



Not Alone: How to Help Transgender Survivors in Detention (Part 1)

November 19, 2014
11am – 12:30pm (Pacific)

Today's Moderator



Carolina Aparicio
Program Officer
Just Detention International



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

This project is supported by Grant No. 2011-TA-AX-K030, awarded by the **Office on Violence Against Women**, U.S. Department of Justice

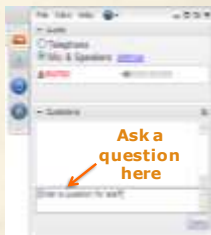


The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this webinar are those of the presenters and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.



Webinar Logistics

- Self-care
- Questions and comments
- Archived recording
- Resources



Webinar Agenda

- I. Trans Basics
- II. Transgender People Behind Bars
- III. Kerri's Story
- IV. Helping Transgender Survivors



Natalie, a transgender woman who was sexually abused behind bars

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

Submit your answers in the questions box.



Trans* Basics Overview



michael munson
Executive Director
FORGE



We've come a long way...



Christine Jorgensen



Janet Mock



We've come a long way...



We've come a long way...

**"NO ONE'S
identity is a
disorder."**



Lin Fraser
(WPATH President 2011-2014)

© Transgender Health Summit, 2012

Who are we talking about?







Terms Paradox: Definition

Terms are CRUCIAL **AND** **Terms are MEANINGLESS**

Finding out what terms the person uses and then using their language is a primary way of conveying respect and openness.

Terms tell you none of what you need to know to provide appropriate services.

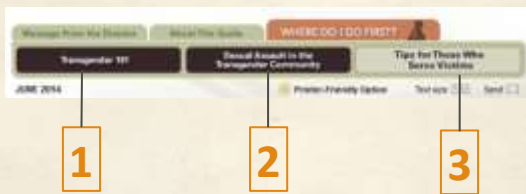


Online Toolkit



Available at
www.ovc.gov/pubs/forge/

Toolkit Sections



Available at www.ovc.gov/pubs/forge/





Gender Identity

- An individual's internal sense of being male, female, something in between, or any other gender (not necessarily visible to others).



➤ Everyone has a gender identity!

- There are hundreds of gender identities



Gender Expression

- Gender expression is how a person expresses their gender through clothing, grooming, speech, hair style, body language, social interactions, and other behaviors.
- **We ALL make choices about how much effort we put forth to follow these societal norms**



Clarity: Trans-feminine



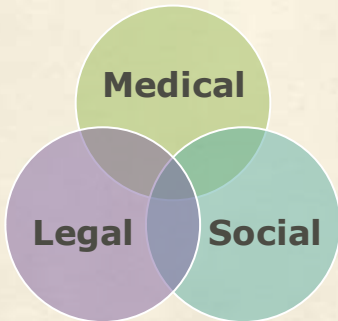
Clarity: Trans-masculine



Clarity: Non-binary or Agender



Three Common Areas of Choice



“Non-choices”



Language: “I don’t get it!”

- “Just tell me what language to use”
- Reality: There isn’t a list of “right” or “wrong” language or behaviors



“How do I get it right?”



www.forge-forward.org



Webinars

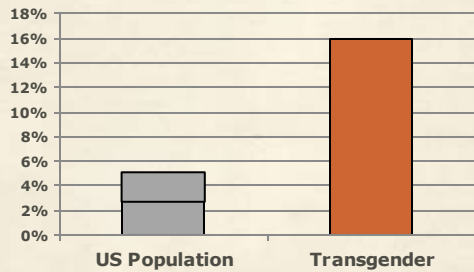




Sexual Abuse of Transgender People Behind Bars



Rates of Incarceration



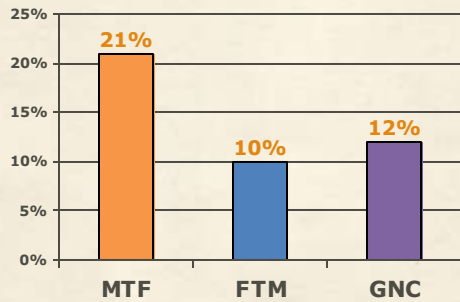
Why are trans people incarcerated at higher rates?

