



As we prepare to gather again at this year's SNAP Annual Conference, I want to make a moment to reflect on what we have accomplished together and what lies ahead. I write to you with immense gratitude, pride, and hope.

A Global Impact: The Work of the SNAP Global Policy Working Group

This past year has brought extraordinary achievements on the global stage. During both Pope Francis' final illness and the conclave that followed, the SNAP Global Policy Working Group labored around the clock. Our mission and our message reached farther than ever before—garnering over 4,800 media mentions across 78 countries. This isn't just a statistic; it's a sign that the world is listening to our demands for zero tolerance.

Whistleblowers, advocates, and survivors from around the globe have been reaching out to us directly, trusting us with a wealth of vital information. This engagement has made SNAP a recognized global voice for accountability.

Because of our relentless efforts, the Vatican has found itself on the defensive—forced to respond to our advocacy rather than steer the conversation. This is what it looks like when survivors lead.

New Leadership for a Stronger Future

After an extensive eight-month search conducted with the assistance of Daryl Upsall International, a respected global recruitment firm, and in direct consultation with our dedicated SNAP Executive Search Working Group, we are thrilled to share that SNAP has selected its next Executive Director. This candidate is deeply experienced, comes highly recommended, and embodies our survivor-centered mission.

We will formally announce and introduce our new Executive Director just as soon as their contract is completed and signed. Their expected start date is July 14th, and they are eager to meet those who will be at our upcoming SNAP Conference.

We are also incredibly grateful to the Oak Foundation, which has expressed its commitment to funding this position for at least the next three years. This support represents a significant investment in SNAP's future and our continued work to support survivors around the world.

SNAP Annual Conference: A Time to Reconnect and Recharge

Our Conference Working Group deserves enthusiastic applause. Their dedication is ensuring that this year's conference in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania (July 25–27) will be both meaningful and memorable.

Harrisburg in July is truly beautiful—vibrant, walkable, and filled with small local gems along the river. All essential amenities are within easy reach, creating a peaceful environment for rest, reflection, and reconnection.

Among the many highlights this year:

- **Jay Sefton** will perform his stunning one-man play, *Unreconciled*. I had the pleasure of seeing it in Braddock earlier this year—it's unforgettable. We are so fortunate to host it.
- Daniel J. Dye, former Senior Deputy Attorney General of Pennsylvania, will give us a behind-the-scenes account of the 2018 Grand Jury investigation that exposed clergy abuse and cover-up across the state. His story will be gripping and important.
- Leona Huggins, a longtime survivor-advocate, researcher, and educator based in British Columbia, Canada, will deliver a powerful keynote. Leona stepped into public advocacy following her own journey through both criminal and civil legal processes and now supports others navigating similar paths. Her keynote will explore how survivor advocacy evolves across roles, relationships, and seasons of life—how the work changes us, and how we choose to carry it.
- **Dr. Hermina Nedelescu** (Scripps Research, NIH-NIDA Principal Investigator) and Dr. Amos Guiora (University of Utah, Director of the Bystander Initiative) will give a joint presentation addressing the ongoing crisis of clergy-perpetrated sexual abuse and the systemic failures that allow it to persist—focusing on the urgent need to criminalize enablers and bystanders.
- We will also hear from **Peter Isely** and Sarah Pearson of SNAP's Global Policy Working Group as well as our friends and allies at Bishop Accountability.
- Breakout sessions will offer something for everyone—from legislative advocacy and book writing to art for healing.

And yes—we're bringing back the **Ice Cream Social!**

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If you haven't signed up, please visit the website to register for the conference, book your accommodations, and learn more about what to expect!

Transparency and Dialogue Among Our Leadership

As with any diverse and growing movement, differences are inevitable. Over the past year, concerns have been brought to the attention of the Board of Directors by various leaders and others. While our attempts at traditional mediation to discuss these concerns have not achieved the desired results, we remain committed to transparency, reconciliation, and unity.

Therefore, part of our annual Leaders' Meeting that takes place on Friday June 25th before the conference begins will include a special facilitated session. This session will give the board and leaders a chance to share and learn what is on one another's minds and to discuss how we move forward for the benefit of SNAP and survivors.

Ahead of the facilitated session, all leaders will have the opportunity to submit questions or concerns about SNAP's operations, governance, and direction. We see great value in having this discussion in full view of all leaders so that everyone's voice can be heard.

Our incoming Executive Director has been fully briefed on these matters and will be in attendance. We will ensure that all submitted concerns and communications are made available to those involved, so that our discussion is open, honest, and rooted in a shared desire to move forward.

We will have a Zoom link available for the Leaders' Meeting so that the leaders who are unable to attend this year's conference can still attend and be a valuable part of the conversation.

In addition to the facilitated session, we will hear an annual report from Board Treasurer, Dan McNevin, and I'll give an overview of SNAP's progress in year two of the three-year strategic plan we introduced at last year's meeting.

In Closing

The strength of SNAP lies in its people—in survivors and allies who speak out, show up, and stand strong. I look forward to seeing each of you in Harrisburg this July. We have much to celebrate, much to discuss, and even more to build together.

SNAP is a grassroots, volunteer-powered movement, and we need your support to keep our momentum going into the next year. If you are able, please consider making a donation to further our mission of healing, justice, and prevention.

With gratitude and solidarity,

Shaun Dougherty

Board President & Interim Executive Director

SNAP

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