Ending Silence: Demanding Safety from Sexual Assault - I reported

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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.
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

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The Project on Addressing Prison Rape
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Good morning. Are you Ms. Jones?

Yes, my name’s Mikayla, but everyone calls me Kayla.

Yes, come in. You must be Mikayla?

Hello Kayla. You are right on time. Please take a seat.

Officer Wallace, you can go. We have a one hour private consultation.

You can wait outside, but not in here. This is a private and confidential conversation. I will knock on the door if I need you.

But... I was told I needed to stay with you.
DR. MOORE THOUGHT WE SHOULD TALK; THAT SESSIONS WITH ME COULD HELP YOU. I COME HERE FROM THE COMMUNITY R.A.P.E. CRISIS CENTER TWICE A WEEK AND I SEE A LOT OF INMATES FROM THE FACILITY TO TALK ABOUT DIFFERENT THINGS.

YOU CAN BE OPEN AND HONEST WITH ME ABOUT WHATEVER YOU ARE FEELING OR WHATEVER HAPPENED TO YOU.

OK, I GUESS. WHAT DO I HAVE TO LOSE THAT I HAVEN'T ALREADY LOST, RIGHT?

SO, I'M A TRANS WOMAN. I WAS BORN MICHAEL, BUT GROWING UP, I ALWAYS FELT LIKE I WAS TRAPPED IN THE WRONG BODY...

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.
So how did you end up in prison?

It's a long story. I've been Kayla for a few years now.

I just couldn't take pretending to be someone I wasn't anymore. I started transitioning when I was about 16 years old...

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.

FROM THE START, BEING IN THE MALE FACILITY WAS HARD FOR ME.

I FELT VIOLATED FROM THE VERY FIRST STRIP SEARCH.

ALRIGHT, MA'AM... UM SIR, I'LL NEED YOU TO REMOVE YOUR CLOTHING FOR THE STRIP SEARCH.

CALL ME MA'AM, MY NAME IS KAYLA.

EVERYTHING WAS FINE, UNTIL IT GOT BELOW THE WAIST...

ALRIGHT, HA HA, WHATEVER YOU SAY...

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

AHEM.

ANOTHER OF THOSE TRANSGENDERS?

ALRIGHT, YOU DO THE TOP AND I'LL DO THE BOTTOM.

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.

THAT'S CALLED A CROSS GENDER SEARCH. THEY USUALLY TRY TO AVOID THOSE HERE BECAUSE IT IS NOT GOOD PRACTICE SO I'M SURPRISED AND SORRY THAT THEY PUT YOU THROUGH THAT. GO ON, I'M SORRY TO INTERRUPT.

THAT ISN'T EVEN THE WORST PART...

I JUST DIDN'T FEEL SAFE IN THIS ALL-MALE FACILITY. BECAUSE OF MY FEMININE APPEARANCE, I WAS A TARGET WHEN I WALKED IN. THEY CALLED ME NAMES...

CHECK OUT THE DRAG QUEEN!
I barely lasted a day in the cell before I had to go to protective custody. It’s really segregation though. You can’t go out. You can’t program. Anyway, I shared a cell with another transwoman. Even though I felt a little bit safer there, being in segregation made me even more of a target.

The other trans girls in protective custody kept telling me about how I needed to “find a man” who could take care of me.

You need to find someone before they all start using you.

Yeah, you say that now. You could try Donnie. I see the way he looks at you.

Yeah, he would be good to you.

I can fend for myself in here.

So the inmates were pressuring you to get into a “protective pairing” situation?

That’s a good name for it.

Yeah, he would be good to you.

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...

KAYLA, THE NURSE JUST GAVE ME YOUR BLOOD WORK. I'M SORRY TO TELL YOU THIS, BUT YOU HAVE TESTED POSITIVE FOR MANY DIFFERENT STIS, INCLUDING GONORRHEA AND HIV.

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 knew that your being trans makes you a target here. Have the men been sexually abusing you?

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...

No.

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.
SO, YOU’VE NEVER FILED A REPORT, EVEN THOUGH YOU’VE BEEN SEXUALLY ABUSED MULTIPLE TIMES?

NO, I MEAN YES—WHATEVER YOU SAID...

NOW, I’M NOT YOU, AND I CAN’T MAKE A DECISION FOR YOU BUT IF IT WERE ME I WOULD FILE A REPORT.

YOU WOULD?

ABSOLUTELY. I KNOW YOU DON’T BELIEVE THIS, BUT YOU ARE BETTER THAN THIS KAYLA. NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS IN THIS LIFE WE CAN ALWAYS START OVER. FILE A COMPLAINT. MAYBE THINGS COULD GET BETTER FOR YOU. YOU DO NOT DESERVE TO BE TREATED THE WAY YOU ARE BEING TREATED.

ALRIGHT. WELL... I’LL THINK ABOUT IT.
Ms. Jones, I’ve thought about what you said to me and I think I am ready. I’d like to file a report, but before I do, can you tell me what will happen to me?

Okay Kayla. Let me explain what happens.

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 additional—that will be up to you. I’d be happy to help you make a report if that’s what you want to do.

Yes, thanks so much for helping me through this process. I don’t think I would be doing this if you weren’t here with me.

I’m just glad that I can help.

I was so grateful for all of Ms. Jones’ help. Even though the cos knew that I was being abused, they never talked to me about it or did anything to help me out. I realized that I needed to start caring about myself and doing what I could to protect myself, whatever the consequences. Nothing beats a failure but a try-right?

Alright, I filed the report. Can you remind me again what will happen now?
GROVER HILLS FACILITY WILL DO A FORMAL INVESTIGATION INTO WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON.

WILL THE MEN WHOSE NAMES I GAVE THEM KNOW WHAT I SAID? THEY CAN'T KNOW I SNITCHED.

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.

YEAH, LIKE THEY'VE BEEN A BIG HELP SO FAR.

ONCE THE PREA COORDINATOR HITS THEM WITH THE PREA STANDARDS, THEY'LL PAY ATTENTION.

WHAT'S THAT?

PREA. THEY DIDN'T TELL YOU ABOUT THAT DURING INTAKE?

NO. I'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF IT.
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.

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU IS MORALLY WRONG, BUT IT IS ALSO ILLEGAL AND IN VIOLATION OF FEDERAL AND STATE LAW, AND AGENCY RULES.

WOW, I DIDN’T KNOW THAT.

SEXUAL ABUSE IS NOT SUPPOSED TO BE TOLERATED IN THIS FACILITY OR ANY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY.

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 her 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 reporting 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
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