# ENDING SILENCE

DEMANDING SAFETY FROM SEXUAL ABUSE



# I REPORTED

BV.

CALEB J. BESS REBECCA I. HEINSEN JAIME M. YARUSSI BRENDA V. SMITH

ILLUSTRATED BY: MICHAEL J. AUGER

# Ending Silence: Demanding Safety from Sexual Abuse © Copyright 2014 American University Washington College of Law

Illustrations © Copyright Michael J. Auger www.Arty4ever.com

This publication was developed as part of a project with the National PREA Resource Center and supported by Grant No. 2010-RP-BX-K001 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office for Victims of Crime, and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

All rights reserved. The Bureau of Justice Assistance retains a license to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use, and to allow others to use, this material for federal purposes. Otherwise, no part of this publication may be produced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, or any information storage or retrieval system, without permission in writing from the Project on Addressing Prison Rape.

Requests for permission to make copies of any part of this publication can be made to:

The Project on Addressing Prison Rape
American University Washington College of Law
4801 Massachusetts Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20016
202-274-4385
endsilence@wcl.american.edu

### **FOREWORD**

Since 1999, The Project on Addressing Prison Rape (Project) at American University, Washington College of Law has provided training to correctional decision makers, agencies, advocates, associations and individuals looking to end sexual abuse of individuals in custodial settings.

The Ending Silence: Demanding Safety from Sexual Abuse series is the product of work by many of these concerned and committed organizations and individuals. We thank them for their insights and honest comments about this publication.

The Ending Silence series includes two other graphic novels — one involving a heterosexual female in a prison and another involving a heterosexual male in custody. While there are several story lines and the novels might lend themselves to discussion with particular groups, they are useful for any group of inmates. Though not intended for this purpose, we have also learned that many jurisdictions are using these materials in training their staff as well.

I Reported is intended to assist inmates in identifying, addressing, and responding appropriately to incidents of sexual abuse by staff or other inmates as required by the Inmate Education Standard, § 115.33 of the National PREA Standards.

### CONTENTS

Ending Silence: I Reported	6-18
Appendix	
Glossary	19-20
Discussion Questions	21
Resources for Inmates	22

### INRODUCTION

I Reported is a graphic novel that depicts incidents of sexual abuse of a transgender female inmate reporting and subsequent recovery process. This story also includes an inappropriate cross gender strip search.

At the end of the graphic novel you will find: blank slides for inmates to fill in a suggested continuation for the story; a glossary of terms; discussion questions; resources for inmates; and note pages. While we understand that laws and policies differ by state, this publication can be used nationwide. To that end, we have generalized content and details of this novel. This novel is appropriate to use for adults in custodial settings.

Please contact us with comments about these novels, the usefulness of graphic novels as a tool for training inmates, and suggestions for other needed resources.

The Project on Addressing Prison Rape can be reached at: 202-274-4385 or endsilence@wcl.american.edu

# ENDING SILENCE

DEMANDING SAFETY FROM SEXUAL ABUSE

# I REPORTED

BY:

CALEB J. BESS PROGRAM COORDINATOR

REBECCA I. HEINSEN, J.D.
RESEARCH FELLOW

JAIME M. YARUSSI, M.S. ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

BRENDA V. SMITH PROFESSOR OF LAW DIRECTOR

ILLUSTRATED BY:

MICHAEL J. AUGER AUGER ARTWORK STUDIOS ARTY4EVER.COM

The Project on Addressing Prison Rape
American University Washington College of Law



















WHEN PEOPLE SEE MY BREASTS AND THE WAY I DRESS, THEY THINK I'M JUST TRYING TO GET ATTENTION OR THAT I'M SOME SORT OF DRAG QUEEN. BUT THIS IS THE **REAL** ME.

IN HERE - I HAVE TO CONSTANTLY WATCH MY BACK.







I STARTED DRESSING LIKE A WOMAN AND TAKING HORMONES. MY PARENTS DIDN'T UNDERSTAND AND COULDN'T HANDLE IT, SO THEY KICKED ME OUT.



AFTER THEY KICKED ME OUT I STARTED DANCING AT DONNIE'S ON PARK STREET. THE MONEY WAS FAST AND GOOD.



