

**Statement on Behalf of Sarah Shabanowitz in Response to
Governor Cuomo and the Arrest of Will Sullivan**

[Ilann M. Maazel](#), Emery Celli Brinckerhoff & Abady

We represent Sarah Shabanowitz. Sarah was a recent [victim of anti-Semitic abuse](#) while working at Mother Earth's Storehouse in Kingston.

Sarah would like to thank the New York State Police and the Ulster County District Attorney for their prompt action, and for taking hate crimes seriously. Sarah also thanks Governor Cuomo for [coming to Ulster County](#) and for his leadership in fighting anti-Semitism and other forms of hate.

But this is not about one employee. It is also about [Mother Earth's Storehouse](#), who reacted to Sarah's complaint by [blaming her and silencing her](#).

As Sarah has reported, Mother Earth's store manager told Sarah: Will "was just making a joke," and also said "There have been times when I've said stuff like that." Mother Earth's co-owner Chris Schneider told Sarah: "My friends have called me worse." Finally, the store manager told Sarah: "You're not allowed to talk to anybody. If you tell anybody else about this, I'm going to immediately terminate you."

Mother Earth is wrong. Telling someone "we're going to put you in the gas chamber" is not a joke. Calling someone a "fucking Jew" is not a joke. Hate is not funny. And silencing a hate crime victim is not right.

We ask the State Police and the Ulster District Attorney to do a broader investigation of anti-Semitism and retaliation at Mother Earth.

If you have information about any anti-Semitic, racial, sexual, or other harassment or misconduct at Mother Earth, please contact Emery Celli paralegal Nathan File at:

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