

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 22, 2026

The Honorable Todd Blanche
Acting Attorney General
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Acting Attorney General Blanche,

I am writing to express my disgust at the Department of Justice's (DOJ) reported willingness to pardon Ghislaine Maxwell. Last week, David Oscar Markus, Maxwell's attorney, said, "There's a good chance and for good reason that [Maxwell] would get a pardon."¹ It is unacceptable that DOJ would be engaging at all with such an outrageous request.

During your tenure as Deputy Attorney General, you oversaw DOJ's release of the Epstein files—a rollout widely described as botched. On top of this disregard for justice, earlier this month you said, "[the Epstein files] should not be a part of anything going forward," despite only two arrests made by the DOJ.² The Department withheld more than 2.5 million records, applied overly broad redactions, and exposed victims' names and personal information, undermining confidence in the Department's ability to deliver justice in one of the most high-profile criminal investigations in recent memory.³

Compounding this seemingly apathetic response to survivors of Epstein and Maxwell, recent reporting indicates that Ghislaine Maxwell's legal team believes she could receive a pardon from President Trump for her role in sex trafficking, in exchange for testimony intended to benefit the President.⁴ For President Trump to pardon Ghislaine Maxwell would be an affront to justice, compounding the Department's failures and betraying every survivor harmed by Maxwell and Jeffrey Epstein.

Despite senior Trump Administration officials repeatedly pledging transparency and accountability around the Epstein files, the Department's handling of those files has failed to deliver justice for survivors. Even with access to testimony and documentation detailing the abuse of more than 1,000 women and children, the Department has brought no charges beyond those against Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell.⁵ By contrast, in the United Kingdom, investigators have pursued high-profile individuals linked to Epstein, including the arrests of Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor and Peter Mandelson in 2026 for misconduct tied to their dealings with Epstein.⁶ Given the reported scale of the network, the Department's failure to

¹ <https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2026/04/17/markus-ghislaine-maxwell-lawyer-pardon-00871508>

² <https://thehill.com/policy/national-security/5814657-jeffrey-epstein-files-todd-blanche/>

³ *Have we seen the last of the Epstein files? Lawmakers and victims want more released*, CNN (March 2026)
<https://www.cnn.com/2026/03/19/politics/epstein-files-next-steps-congress-victims-law>

⁴ Id.

⁵ <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2025/11/20/epstein-1000-survivors-victims-not-politics/87335276007/#:~:text=Jeffrey%20Epstein%20victimized%20at%20least,but%20weren't%20taken%20seriously.>

follow comparable lines of inquiry shows it has not pursued this case with the urgency it demands.

The Department has not only failed to fully investigate Epstein, Maxwell, and their associates—it has also raised concerns that powerful individuals are being shielded from scrutiny. After widespread criticism of the DOJ’s refusal to release the full Epstein files, you met with Ghislaine Maxwell, despite her conviction and lack of credibility, including two perjury charges stemming from sworn testimony in 2016. Following that meeting, she was transferred to a minimum-security federal prison camp in Texas. At a time when reports indicate she could receive clemency from President Trump, these decisions raise serious questions about the Department’s judgment and priorities.⁷

Following the dismissal of former Attorney General Pam Bondi in connection with the Department’s handling of the Epstein files, you now bear responsibility as Acting Attorney General for ensuring full compliance with the law. You must immediately reopen and fully resource the Department’s investigation into the sex-trafficking operation led by Jeffrey Epstein and pursue all credible leads. You must also publicly, and repeatedly, refuse to engage with Ghislaine Maxwell on any presidential pardons that would excuse her from serving out her full sentence. Survivors deserve answers, and those responsible must be held accountable. This is not a question of politics—it is a matter of justice.


Given these circumstances, we request a written response addressing the following questions no later than May 5, 2026:

1. Does the Department of Justice plan to continue investigating the widespread sexual and physical abuse caused by Jeffrey Epstein, Ghislaine Maxwell, and his conspirators to bring justice to the survivors?
2. Is it the Department of Justice’s posture that no other conspirators in Jeffrey Epstein’s sex trafficking organization will be charged with a crime, despite the testimony of over a thousand women and children and millions of documents outlining the widespread abuse they suffered?
3. Provide a detailed description and any relevant documents relevant to communications with Ghislaine Maxwell and her attorney related to a presidential pardon.

Sincerely,

⁶ After the release of the Epstein files, why have there been so few arrests? NPR (April 2026)
<https://www.npr.org/2026/04/03/nx-s1-5766260/epstein-files-arrests-doj-prosecutors>

⁷ *What We Learned From the Ghislaine Maxwell DOJ Interviews*, TIME (August 2025)
<https://time.com/7311830/epstein-blanche-interview-trump-transcript/>



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress