

# HMACTION COALITION

As alumni of The Horace Mann School, many of us were saddened, stunned and angered to learn that a number of teachers, over decades, had sexually abused our friends and classmates on a scale that few could imagine, reminding us that the plague of child sexual abuse knows no boundaries.

First and foremost, we demand that the school offer an unconditional apology to the victims and help the survivors heal in whatever time, manner and place best comforts them.

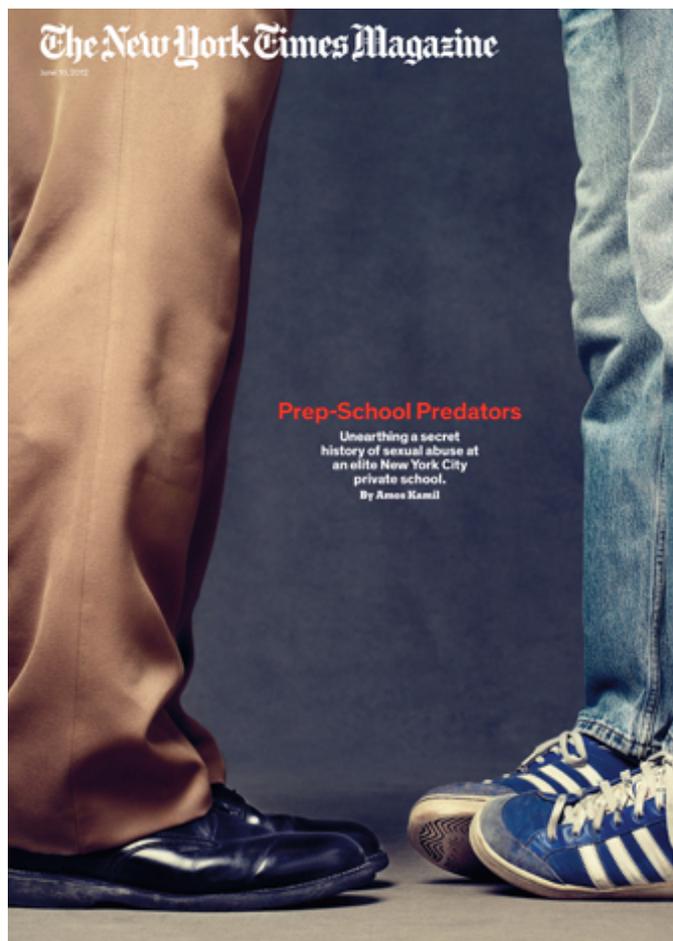
Second, we recognize that over the span of three decades, child abuse could not have flourished in an institution such as Horace Mann without secrecy and willful ignorance, if not outright complicity.

We ask that the school live up to one of its core principles – "Great is the truth and it prevails" – and allow for an independent investigation to ascertain that truth. We believe the ineffective communication from the administration and the silence maintained by the Board is short-sighted, unjust, and not in keeping with the school's fundamental values.

Finally, to protect the legacy of our school, to heal the Horace Mann community at large, and to prevent recurrences of horrors such as these, we wish to advocate for and initiate legislative action, to hold educational forums, and to advocate preventive measures to show the world that Horace Mann is not afraid to confront its demons and become a role model for how trusted institutions can and should handle such enormous challenges as child sexual abuse within its walls.

"Be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for humanity," is another guiding principle we were taught as Horace Mann students.

Decades later, we couldn't agree more.



**To give your support,  
please visit us at:**

**HMACTION.ORG**

**WHAT:** Protest at Alumni Council Meeting

**WHEN:** Thursday, August 16th. 6:00pm

**WHERE:** HM campus. Meet Southwest corner of 246th and Tibbetts, by triangular rock garden.

hmactioncoalition@gmail.com

We will not forget, gloss over, push under the rug, pretend nothing happened, ignore, turn a blind eye to, tune out, take no heed of, or move onto other things until Horace Mann commissions an open and independent investigation of past abuses by its teachers and the inaction by its administrators.

**10 abusers identified    25 survivors seek healing    2500 alumni/ teachers want answers!**

### QUESTIONS FOR THE MEETING

You knew months before the Kamil article appeared in print that this issue was going to surface, and yet you said nothing to the alumni, nor took any proactive action to protect students? Who made that decision and why?

For fiduciary reasons, the school has made the decision to pretend 30 years of sexual abuse and dozens of suicides never happened. And yet, we've learned from Penn State and the Catholic Church that doesn't work. The truth always comes out in the end. Who made the decision to cover things up and what was your rationale?

Is the Board Chair really selected in a closed meeting by previous Board Chairs? If not, how is he selected? Why are the school's bylaws a secret and would you be willing to share them?

Board members have not always had to sign rigorous confidentiality agreements? Who made that decision and why?

Somary's last year was 2002. Former Board Chair, Michael Hess served until 2001. The HM administration was obviously aware of Somary's proclivities as he was not allowed to be alone with children during the latter part of his career. What do we know about that decision to look the other way and put a known pedophile above the safety of children?

It's well known the Alumni Council cannot even send out a mailing to its constituency without first running it by the school. Would you be willing to allow the organization to act independently from now on?

Is it the Board's stance that no current members were here when the abuses were reported?

Who on the current Board was present for the meeting with Dr. Howard?

If the abuses ended long ago, why not support an independent investigation to clear the air?

Were there reports of abuse prior to the Balter letter... and if so, how many?

**To give your support,  
please visit us at  
[hmaction.org](http://hmaction.org)**

**HM ACTION COALITION**