SOMETIMES I NEEDED MORE, AND THE TRUCKERS THERE PAID A LOT FOR DATES. OCCASIONALLY, I'D TAKE A GUY HOME FROM THE CLUB FOR MONEY. I DIDN'T DO IT ALL THE TIME. ONLY WHEN MONEY WAS TIGHT. I MET A GUY ONE NIGHT AT THE BAR WHO WANTED TO GO OUT. NOTHING SEEMED OUT OF THE ORDINARY, SO I TOLD HIM MY RATE.



HE TOLD ME TO MEET HIM IN THE BACK OF THE BAR IN 20 MINUTES, I CHANGED CLOTHES AND WAITED AT THE BACK DOOR.



ALL OF THE SUDDEN, A COP CAR SPED INTO THE ALLEY AND TWO MEN JUMPED OUT AND CUFFED ME.



THEY ARRESTED ME FOR PROSTITUTION AND FOR DRUG POSSESSION BECAUSE I WAS CARRYING A LITTLE WEED AND THAT'S HOW I ENDED UP IN THIS PLACE.



HONESTLY THOUGH, GETTING ARRESTED WAS THE LEAST OF MY PROBLEMS... I'M SENTENCING YOU TO TWO YEARS FOR PROSTITUTION AND POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED DANGEROUS SUBSTANCE, YOU WILL SERVE YOUR TWO YEARS IN THE GROVER HILLS FACILITY.

SIR, THAT'S A MEN'S PRISON. I KNOW I DON'T HAVE A LOT OF SAY HERE, BUT PLEASE LET ME DO MY TIME IN A WOMEN'S FACILITY.

KAYLA, YOU ARE A MAN.
YOU HAVE MALE GENITALIA.
WE'LL HAVE TO PUT YOU IN
WITH THE MEN.







UM, ALRIGHT, SIR...
SORRY MA'AM,
HOLD TIGHT,
I'M GOING TO
HAVE TO CALL
FOR BACK UP.













THEY LOOKED AT ME
LIKE I WAS SOME KIND
OF FREAK.
I FELT VIOLATED BY THE
SEARCH AND DISRESPECTED
BY THEIR ATTITUDE.
HAVING TWO OFFICERS
PUT THEIR HANDS ON ME
AT THE SAME TIME
WAS INVASIVE AND
DEGRADING.















I DON'T THINK THEY WERE PRESSURING ME. THEY WERE JUST TELLING ME WHAT THEY THOUGHT WOULD WORK, I DIDN'T WANT TO WHORE MYSELF OUT IN PRISON LIKE I DID ON THE STREET. BUT I COULDN'T AVOID THE TAUNTING AND HARASSMENT BY THE OTHER INMATES ...

WALKING TO THE SHOWERS WAS THE WORST. MEN WOULD ALWAYS CAT-CALL ME AND REACH FOR ME TO TRY TO TOUCH ME.



AND THEN ONE DAY, WHEN THE COS WEREN'T WATCHING, ONE OF THE INMATES RAPED ME. AFTERWARDS, I FELT LIKE NOTHING.



I WASN'T SURE IF I'D BE ABLE TO MAKE IT IN THIS PLACE, I EVEN CONSIDERED TAKING MYSELF OUT-SUICIDE, YOU KNOW.

AFTER THAT... I JUST LET THE OTHER MEN USE ME. SOMETIMES I GOT THINGS FOR IT - PROTECTION, FOOD, SMOKES...



I DIDN'T THINK ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES UNTIL I MET WITH THE PRISON DOCTOR, DR. MOORE...



I'M REALLY WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANY OF THESE
INFECTIONS WHEN YOU CAME IN
AND YOU ARE GOING TO LEAVE THIS
PLACE WITH ILLNESSES THAT,
IF NOT TAKEN CARE OF, COULD
BE FATAL.



THE SAD THING WAS THAT WHEN DR. MOORE
TOLD ME THAT I HAD HIV, I DIDN'T EVEN CARE.
I WASN'T SURPRISED. I ALREADY FELT AS IF
I WERE DEAD ANYWAY.



