Nationals Advice on Sexual Misconduct and Abuse

Here are the notes regarding communications if you are asked for information or if you are wondering what to say about the current situation regarding sexual misconduct and abuse. To start, we understand that this is a difficult and often uncomfortable topic to discuss. Please be respectful and compassionate with anyone in our community:

Survivors: We support survivors who experienced any form of abuse and stand with them. While this is a difficult topic, it’s important to show compassion. Please know there is no need to debate specific circumstances.

Commitment: We all take this extremely seriously. The National Federation of the Blind does not condone or excuse any form of abuse, and we are committed to learning and creating change. Feel free to refer people to the open letter of apology which is listed on our home page at nfb.org.

Stronger Together: We want to understand how to engage in conversations with survivors and utilize experts from outside organizations as well as the other steps addressed in the open letter of apology. Finally, we should acknowledge our support of the leadership of President Riccobono and the board of directors during this time – if that’s your stance and you’re comfortable doing so.

We will share more information and communication suggestions as we move forward.

As an update, our centers have published statements of their own regarding current issues around abuse. Below are the links to the three statements:

* [BLIND Inc Statement](https://www.blindinc.org/statement-of-acknowledgement-and-commitment-to-change/)
* [Colorado Center for the Blind Statement](https://cocenter.org/our-statement-endorsing-the-open-letter-of-apology-from-mark-riccobono/)
* [Louisiana Center for the Blind Statement](http://www.louisianacenter.org/commitment-to-change)

If anyone receives media inquiries regarding any of the statements or these matters, please connect with Chris Danielsen at cdanielsen@nfb.org.