a. ORA seeks to eliminate abuse from the Jewish divorce process through advocacy, early-intervention initiatives, and educational programs for abuse prevention. ORA empowers women who are denied a _get_ (bill of Jewish divorce) to free themselves from the shackles of abusive marriages. These women, otherwise known as _agunot_ (singular: _agunah_), are controlled by their ex-husbands with seemingly no recourse but to give in to extortion in exchange for their freedom. ORA advocates for these women to ensure that a _get_ is issued unconditionally and in a timely fashion, and, to date, we have secured the freedom of over 340 women. Furthermore, ORA creates social change for Jewish women and girls by reframing _get-refusal_ as a form of domestic abuse and implementing educational initiatives to prevent the _agunah_ crisis going forward.

b. Keshet Starr, Esq., is the CEO of the Organization for the Resolution of Agunot (ORA), a nonprofit organization addressing the _agunah_ (Jewish divorce refusal) crisis on a case-by-case basis worldwide. At ORA, Keshet oversees advocacy and early intervention initiatives designed to assist individuals seeking a Jewish divorce, along with prevention initiatives to eliminate abuse from the Jewish divorce process. Keshet has written for outlets such as the Times of Israel, The Forward and Haaretz, and frequently presents on issues related to Jewish divorce, domestic abuse, and the intersection between civil and religious divorce processes. Keshet has also authored academic work focused on _get_ refusal and domestic abuse. A graduate of the University of Michigan and the University of Pennsylvania Law School, Keshet lives in central New Jersey with her husband and three young children.

c. ORA was founded in 2002 by a group of undergraduate students at Yeshiva University. ORA received its 501(c)(3) status in 2002, hired its first full time employee in 2006, and slowly increased its staffing over time. Currently, ORA employs 7 full time staff members in addition to a rabbinic intern. After informally conducting educational programs beginning in 2008, ORA formalized its Agunah Prevention Initiative in 2011 to bring its educational programs to students and communities throughout the United States. In 2015, ORA launched _One Step Forward_, a Jewish divorce helpline providing support, guidance, and referrals to men and women navigating the early stages of the Jewish divorce process.

To date, ORA has resolved 341 cases of _get-refusal_, educated more than 22,000 students and community members, and fielded thousands of calls from men and women for help. With an average caseload of 70 _agunot_ and more than 1,000 calls for help fielded annually, ORA’s team hopes to expand in the coming years to accommodate the growing needs of our community. Having left our previous office space at Yeshiva University this past summer, we plan to secure a more professional long-term office space in 2021. In the next several years, we hope to expand ORA’s team to include more case advocates, additional education and development staff, as well as to increase the services offered by our Jewish divorce helpline. ORA also hopes to add robust employee benefits packages such as health coverage and retirement savings plans within the next 3-5 years.