I WANTED TO SAY, "YES, THE MEN HERE HAVE BEEN ABUSING ME." BUT I DIDN'T. I FELT LIKE I DESERVED IT. I WAS ALSO SCARED. IF THE MEN FOUND OUT THAT I TOLD, THINGS WOULD GET WORSE. SO I SAID...



WELL, KAYLA, I KNOW THAT COMING FORWARD CAN BE HARD, SO IF YOU EVER NEED TO FILE A COMPLAINT, OR A REPORT PLEASE LET ME KNOW.



IN THE MEANTIME, I WILL REFER YOU TO SOMEONE WHO MEETS WITH INMATES FROM THE COMMUNITY CRISIS CENTER IN CASE YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT YOUR NEW DIAGNOSIS, OR ANYTHING ELSE HAPPENING TO YOU.

ALRIGHT, DR. MOORE, I WILL.

ALRIGHT, KAYLA, PLEASE CHECK IN WITH THE NURSE BEFORE YOU LEAVE SO THAT YOU CAN PICK UP YOUR MEDS.



I THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT DR. MOORE SAID, BUT DIDN'T THINK THAT FILING A REPORT WOULD EVER SOLVE MY PROBLEMS.

















AFTER YOU MAKE THE REPORT
I WILL TALK TO THE FACILITY PREA
COORDINATOR WHO WILL BEGIN AN
INVESTIGATION. THEY MAY PUT YOU
IN PROTECTIVE CUSTODY OR MOVE
YOUR CELL. THEY WILL INTERVIEW
YOU AS WELL AS YOUR ABUSERS AND
ANY STAFF WHO MAY HAVE KNOWN.



THEY WILL ALSO OFFER YOU MEDICAL
AND MENTAL HEALTH INTERVENTIONS,
BUT BASED ON YOUR CONTACT WITH
DR. MOORE AND MYSELF-YOU MAY NOT
NEED ANYTHING ADDITIONALTHAT WILL BE UP TO YOU.
I'D BE HAPPY TO HELP
YOU MAKE A REPORT
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU
WANT TO DO.











THEY WILL KEEP THINGS AS ANONYMOUS AS THEY CAN.
THERE'S A SMALL CHANCE OF RETALIATION FROM OTHER INMATES, BUT THE INVESTIGATORS HERE DO A GREAT JOB OF KEEPING THINGS QUIET UNTIL THEY HAVE TO REVEAL IT. I'LL ALSO MAKE SURE THAT THE COS LOOK OUT FOR YOU.









PREA IS THE PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT. IT'S A FEDERAL LAW THAT TRIES TO END SEXUAL ABUSE IN CUSTODY. IT ALSO MAKES CORRECTIONS OFFICERS, AND THIS FACILITY ACCOUNTABLE WHEN THEY DO NOT REPORT SEXUAL ABUSE, AND DO NOT PROPERLY PROTECT RESIDENTS FROM IT.







WHEN YOU REPORT INCIDENTS LIKE THE ONES THAT HAPPENED TO YOU, THE FACILITY SHOULD CARRY OUT AN INVESTIGATION, MAKE A FINDING, PUNISH THOSE INVOLVED, AND MAKE SURE THAT THIS DOESN'T HAPPEN AGAIN.



I'LL ALWAYS BE GRATEFUL TO DR. MOORE AND MS. JONES. A MONTH AFTER I FILED THE COMPLAINT, MY ABUSERS WERE MOVED TO ANOTHER FACILITY AND CRIMINALLY PROSECUTED FOR WHAT THEY DID TO ME. I'M STILL RECOVERING FROM THE INCIDENT. IT WILL TAKE A REALLY LONG TIME FOR ME TO FEEL GOOD ABOUT MYSELF AGAIN. I'M STILL SEEING MS. JONES AND EACH WEEK.

IT FEELS LIKE THINGS ARE GETTING BETTER. THE COS ARE EVEN STARTING TO TREAT ME WITH MORE RESPECT. THEY LISTEN NOW WHEN I SAY THAT I PREFER FEMALE OFFICERS TO SEARCH ME.

I AM GLAD I REPORTED.



# FINISH THE STORY ...

### **GLOSSARY**

Definitions in this glossary are adapted from both the Bureau of Justice Statistics data collection survey instrument and the final PREA Standards issued by the U.S. Department of Justice on May 17, 2012.

