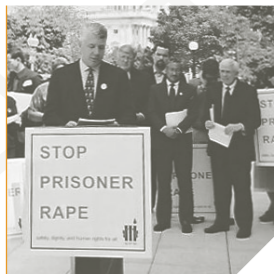


# ON THE ROAD TO JUSTICE

## 10 YEARS OF THE PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT

### SEPTEMBER 2002

After years of pressure from JDI and other advocates, the Prison Rape Reduction Act, a bipartisan bill to end sexual abuse behind bars, is introduced in Congress.



### JUNE 2003

At a pivotal Congressional briefing organized by JDI, a group of prisoner rape survivors gather in Washington, D.C., to tell their stories of abuse and urge lawmakers to pass the bill.

### JULY 2003

The bill, now called the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), passes Congress unanimously.

### SEPTEMBER 4, 2003

At a ceremony in the Oval Office, attended by former JDI President and prisoner rape survivor Tom Cahill (right), President George W. Bush signs PREA into law.

The first federal civil law to address sexual abuse behind bars, PREA affirms that such abuse constitutes a crisis, and that government officials have a responsibility to stop it. The groundbreaking law mandates nationwide inmate surveys, federal funding to help make facilities safer, and binding national standards.



### JUNE 2005

JDI staff and prisoner rape survivors, including the late Bryson Martel (above), testify at the National Prison Rape Elimination Commission's first public hearing.



### OCTOBER 2005

In an unprecedented JDI initiative, two California state prisons agree to allow rape crisis centers to provide confidential counseling on site for incarcerated survivors.

### DECEMBER 2007

The Bureau of Justice Statistics releases its first nationwide survey of inmates, clearly showing that sexual abuse is widespread in U.S. prisons.

### JUNE 2009

The National Prison Rape Elimination Commission's draft national standards, which draw heavily on the expertise of JDI and survivors, are submitted to the Department of Justice.



### JANUARY – MARCH 2010

Editorials in the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times* urge Attorney General Eric Holder to finalize the standards; JDI publishes the first of a series of articles on prisoner rape in *The New York Review of Books*.

Misinformed and flippant attitudes about prisoner rape are a key barrier to addressing this violence. Since PREA's passage, a series of myth-busting government studies has led to a profound shift in the debate. This research proves that sexual abuse behind bars is rampant, and that it is absolutely preventable. Survivors are also changing public opinion by telling the truth about what really happens behind bars.

### APRIL 2011

JDI and hundreds of other organizations, as well as dozens of prisoners, submit public comments in response to the Department of Justice's draft standards, released in February 2011.



### MAY 2012

The Department of Justice — finally — issues its national PREA standards to end sexual abuse in prisons, jails, youth detention facilities, police lockups, and community corrections.

The final standards are a testament to the efforts of a JDI-led coalition of advocates and survivors, who pressured the Department of Justice to fix its unacceptably weak draft from 2011. Advocates scored another victory when President Barack Obama, on the day of the PREA standards' release, issued a memorandum stating that all federal agencies with confinement facilities were bound by PREA. The President's landmark memo confirms the government's absolute duty to protect all people in its custody.

### AUGUST 2013

The national standards become binding on state and local agencies, prompting the first-ever round of independent PREA audits of U.S. detention facilities.