

Understanding the Realities of Incarcerated Transgender Men

nsvrc



Presenters



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Who are we taking about?

Transgender men represent a rich tapestry of identities and lived experiences. This workshop will review the challenges currently and formerly incarcerated trans men face and will include guidance on how advocates can get involved in increasing access to trauma-informed services for trans masculine people.

Poll: Which best describes you?

I have a *strong* understanding of trans men and their experiences.

I have *some* understanding of trans men and their experiences.

I have *little* understanding of trans men and their experiences.

I have *no* understanding of trans men and their experiences.





Discrimination-to-Incarceration Pipeline

Many transgender men experience:

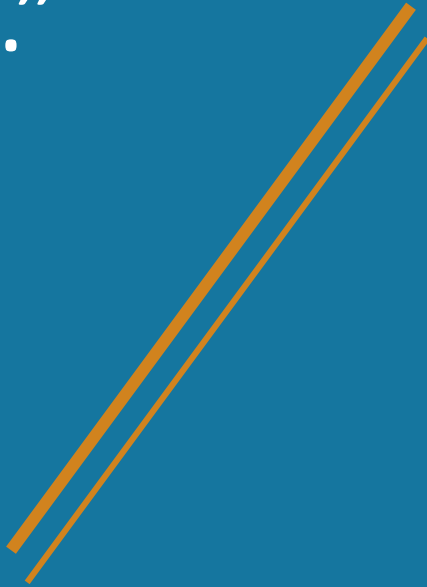
- A lack of family and social support
- Job and education discrimination
- Housing discrimination
- Health care discrimination
- Limited community resources
- Pervasive abuse and violence



Denial of Identity in Detention

- Lack awareness and understanding of trans masculine identities
- Lack of staff training
- Targeting of trans men as “troublemakers” leading to increased profiling and disciplinary sanctions
- Social and community isolation

“I feel like my existence is being erased and being shoved to the side.”

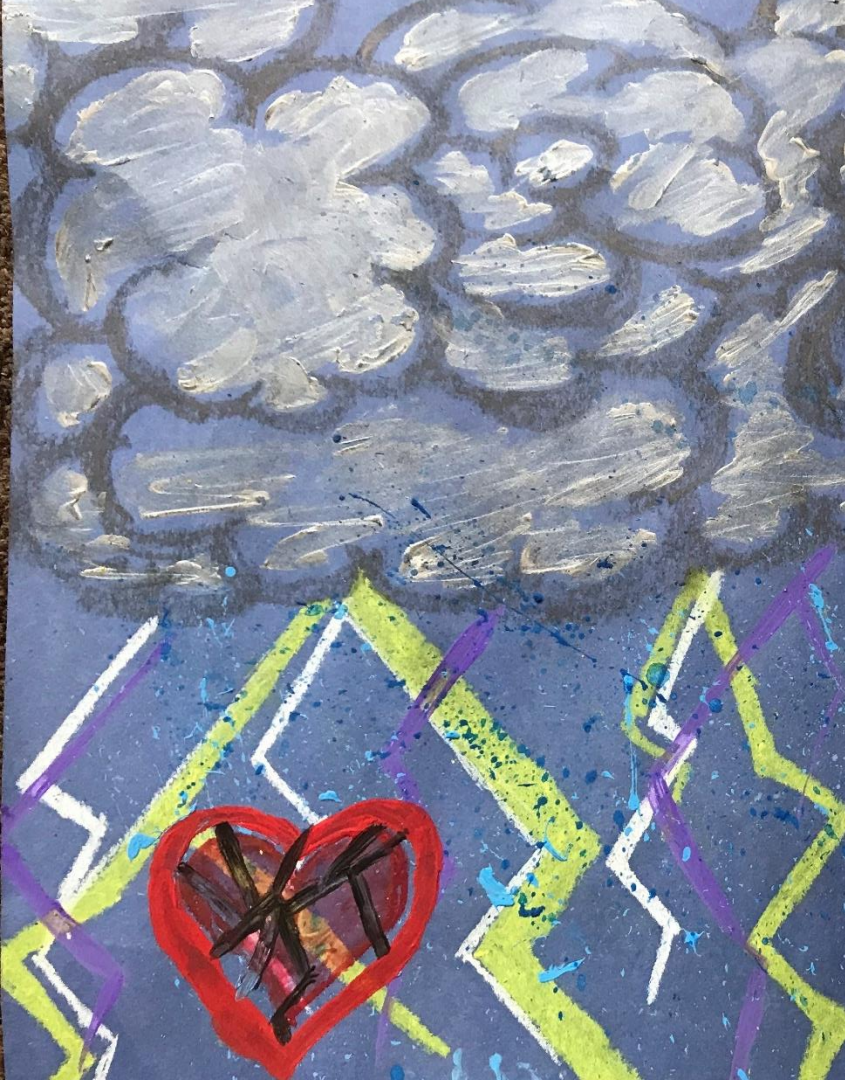


“Staff tell me all the time that they ‘don’t believe in that.’”



Limited Trans-Related Care in Detention

- Restricted access to information about transition-related care
- Difficulty accessing gender affirming clothing and property
- Limited information on name and gender marker changes
- Difficulty receiving hormone replacement therapy (HRT) and other trans-related medical care



Challenges During Reentry

- Post-incarceration housing often will not serve trans people.
- Identity documentation often does not match the person, making it difficult to find employment or apply for state resources.
- Medical care, including hormone replacement therapy (HRT), is often disrupted after release.

