Satchidananda Ashram
Yogaville

June 30, 2026
Hari OM! Greetings of Peace.

We are writing to share important news in the spirit of openness, accountability, and care. A legal matter involving allegations related to Swami Satchidananda has been resolved through settlement.

We want to reach out to you directly because we recognize that this issue has been very difficult for everyone in our organizations - our IYI's, IYC's, teachers, students, leaders, local communities and global sangha. We acknowledge the weight that you have been carrying - your own questions, sadness, and uncertainty - while continuing to support others who have come to you for guidance. We are deeply grateful for your resilience and your continued service.

We recognize that the lack of timely and ongoing communication may have left many of you feeling unsupported. For this we are sincerely sorry. While we were working to understand the situation and later were limited by legal constraints, we now see that more consistent communication would have better served our community. We are committed to doing better going forward.

We also want to acknowledge the courage it took for the plaintiffs, Sharon `Shanti` Norris and Susan Cohen, to come forward. We recognize the pain and difficulty they endured throughout this process. Situations involving disparities of power - including between teacher and student - can cause harm, and that such relationships are inherently inappropriate.

We are committed to holding this truth, and strictly enforcing our guidelines and code of conduct, as we continue to learn and grow as an organization. Although we have a confidentiality agreement within our settlement, we are permitted to share a Joint Statement agreed upon by all parties. It is required that this Joint Statement be shared in full whenever it is presented.

> ***"The parties acknowledge that sexual activities took place between teacher and student. The parties acknowledge that those activities were inappropriate but did not involve physical force or physical coercion. The parties acknowledge the organizations did not know about plaintiffs sexual experiences during their time as devotees. Swami Satchidananda is a source of spiritual teaching and inspiration for many within the organizations. This joint statement shall not be presented, posted or disseminated in any way other than in its entirety."***

It is necessary that the organizations and the plaintiffs, adhere to the settlement agreement and are, therefore, required to keep confidentiality as to any matters pertaining to the lawsuit. This Joint Statement reflects the agreement reached with goodwill from all parties. We understand that it may evoke a range of emotions. We encourage each member of our sangha to honor their own feelings, respect the feelings of others, and pray for a positive path forward as we process this moment together.

This also is a moment for renewal. We are committed to moving forward with stronger communication, and a deepened commitment to ethical integrity and accountability.

We are dedicated to fostering a safe and supportive spiritual community where all feel respected and heard.

The Integral Yoga teachings of Sri Swami Satchidananda have brought meaning and
transformation to our own lives and have been a force for good in today's world. As we enter this next chapter, we do so with humility, clarity, and a shared intention to embody our highest values - bringing greater Love and Light, Peace and Joy, to one and all.

Om Shanti.

Joseph Jeeva Abbate
Chair
SAYVA Board of Trustees