

OFFICIAL STATEMENT FROM VALERIA CHOMSKY REGARDING JEFFREY EPSTEIN:

As many are aware, my husband, Noam Chomsky, now 97, is confronting significant health challenges after suffering a devastating stroke in June 2023. Currently, Noam is under 24/7 medical care and is completely unable to speak or engage in public discourse.

Since this health crisis, I have been entirely absorbed in Noam's treatment and recovery, solely responsible for his care and medical treatment. Noam and I don't have any public relations assistance. For this reason, only now have I been able to address the matter of our contacts with Jeffrey Epstein.

Noam and I have felt a profound weight regarding the unresolved questions surrounding our past interactions with Epstein. We do not wish to leave this chapter shrouded in ambiguity.

Throughout his life, Noam has insisted that intellectuals have a responsibility to speak the truth and expose lies — especially when those truths are uncomfortable for themselves.

As is widely known, one of Noam's characteristics is to believe in the good faith of people. Noam's overly trusting nature, in this specific case, led to serious errors of judgment on both our parts.

Questions have rightly been raised about Noam's meetings with Epstein, and about administrative assistance his office provided regarding a private financial matter—one that had absolutely no relation to any of Epstein's criminal conduct.

Noam and I were introduced to Epstein at the same time, during one of Noam's professional events in 2015, when Epstein's 2008 conviction in the State of Florida was known by very few people, while most of the public – including Noam and me – was unaware of it. That only changed after the November 2018 report by the Miami Herald.

When we were introduced to Epstein, he presented himself as a philanthropist supporting science and a financial expert. By presenting himself this way, Epstein gained Noam's attention, and they began corresponding. Unknowingly, we opened a door to a Trojan horse.

Epstein began to encircle Noam, sending gifts and creating opportunities for interesting discussions in areas Noam has been working on extensively. We regret that we did not perceive this as a strategy to ensnare us and to try to undermine the causes Noam stands for.

We had lunch once at Epstein's ranch, in connection with a professional event; we attended dinners at his townhouse in Manhattan and stayed a few times in an apartment he offered when we visited New York City. We also visited Epstein's Paris apartment one afternoon during a work trip. In all cases, these visits were related to Noam's professional commitments. We never went to his island or knew about anything that happened there.

We attended social meetings, lunches, and dinners where Epstein was present and academic matters were discussed. We never witnessed any inappropriate, criminal, or reproachable behavior from Epstein or others. At no time did we see children or underage individuals present.

Epstein proposed meetings between Noam and figures that Noam had an interest in, due to their different perspectives on themes related to Noam's work and thought. It was in this academic context that Noam wrote a letter of recommendation.

Noam's email to Epstein, in which Epstein sought advice about the press, should be read in context. Epstein had claimed to Noam that he [Epstein] was being unfairly persecuted, and Noam spoke from his own experience in political controversies with the media. Epstein created a manipulative narrative about his case, which Noam, in good faith, believed in. It is now clear that it was all orchestrated, with at least one of Epstein's intentions being to have someone like Noam help repair his reputation by association.

Noam's criticism was never directed at the women's movement; on the contrary, he has always supported gender equity and women's rights. What happened was that Epstein took advantage of Noam's public criticism of what came to be known as "cancel culture" to present himself as a victim of it.

Only after Epstein's second arrest in 2019 did we learn the full extent and gravity of what were then accusations—and are now confirmed as heinous crimes against women and children.

We were careless in not thoroughly researching his background. This was a grave mistake, and for that lapse in judgment, I apologize on behalf of both of us. Noam shared with me, before his stroke, that he felt the same way.

In 2023, Noam's initial public response to inquiries about Epstein failed to adequately acknowledge the gravity of Epstein's crimes and the enduring pain of his victims, primarily because Noam assumed it was obvious that he condemned such crimes. However, a firm and explicit stance on such matters is always required.

It was deeply disturbing for both of us to realize we had engaged with someone who presented as a helpful friend but led a hidden life of criminal, inhumane, and perverted acts.

Since the revelation of the extent of his crimes, we have been shocked.

To explain the nature of the check that was sent to us from Epstein's office, Epstein asked Noam to develop a linguistic challenge that Epstein wished to establish as a regular prize. Noam worked on it, and Epstein sent a check for \$20,000 as payment. Epstein's office contacted me to arrange for the check to be sent to our home address.

Regarding the reported transfer of approximately \$270,000, I must clarify that these were entirely Noam's own funds. At the time, Noam had identified inconsistencies in his retirement resources that threatened his economic independence and caused him great distress. Epstein offered technical assistance to resolve this specific situation. On this matter, Epstein acted accordingly, recovering the funds for Noam, in a display of help and very likely as part of a machination to gain greater access to Noam. Epstein acted solely as a financial advisor for this specific matter. To the best of my knowledge, Epstein never had access to our bank or investment accounts.

It is also important to clarify that Noam and I never had any investments with Epstein or his office—individually or as a couple.

I hope this retrospective clarifies and explains Noam Chomsky's interactions with Epstein.

Noam and I recognize the gravity of Jeffrey Epstein's crimes and the profound suffering of his victims. Nothing in this statement is intended to minimize that suffering, and we express our unrestricted solidarity with the victims.

February 7, 2026.

Valéria Chomsky