

## New Public Awareness Campaign Lights Up Times Square & Calls The Community to "Pledge To Prevent" Child Sexual Abuse

Outdoor Billboards Feature in New York's Times Square, Greater Boston, Los Angeles, Miami, and Fort Lauderdale.

NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES, April 1, 2024

/EINPresswire.com/ -- END1IN4, Inc., a non-profit with a mission to end the impact and magnitude of child sexual abuse, today launched a new outdoor public awareness campaign on billboards in New York City's Times Square, Greater Boston, Miami, Fort Lauderdale, and Los Angeles. The <u>Pledge to Prevent</u><sup>®</sup> campaign will run



Pledge to Prevent video billboards light up New York City's Times Square throughout April National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

throughout April for National Child Abuse Prevention Month. The campaign will feature in the heart of Times Square, New York City, on the iconic billboard, The Wedge, on 48th & Broadway. The campaign will also feature extensively across social media.

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We need the general public to see the signs and act for children who are often too traumatized and manipulated to self-report sex abuse—especially when that abuse is often in or close to the family."

Ashley Judd

With as many as one in four children suffering child sexual abuse and more than 90 percent of perpetrators in or close to the family, the campaign asks the community to look twice and think again with questions like, "Your Child. Sad or Sexually Abused?" and "Your Child. Angry or Sexually Abused?" The campaign includes a 24-hour call number (240) END-1IN4 that directs all calls to the Childhelp National Child Abuse helpline.

Importantly, Pledge to Prevent<sup>®</sup> is a call to action for everyone to play a role in preventing and ending child

sexual abuse.

"Pledge to Prevent<sup>®</sup> is a simple and powerful way for everyone to act to end child sexual abuse and its devastating impact on children, families and communities," said Kathy Andersen, Founder of END1IN4. "Organizations and individuals can choose one of over 25 pledges as either a Learner to get the basic facts, a Prevention Influencer to educate others, a Safe Community Promoter to strengthen policies in schools and youth organizations, or a Movement Builder to promote prevention legislation with elected officials. Pledgers are sent vetted resources so they can build their knowledge and skills to carry out their chosen pledges confidently."

Pledge to Prevent<sup>®</sup> was started by <u>MassKids</u>, the oldest state-based child advocacy organization in the country.

# YOU CAN PREVENT CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE



The campaign will also feature on billboards in major cities and across social media for April National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Now, in partnership with END1IN4, the two organizations are on a mission to expand Pledge to Prevent<sup>®</sup> globally. Currently, individuals who have taken the Pledge to Prevent<sup>®</sup> come from nearly every U.S. state and from countries including Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Zambia, Liberia, and India.

According to Jetta Bernier, director of MassKids and its Enough Abuse campaign, "While there is universal support to end child sexual abuse, individuals often ask - `What can I really do to make a difference?' The best way is for adults and communities to take prime responsibility for preventing sexual abuse. That means learning about it, talking about it, and taking specific actions to stop it from ever happening."

The National Coalition to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation, a coalition of leading U.S. organizations and experts in the prevention field, is promoting the Pledge to Prevent<sup>®</sup> campaign with its members and networks. According to Susan Kennedy, President of the coalition, "To combat the serious and ever-growing threat to children of in-person and online sexual abuse and exploitation, we must actively engage citizens everywhere in the fight for our children's safety and security. Pledge to Prevent<sup>®</sup> is an important tool in the arsenal of resources we must deploy in that fight."

Over the past year, the END1IN4 campaign has engaged survivor-advocate celebrities including Ashley Judd, Anthony Edwards and Diana Nyad, who have each recorded video messages of

encouragement for victims and survivors of abuse, which can be viewed on the END1IN4 web site. In September 2023, Judd and Edwards appeared in END1IN4's billboard campaign with the message "Act To End It." "We need the general public to see the signs and act for children who are often too traumatized and manipulated to self-report sexual abuse—especially when that abuse is often in or close to the family," encouraged Judd.

### ABOUT END1IN4, Inc.

END1IN4, Inc. launched in 2022 with a mission to end the impact and magnitude of child sexual abuse through breakthrough public awareness and engagement campaigns, education, and advocacy. Founder & CEO, Kathy Andersen, experienced sexual abuse by her



Is your child showing you signs of sex abuse? The campaign asks the general public to "look twice" and "think again."

adoptive father throughout her childhood, and for over 20 years has led organizations and initiatives to create positive change. For more information, and to see the campaign graphics, visit END1IN4.ORG, or reach Kathy through the contacts above.

#### ABOUT MASSKIDS.

MassKids is a private, statewide citizen-based child advocacy organization with a 65-year history of effective advocacy on behalf of Massachusetts' most vulnerable children. It leads Enough Abuse, a community mobilization and citizen education initiative established in 2002 under a five-year grant from the U.S. Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention (CDC). It provides training to communities, schools and youth-serving organizations, and technical assistance to help them strengthen policies to prevent child sexual abuse. Its comprehensive programs and resources have been adopted in several states and countries. For more information, visit: www.enoughabuse.org.

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