Photo: Anonymous Survivor Art via Just Detention International, Permission Granted to Reproduce



Violence and Abuse in Detention

- Repeated misgendering
- Sexual harassment by staff and other incarcerated individuals
- Abusive searches by staff
- High rates of sexual assault, including “corrective rape”

How might these challenges affect how someone may perceive and use your agency's services?



What Can Advocates Do?

- Stay engaged in learning about the experiences of transgender men.
- Collaborate with trans organizations.
- Ensure survivor services are applicable to men and trans masculine people, including in spaces and facilities designated for women.



**“We need someone
for us”**

**– incarcerated trans
man in response to
what would help**



Providing Trauma-Informed Services

- Avoid making assumptions based on appearance or voice.
- Always ask for a survivor's name and pronouns.
- Allow for additional time for building rapport.
- At forensic exams, be mindful of language about someone's body.



Discussing Confidentiality

- Identify who the survivor is out to.
- Discuss a plan for correcting others.
- Know how to address letters to the facility.
- Discuss individualized safety concerns.



Advocating on Behalf of a Survivor

- Recognize when a survivor's rights are being violated.
- Discuss options and possible outcomes of advocacy.
- Follow up with facility contact.
- Keep the survivor updated.



What other tips
might be useful
when working with
a trans masculine
survivor in
detention?



Working with Male Survivors of Sexual Violence



Training

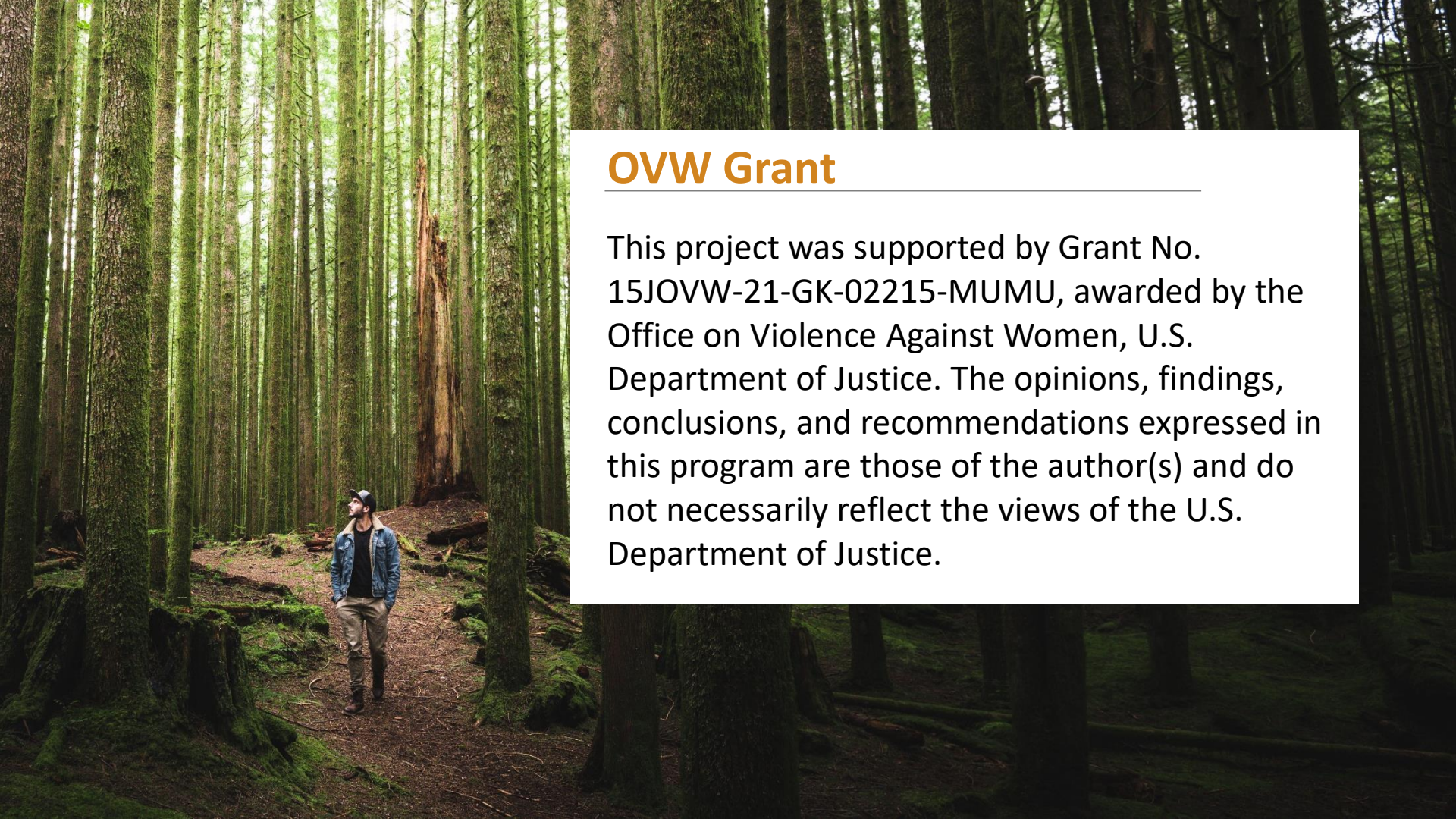
Training at your sexual assault program related to reaching and serving survivors who are men.

Support

Support in strategizing how to better reach and serve survivors who are men, including joining our online community of advocates supporting each other in this work.

Resources

Resources like podcasts, sample curricula for your staff, organization assessment tool, infographics, and more in our online toolkit.



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Thank you!

Contact us at:

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