



In Danger: Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Survivors Behind Bars

October 29, 2014
11am - 12:30pm (Pacific)



Today's Moderator



Kamilah Willingham
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Mission and Core Goals

JDI is a health and human rights organization that seeks to end sexual violence in all forms of detention.

Core goals:

1. To hold government officials accountable
2. To change public attitudes about sexual violence behind bars
3. To ensure survivors get the help they need



Special Thanks

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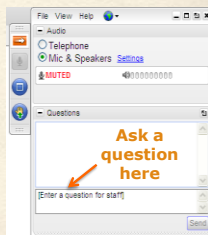


The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this webinar are those of the presenters and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.



Webinar Logistics

- Use the **question box** to submit questions or comments
- An archive of this webinar will be emailed to you in the next few days
- It will also be posted on the JDI website:
www.justdetention.org/advocate-resources



Webinar Agenda

- I. Bryson's Story
- II. Terms, Definitions, and Prevalence
- III. The Culture of Homophobia Behind Bars
- IV. Dynamics
- V. Helping LGB Prisoners
- VI. Questions and Answers

Bryson's Story



What are you hoping to learn from today's webinar?

Submit your answers in the questions box.



An Overview



Linda McFarlane
Deputy Executive Director
Just Detention International



Terms and Definitions

- Sexual orientation
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual
- Homophobia
- Heterosexism
- Queer
- Gender identity
- Gender non-conforming

Sexual Abuse of LGB Inmates



Sexual Abuse of LGB Inmates



Sexual Abuse of LGBT Inmates

“I am a 22 year old gay male. I have been raped twice in the last three years and sexually harassed for the past year and a half.”

— James, a survivor in a Florida prison



Sexual Abuse of LGBT Inmates



LESBIAN AND BISEXUAL WOMEN ARE
2X MORE LIKELY
TO BE SEXUALLY ABUSED BY STAFF
THAN THEIR HETEROSEXUAL PEERS

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Sexual Victimization in Prisons And Jails Reported By Inmates, 2011-12, May 2013. © Just Detention International



Sexual Abuse of LGBT Inmates

“Because I am bisexual he was constantly accusing me of having a relationship with other inmates.”

— Alisha, a 23-year-old survivor in a Kentucky prison



Sexual Abuse of LGB Inmates



IN JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITIES,
NON-HETEROSEXUAL YOUTH ARE
7X MORE LIKELY
TO BE SEXUALLY ABUSED BY OTHER
RESIDENTS THAN STRAIGHT YOUTH

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Sexual Victimization in Juvenile Facilities Reported by Youth, 2012, (2013). © Just Detention International



Sexual Abuse of LGB Inmates



"I didn't know my sexual orientation, but I knew that I was different. Soon after entering juvenile hall, one boy forced me to have oral sex with him in the shower area. He claimed that he would protect me from others, but he didn't."

— Troy Isaac, JDI Survivor Council member



The Culture of Homophobia



Boa Smith
Program Assistant
Just Detention International



Homophobia in Our Communities



Photo by Harry Galpin



<http://bullying.blogspot.com/>



Homophobia in Pop Culture



SpongeBob Squarepants (TV show)



Homophobic Myths

What are some myths about LGB people in prison?

Submit your answers in the questions box.



The Reality

- LGB people face barriers to reporting sexual abuse
- Gay men express their identity in different ways
- Gay and bisexual men have the right to say no
- Bisexuals often have monogamous relationships
- There is nothing innately predatory about masculine-presenting woman
- Women can rape other women



The Culture of Homophobia Behind Bars

"I often hear that homosexuals just love being in jail, and that it is akin to a kid in a candy store." — Rodney



NO HOMOSEXUAL ACTIVITY
ALLOWED HERE!!!