- Bullying
- Dropping out of school
- Childhood abuse/neglect
- Family or community rejection
- Employment discrimination
- Widespread harassment and discrimination
- Underground economy



Cecce McDonald, a transgender woman who was sentenced to 41 months in prison for defending herself from a hate crime. Photo by Leslie Feinberg

Detention Rates



Discrimination and Abuse of Trans People in Custody

- Gender-segregated arrest procedures
- Denied access to hormones and other trans-specific healthcare
- Increased sexual violence, harassment, and abuse



Cyryna, a transgender woman who was sexually harassed and assaulted by other residents in a juvenile detention facility

“

The prison personnel seemed obsessed with making me a man. They denied me a razor so I could have a “manly” beard. They beleaguered me with gender and sexual slurs, and chanted “mister” at me. They constantly told me that I have a penis, while calling me John.”

— Sarah, a transsexual woman who survived rape in prison

”



Sexual Abuse of Transgender Inmates



of transgender women in California state prisons reported sexual abuse compared to 4% of non-transgender men

Source: Dennis, Patrick, Chantal Mazon, Brady Martelly, and Jennifer Seltzer. "Violence in California Correctional Facilities: An Empirical Examination of Sexual Assault." 2007. In: Just Detention International.

Dynamics

- Demeaning language
- Sexual harassment
- Abusive or inappropriate searches
- Protective pairing
- Sexual assault
- Prostitution

“

As a bisexual transgender woman incarcerated in men’s prisons, I have always been extremely vulnerable to sexual assault. The sexual assaults took place in the showers, my cell, other inmate’s cells, a basement, a laundry room, and a grievance office. I reported very few of the attacks for fear of what would happen to me if I did.

”

— Tabitha

Kerri's Story



Kerri Cecil
Filmmaker, Activist, Survivor



Kerri's Story



Kerri's Story



Kerri's Story



Kerri's Story



Kerri's Story



How can you help?



Michael Munson

Executive Director



Linda McFarlane

Deputy Executive Director
Just Detention International



The Choices

- Gender Expression
- Hormones and medical care
- Names, pronouns, and language



Helping Survivors: Names and Pronouns

- Listen carefully
- Reflect what you hear
- Ask all survivors about their preferred name
- Ask about pronouns if you are unsure
- Remember that it may take time to trust
- Check where it is safe to use a chosen name and pronoun



Respect and Validate

- Believe that the survivor is the expert in their own experience
- Validate the survivor's identity
- Be consistent



Helping Survivors

- Make it clear that your services are for trans survivors
- Empower survivors to make their own choices
- Give clear information
- Ask survivors what they need

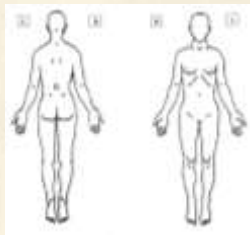


Survivor art, 2012



Helping Survivors

- Check in about language
- Follow the survivor's lead
- Consider all medical needs



Resources

Webinar:

[www.forgeforward.org
/event/forensic-exams/](http://www.forgeforward.org/event/forensic-exams/)

FORGE's SAFE Protocol:

Trans-specific annotation

<http://bit.ly/11h8o2S>



Sexuality (Trans Women)

- Be aware of myths about trans women and sexuality
- Understand that sexual relationships occur in prisons and jails
- Be careful about consent and assumptions



Barriers for Trans Men



- Safety
- Shame
- Stigma
- Others' assumptions
- Reporting



JDI's Advocate's Manual

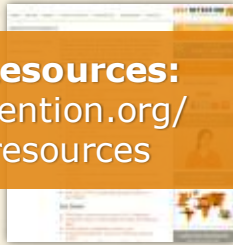


Advocate Resources

- Advocates Manual

Advocate Resources:
[www.justdetention.org/
advocate-resources](http://www.justdetention.org/advocate-resources)

- SART Toolkit
- Archived Webinars
- Technical Assistance
- Request a Resource
- PREA Resource 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



Upcoming Webinar

Not Alone: How to Help Transgender Survivors in Detention (Part 2)

When: Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Registration: bit.ly/1ooKRHM



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/not-alone-1-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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