Ranch Where He Pressured Them to Play with ‘Sexual Objects’*, BUSINESS INSIDER (Jan. 28, 2020), [www.businessinsider.com/epstein-ghislaine-maxwell-made-art-grads-to-play-sexual-games-2020-1](http://www.businessinsider.com/epstein-ghislaine-maxwell-made-art-grads-to-play-sexual-games-2020-1).

<sup>8</sup> New York Department of Financial Services, Consent Order Under New York Banking Law §§ 39 and 44, [https://www.dfs.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/07/ea20200706\\_deutsche\\_bank\\_consent\\_order.pdf](https://www.dfs.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/07/ea20200706_deutsche_bank_consent_order.pdf).

<sup>9</sup> Whistleblower Information Provided to House Committee on the Judiciary, Minority Staff.

For example:

- Around 2002, Jeffrey Epstein paid for Survivor 1, whom he abused from 2001 to 2009, to attend Columbia.
- Around 2001, Jeffrey Epstein promised Survivor 2, whom he was abusing at the time, that he would arrange visits to Columbia and New York University in order to support her pursuit of a business degree.
- Between 2004 and 2007, Jeffrey Epstein helped pay for Survivor 3, whom he abused from 2002 to 2009, to attend Columbia. Toward the end of her time at the school, Mr. Epstein would make payments in excess of tuition fees for Survivor 3, so when the tuition was refunded, Survivor 3 would receive several thousand dollars directly from Columbia, through Mr. Epstein.<sup>10</sup>

Multiple survivors reported that their tuition, paperwork, and expenses were personally arranged by Darren Indyke and Richard Kahn, Mr. Epstein's long-term lawyer and accountant, and now co-executors of his estate.<sup>11</sup>

The House Committee on the Judiciary is seeking Columbia's assistance in shedding light on how, for years, Mr. Epstein was able to use his ties to Columbia to lure victims and ensure their silence. In order to help protect the privacy of Mr. Epstein's victims, in responding to this request, please redact the names and personally identifiable information (PII) of any and all individual students. If you have any questions regarding these requests, and whether information should be disclosed, please contact my staff at (202) 225-3951 or under separate cover.

In order to assist in this important investigation, please provide the following records and information, no later than January 28, 2026, from 1990 to the current day.

1. All records relating to Jeffrey Epstein, Darren Indyke, Richard Kahn, Ghislaine Maxwell, or their associates, including but not limited to correspondence, donation or tuition payment records, and meetings or attendance of Columbia events;
2. Any documents reflecting internal investigations into or involving Jeffrey Epstein, Darren Indyke, Richard Kahn, Ghislaine Maxwell, or their associates, and the results of such investigation;<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Whistleblower Information Provided to House Committee on the Judiciary, Minority Staff.

<sup>11</sup> *Id.*; Khadeeja Safdar & Joe Palazzolo, *The CPA and the Lawyer Who Served Jeffrey Epstein—and Control His Fortune and Secrets*, WALL ST. J., (Nov. 22, 2025), [www.wsj.com/us-news/epstein-accountant-lawyer-control-estate-0d31070b](http://www.wsj.com/us-news/epstein-accountant-lawyer-control-estate-0d31070b).

<sup>12</sup> A full list of names will be provided under separate cover.

3. The total amount of payments, and a list of payments broken down by year, made to Columbia by individuals and entities associated with Jeffrey Epstein, including but not limited to Darren Indyke; Richard Kahn; Ghislaine Maxwell; Jeffrey Epstein VI Foundation; the Jeffrey Epstein Foundation; Hyperion Air LLC; C.O.U.Q. Foundation and Enhanced Education; Mc2; Harry Beller; The YLK Foundation; Erika Kellerhals; Southern Trust Company, Inc.; Southern Financial LLC; Haze Trust; Environmental Solutions Worldwide, Inc.; The 1953 Trust; Plan D, LLC; Great St. Jim, LLC; Nautilus, Inc.; Poplar, Inc.; Gratitude America Ltd.; or Butterfly Trust;<sup>13</sup> and
4. The total number of Columbia students whose tuition or fees were paid, in whole or in part, by individuals and entities associated with Jeffrey Epstein as described in request #3, both across the entire requested time period and broken down by year.

I look forward to your prompt attention to this matter, the fundamental importance of which is, no doubt, recognized by you and other academic leaders.

Very truly yours,

  
Jamie Raskin  
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Chairman

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<sup>13</sup> Full account names and details will be provided under separate cover.