

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

December 10, 2014
11am-12:30pm (Pacific)



Today's Moderator



Kamilah Willingham
Program Associate
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.

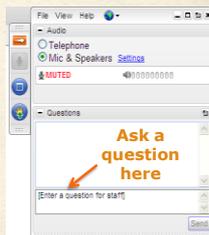


The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this webinar are those of the presenters and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.



Webinar Logistics

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



Webinar Agenda

- I. Zahara's Story
- II. PREA Protections for Transgender Inmates
- III. Advocate Voices: Jen Orthwein
- IV. Advocate Voices: Earline Budd
- V. Questions and Answers



Esmerelda, a transgender woman who was sexually abused in immigration detention

Zahara's Story



Zahara, 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.



PREA: Protections for Transgender Inmates



Carolina Aparicio
Program Officer
Just Detention International



Effective Communication

Under PREA, all facilities must:

1. Train staff to communicate with transgender people in a professional and respectful manner
2. Have zero tolerance for sexual harassment, which specifically prohibits:
 - demeaning references to gender
 - derogatory comments about body and clothing

1) PREA Standard 115.31(a)(9), and 2) PREA Standard 115.6(2)



Searches

1. Facility must not search or examine a transgender person to determine their genital status
2. Facility must train staff to search a transgender person in a professional and respectful manner



1) PREA Standard 115.15(e), and 2) PREA Standard 115.15(f)



Housing and Classification

1. Facility must conduct an intake screening to assess the inmate's risk of victimization. Facility must consider if the person:
 - Is transgender or gender non-conforming
 - Was previously sexually abused
 - Has concerns for his/her own safety

PREA Standard 115.41(d)(7-9)



Housing and Classification

2. Facility must not segregate inmates solely based on their gender identity
3. Facility must conduct an individualized assessment to determine housing and programming
4. Facility must reassess housing and programming twice a year
5. Facility must not involuntarily segregate inmates for their safety

2) PREA Standard 115.42(g), 3) §115.42(c), 4) §115.42(d), 5) §115.43(a)





Imagine living in a cell or cube about the size of an average bathroom with another inmate. Picture the middle of the night, when guards are pretty much sleeping, and your cellmate or mates have pulled the covers off...are pulling down your pajamas and underwear... and then pretty much having their way with you because there is nothing you can do about it. Or, there is something you do which is to seek indefinite protective segregation while the perpetrators walk free as a bird. Picture enduring that for 166,440 hours.

— Jamie, a trans inmate in a Michigan state prison



From the Field: Advocate Voices



Desiree Magsombol
Program Officer
Just Detention International



Corrections Agencies with Policies on Transgender Inmates

- Harris County (TX) Sheriff's Department
- Denver County (CO) Sheriff's Department
- Santa Clara County (CA) Juvenile Detention Facility
- Washington, DC, Metropolitan Police Department



Audience Poll

What kinds of policies or guidelines do you think are most important for any agency that wants to demonstrate respect for transgender survivors?

Submit your answers in the questions box.



Advocate Voices



Dr. Jennifer Orthwein, Esq.
Pro Bono Attorney
Transgender Law Center
Psychologist
Private practice



Common Clinical Concerns

- PTSD and hypervigilance
- Self-blame and understanding dynamics of sexual abuse
- Barriers around safety



Two transgender women inmates in a men's jail. © Axel Koester/Corbis

Common Legal Concerns

- Ensure clients want legal advocacy
- Help clients:
 - Make a report
 - Get safer housing
 - Obtain proper mental health services



Advocacy Tips

- Affirm and respect their gender identity and ask how they would like to be addressed
- Always show trust and respect
- Address their sense of safety
- State your role and limitations
- Focus on asking open-ended questions
- Educate yourself about prison culture and transgender people's experiences



Advocate Voices



Earline Budd
Transgender Liaison
District of Columbia
Department of Corrections
Treatment Adherence Specialist
Helping Individual People Survive
(HIPS)



Transgender Advisory Committee

- Every transgender inmate is offered chance to be housed by sex at birth or gender identity
- Committee includes:
 - Medical practitioner
 - Mental health clinician
 - Correctional supervisor
 - Chief case manager
 - Member of the transgender community or expert in transgender affairs

Professional Communication

- Respectful communication is commonsense and good corrections practice
- Urge staff to use preferred pronouns and names



Advocacy Tips

- Make sure you have a good understanding of what it means to be transgender
- Know your resources
- Collaborate with corrections and other trans advocates



Advocacy Resources

- **Black & Pink:** www.blackandpink.org
- **Transgender Law Center:** www.transgenderlawcenter.org
- **TGI Justice Project:** www.tgijp.org
- **Sylvia Rivera Law Project:** www.srlp.org
- **National Center for Lesbian Rights:** www.nclrights.org



You Can Make a Difference

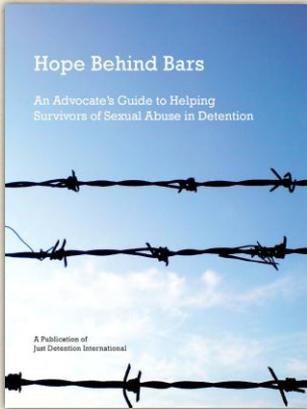


“I want you to know your thoughts are what helped me and continue to help me through this difficult time.”

— Ophelia, a transgender woman who was sexually abused in prison







Advocate Resources

- Advocates Manual

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

Center:
prearesourcecenter.org

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



Resource Guide for Survivors

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

bit.ly/VDap7i



Upcoming Webinar

What:
Working with survivors in rural facilities

Date:
Wednesday, January 28, 2014
11am-12:30pm (Pacific)

Registration information: TBA

Thank You!

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-2-
evaluation.aspx](http://www.justdetention.org/en/not-alone-2-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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