Abusive sexual contact: Contact with any person without his or her consent; contact with a person who is unable to consent or refuse; and intentional touching, either directly or through the clothing, of the penis, vagina, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks of any person

Custody: When a person is under the power and control of an entity – the police, the juvenile justice system, the prison system or person – and is not free to leave

Carnal knowledge: Contact between the penis and the vagina or the penis and the anus including penetration of any sort

Gender expression: A person's expression of his/or gender identity, including appearance, dress, mannerisms, speech, and social interactions

Gender identity: Distinct from sexual orientation and refers to a person's internal, deeply felt sense of being male or female

Gender non-conforming: Gender characteristics and/or behaviors that do not conform to those typically associated with a person's biological sex

Homosexuality: Sexual, emotional, and/or romantic attraction to a person of the same sex

Non-Consensual Sexual Acts: Contact with any person without his or her consent, or with a person who is unable to consent or refuse; contact between the penis and the vagina or the penis and the anus including penetration, however slight; contact between the mouth and the penis, vagina, or anus; or penetration of the anal or genital opening of another person by a hand, finger, or other object

Oral Sex: Contact between the mouth and the penis, the mouth and the vagina or the mouth and the anus

Questioning: Active process in which a person explores her or his own sexual orientation and/or gender identity and questions the cultural assumptions that they are heterosexual and/or gender conforming

### GLOSSARY (CONT'D)

Rape: Includes all of the following actions: oral sodomy, sexual assault with an object, or sexual fondling of a person forcibly or against that person's will; forcibly or against that person's will where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of youth, temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity; achieved through exploitation of the fear or threat of physical violence or bodily injury

Sexual Acts: Carnal knowledge, oral sex, anal sex, rape, sexual assault with an object, sexual fondling

Sexual Assault with an Object: The use of any hand, finger, object, or other instrument to penetrate, however slightly, the genital or anal opening of the body of another person.

Sexual Fondling: The touching of the private body parts of another person, including the penis, vagina, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks, for the purpose of sexual gratification

Sexual Orientation: Romantic and/or physical attraction to members of the same or different sex

Sodomy: Anal sex with a member of the same or opposite sex

Staff sexual harassment: Repeated verbal statements or comments of a sexual nature to a person in custody by an employee, volunteer, official visitor, or agency representative, including: demeaning references to gender or derogatory comments about body or clothing; or profane or obscene language or gestures

Staff sexual misconduct: Any behavior or act of a sexual nature directed toward a person in custody by an employee, volunteer, official visitor, or agency representative

Transgender: Person whose gender identity differs from their birth sex

### Transgender woman:

Person whose birth sex was male but who understands herself to be, and desires to live her life as, a female

### Transgender man:

Person whose birth sex was female but who understands himself to be, and desires to live his life as, a male

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Feel free to ask other additional questions)

- 1. What kind of challenges do you think Kayla faced prior to incarceration? During incarceration?
- 2. Was it appropriate for two COs to strip search Kayla when she first arrived? Why or why not? What are other ways to conduct the search?
- 3. Where should Kayla be housed: a female or a male unit or facility? What are the upsides and downsides of each?
- 4. Why do you think Kayla was targeted by male inmates? What can she do to protect herself? What can staff do to protect her? What about other inmates?
- 5. Why did Kayla hesitate to report her sexual abuse? Was this reasonable?
- 6. Where can Kayla get help to deal with depression? What can staff do to help someone who is depressed? What can other inmates do?
- 7. Did Dr. Moore have a duty to report Kayla's victimization even though she didn't?
- 8. Did Ms. Jones have a duty to report Kayla's victimization even though she didn't?

### RESOURCES FOR INMATES

Space intended for agencies to add resources reflective of their specific location and type of agency

### Examples include:

- · Your 1-800 reporting hotline (if you have one)
- · Information and procedure for repoting abuse
- Address and phone number of grievance officer or outside reporting mechanism such as an ombudsman
- · Phone number and address for a rape crisis center in the area

## NOTES



### Notice of Federal Funding and Federal Disclaimer:

This project was supported by Grant No. 2010-RP-BX-K001 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office for Victims of Crime, and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

