

Advocate  
Support  
Empower



## SOAR INITIATIVE CANADA CALLS ON THE NHL TO ESTABLISH CLEAR POLICY ADDRESSING SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAY 14, 2025

[Toronto, ON] — SOAR Initiative Canada is calling on the National Hockey League (NHL) to adopt a league-specific policy that addresses sexual violence, domestic violence, and child abuse—on and off the ice.

Currently, there is no formal, unified policy that provides clear procedures for responding to these serious issues. In fact, unlike other national professional sport organizations such as Major League Baseball (MLB), the National Basketball Association (NBA), and the National Football League (NFL), the NHL continues to rely on discretionary and vague provisions as outlined within their collective agreement with the NHL Players Association (NHLPA).

SOAR Initiative Canada is encouraging both the NHL and the NHLPA leadership to take this opportunity to create a safer, more accountable sport by implementing and codifying, a proactive, survivor-informed framework within their collective agreement.

Key elements of the proposed policy include:

- Independent reporting and investigation procedures, separate from legal proceedings.
- Trauma-informed support services for survivors and affected families.
- Mandatory education and training for all players, coaches, staff, and league personnel.
- Transparency and accountability, including regular public reporting on enforcement and outcomes.

Vague codes of conduct and case-by-case punishments are insufficient. A dedicated policy is essential to ensure safety, prevent further harm, and begin transforming a culture that has allowed abuse to go unchecked for too long.

**Sign the petition to support this call to action:**

<https://www.change.org/p/soar-initiative-canada-calls-on-the-nhl-to-implement-policy-on-sexual-domestic-violence>

“This isn’t just about what happens off the ice—it’s about the culture of silence and protection that exists within it,” said Christie Paschakis, Founder of SOAR Initiative Canada. “Sexual abuse and violence against women must be confronted head-on. There is no excuse for silence, no room for complicity. The institutions that govern hockey have a responsibility to act.”

**For further comment, media inquiries, or to support this initiative, please contact:**

Christie Paschakis

Founder, SOAR Initiative Canada

Email: [media@soarinitiative.org](mailto:media@soarinitiative.org)

Website: [www.soarinitiative.org](http://www.soarinitiative.org)

### About SOAR Initiative Canada

*SOAR Initiative Canada is a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering survivors of sexual violence, domestic violence and child abuse to heal, thrive and achieve long-term recovery through community connection. We advocate for systemic change to dismantle the barriers survivors face in accessing care, resources, and justice.*