

In light of Rabbi Steven Pruzansky's baffling attack on women, we believe he should no longer be allowed to participate in the upcoming Bergen County Community Collaborative Conference, scheduled for June 26. Rabbi Pruzansky is slated to speak at the yom ivun, focused on educating and inspiring our children. In a recent blog post he argues that women who say they've been raped have actually been rejected, developed feelings of regret about their sexual activities or were overly intoxicated. Rabbi Pruzansky gives the rapist a free pass and puts the blame squarely on the victim. His insensitivity and failure to understand the violent and vicious nature of rape, confusing it with unsatisfying sex, indicates he should not be in a position to preach about values we want to pass on to our children.

We are asking you to reach out to any of the partnering organizations listed below with which you are affiliated. Please request that they speak out and make clear that their sponsorship and participation is contingent on Rabbi Pruzansky's removal from the roster of speakers at the Bergen County Community Collaborative Conference and a change of venue from Bnai Yeshurun. In doing so you will take a great step in educating our children about justice and acceptable behavior.

Below are sample letters. Partnering organizations and sponsors are listed below as well.

Partner Organizations: Ben Porat Yosef, Beth Abraham, Beth Aaron, Bnai Yeshurun, B'nei Akiva, Bruriah, Cedar Market (sponsor) Frisch, Glatt Express (sponsor), Hakotel, HaRova, He'Atid, Heichal HaTorah, Kaylie, Keter Torah, Koren Publishing (sponsor), Ma'ayanot, Mesorah, Michlalah, Midreshet Lindenbaum, MMY, Morasha, Moriah, Moshava (I.O.), MTA, MTVA, NCSY, Noam, Ohr HaTorah, Orthodox Union (sponsor), Project YES, RCBC, Reishit, Rinat Yisrael, RYNJ, SFW, SINAI, TABC, Yavneh, Yeshiva University, Zichron Mordechi.

#### SAMPLE LETTER #1:

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

I'm reaching out to you about the Bergen County Community Collaborative Conference on June 26th which Moshava is co-sponsoring. Rabbi Pruzansky is scheduled to speak at the program. I don't know if you saw Rabbi Pruzansky's recent blog post about rape, but it was incredibly offensive, destructive and dangerous. In the piece, he argues that women who say they've been raped have actually been rejected, developed feelings of regret about their sexual activities or were just drunk. He gives the rapist a free pass and puts the blame squarely on the victim. His insensitivity and failure to understand the violent and vicious nature of rape, confusing it with unsatisfying sex, indicates he should not be in a position to preach about values we want to pass on to our children.

I hope \_\_\_\_\_ will speak out and make clear that its sponsorship and participation is contingent on Rabbi Pruzansky's removal from the roster of speakers at the Conference and

moving the venue from his shul, Bnai Yeshurun.. By doing so, \_\_\_\_\_ will be doing what it already does so well -- educating our children about justice and acceptable behavior.

Thanks so much for reading and hearing me out.

Sincerely,

**SAMPLE LETTER #2:**

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

Educating and inspiring our children is a goal we hold dear. This is why the upcoming Bergen County Community Collaborative Conference is such an important event in building an international community dedicated to serving the spiritual needs of our children.

Unfortunately, one of the slated speakers, Rabbi Steven Pruzansky, recently published remarks that are antithetical to the Torah values of justice, compassion, and truth. In a recent blog post he argued that women who say they are victims of sexual assault often lie, presenting their claims as a way to deal with rejection, regret about sexual activities, or intoxication. His claims, which place responsibility for assault on the shoulders of victims while absolving abusers, are not only unsubstantiated, but actually contradict all the major research about sexual assault. Rabbi Pruzansky demonstrates a grave and callous misunderstanding of a profound human trauma. His words are unfounded, cruel, and utterly irresponsible for a communal leader.

In light of these remarks, Rabbi Pruzansky should not be allowed to participate in this conference nor should the conference be held in his shul. His blindness to facts and lack of compassion make him unsuitable to speak about educating our children. Please insist that he step down, or consider withdrawing your support. In doing so you will take a great step in educating our children about justice and acceptable behavior.