BAWAR Call to Action:



Please urge the Commonwealth Club of California to hold Whole Foods CEO John Mackey accountable and cancel his appearance. Call 415-597–6700, email CEO Gloria Duffy, gduffy@commonwealthclub.org, or tweet at @cwclub



















Mackey is set to appear at the Cubberley Theatre in Palo Alto on May 1, in conversation with Dr. Dean Ornish.

The New York Times reported Mackey's association with spiritual leader Marc Gafni, a former rabbi accused of sexual abuse. The Times reported Gafni describing one of his accusers: "She was 14 going on 35, and I never forced her."

The Times also reported:

"A co-founder of Whole Foods, John Mackey, a proponent of conscious capitalism, calls Mr. Gafni 'a bold visionary.' He is a chairman of the executive board of Mr. Gafni's center, and he hosts board meetings at his Texas ranch."

The NY Daily News reported Gafni denying allegations. He stated his two underage accusers in the 1980s, then **13 and 16**, were willing partners.

More than 100 rabbis and Jewish leaders undersigned a petition to Whole Foods, citing "many, repeated and serious allegations, both public and private, former and recent, against Marc (Mordechai) Gafni."

The Washington Post reported on protests at Whole Foods stores in NYC and Los Angeles in May 2016.

A Whole Foods statement says Mackey is no longer on the board of Gafni's nonprofit.

Mackey issued a statement of loyalty to Gafni in June 2016, reported by the Forward.

An open letter from 130 advocates, including leaders from the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence (NAESV) and Faculty Against Rape (FAR), have called for "sexual violence accountability," urging Mackey to disavow Gafni.

