

Kraft30

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A letter to the commissioner of the NFL demands swift action in response to New England Patriots owner's alleged solicitation of prostitution

In a letter sent to both the commissioner of the NFL and the media today, a group of sex-trafficking survivors and organizations demanded that the NFL “banish” the owner of the New England Patriots from team ownership if allegations that he solicited prostitution are found true.

If the allegations are proven true, Robert Kraft, owner of the New England Patriots, should be held accountable by the disciplinary guidelines set by the NFL, the group wrote in its letter to NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell. The letter also called on the NFL to begin fostering a culture of respect for others, especially women, at the organization.

Both Kraft and Goodell were contacted for comment, but neither responded.

The group quoted the league's policy on personal conduct and stated that the league should suspend Kraft for a minimum of six games. The standard for team owners is much higher than the standard for players, the group wrote.

The NFL began its ongoing investigation into the criminal allegations against Kraft about a month ago. If the allegations are proven true, the group wrote that the penalty should be much greater than the minimum, and his ownership of the New England Patriots should be revoked.

If Kraft is found guilty, "Anything less [than Kraft's removal] will send the signal that owners are not held to a higher standard, that their power, influence, and wealth permit them to get away with despicable actions, and that the NFL abets sexual exploitation and trafficking," the group wrote.

Regardless of whether or not men know that a sex worker is the victim of trafficking, the group wrote that victims continue to experience "inestimable amounts of human suffering" due to the purchase of sexual services by men across the globe.

The group included a segment in the letter from Rachel Moran, a survivor of sex work. She said that prostitution and rape are interconnected, and she quoted several women about their experiences in the industry.

"Paid rape," "pay-as-you-go rape," "signing a contract to be raped," and "being raped for a living" were among the descriptions given to Moran by women formerly in prostitution.

The male desire for "sex slave[s]," or powerless people purchased to perform sexual acts, perpetuates systematic prostitution, sex trafficking and sexual exploitation, wrote the group.

Kraft would be included among these men if the allegations against him are proven true, the group wrote.

“The choice of Robert Kraft, and millions of men like him, to buy other human beings for sex is why the supply chain of organized sexual exploitation exists,” wrote the group. Money is power in sex trafficking, and the money continues to lay with these men, the group wrote.

At the end of the letter, the group wrote that the NFL has the “opportunity” to become a part of the battle to create a world without sexual exploitation, trafficking, and abuse.

“We hope that you will stand with us in fighting for that world,” the group wrote.