Posters found in a prison

The Culture of Homophobia Behind Bars

Homophobia behind bars includes:

- Forced gender roles
- Sexual violence
- Punishment for consensual sex



LGB Prison Lingo

Lesbians

- Femme
- Girly Girl
- Wifey
- Boyfriend
- Butch
- Stud
- Dude

Gay Men

- Fag
- Punk Bitch
- Faghag
- Wife
- Girlfriend
- Homo fairy
- She/Her

Bisexual Men and Women

- Flip Flop
- Switch Hitter
- Greedy
- Swing Both ways



LGB Prison Lingo

- Gay for the stay
- Turned-up
- Turn-out
- Homosecting



Poster found in a prison

Dynamics

- Sexual harassment
- Abuse of authority
 - Abusive searches
 - Staff/inmate relationships



Source: Richard Ross, *Juvenile in Justice*

Dynamics (cont.)

- Protective pairing
- Prostitution
- Gang abuse



Source: Prison Fellowship International

How can you help an LGB survivor behind bars?



Desiree Magsombol
Program Officer
Just Detention International

Considerations for Working with LGB Inmates

- Avoid assumptions
- Acknowledge heterosexism and resiliency
- Understand common dynamics
- Demonstrate respect and sensitivity
- Use professional language
- Partner with LGB support organizations:
 - www.ncavp.org/AVPs/default.aspx

Common Survivor Requests

1. Emotional support
2. Institutional advocacy
 - Writing grievances
 - Housing and classification changes
 - Challenging a disciplinary action
3. Legal assistance
 - Legal representation
 - Pro se representation

Scenario 1: Rodney



"I still have nightmares and have trouble sleeping. I have been suicidal and have had bouts of mental extremes. My self-worth and self-esteem has been nonexistent."

Scenario 1: How to Help

- Validate his experience and feelings
- Check in about emergency response
- Inform him of his rights
- Discuss possible coping skills
- Brainstorm informal support and self-help

Scenario 2: Maribel



"After this, I can't shake that ugly feeling. I do want her to be held accountable. So I want you to know that I'm going through with it.

So where do I go from now?"

Scenario 2: How to Help

- Provide her emotional support
- Discuss information about her rights
 - PREA Standards
 - Administrative grievance process
- Share resources and referrals

Advocacy Resources

- Black & Pink: www.blackandpink.org
- State PREA Coordinators: www.wcl.american.edu/endsilence/agencyprea.cfm
- State & Federal Oversight: www.justdetention.org/en/resourceguides.aspx
- Center for Constitutional Rights: www.ccrjustice.org/contacting-center-constitutional-rights

You Can Make a Difference

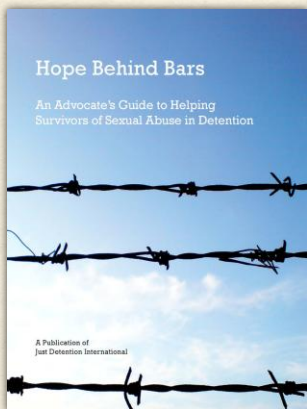


"If it was not for all of you at JDI, I would not be alive today to write this letter. The support I receive from you helps me stay focused and strong."

— Clayton, a survivor in a Texas prison







Advocate Resources

- Advocates Manual

- SART Toolkit
- Archival Webinars
- Technical Resources
- Request Form
- PREA Resource

Advocate Resources:
www.justdetention.org/advocate-resources

Center:
prearesourcecenter.org



Resource Guide for Survivors

Add your agency to
JDI's **Resource
Guide for Survivors
of Sexual Abuse
Behind Bars:**

bit.ly/VDap7i



Thank you for joining us today!

Please complete a brief evaluation of today's webinar. Your feedback is very important to us. Here is a link to the evaluation (we will also email it to you shortly):

www.justdetention.org/en/in-danger-evaluation.aspx

Please also forward it to anyone else who may have joined you.

THANK YOU!




For More Information

For additional information, please visit JDI's Advocate Resource page: www.justdetention.org/advocate-resources

Direct questions to: advocate@justdetention.org

For more information about **Just Detention International**, visit www.justdetention.org.

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