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Ending Silence: Youth Speaking Up about Sexual Abuse in Custody - Mary’s Friend

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END SILENCE
YOUTH SPEAKING UP ABOUT SEXUAL ABUSE IN CUSTODY

MARY'S FRIEND

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NOTES

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END SILENCE: Youth Speaking Up About Sexual Abuse in Custody
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RESOURCES FOR YOUTH

FOREWORD

Since 1999, The Project on Addressing Prison Rape (Project) at American University, Washington College of Law has provided training to key correctional decision makers, agencies, associations, and individuals looking to improve their practices on addressing sexual abuse of individuals in custodial settings. In 2009, the Project began to do intensive work within a number of state departments of juvenile justice and to work on of Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Intersex and Questioning (LGBTIQ) youth in custody.

The END SILENCE series is the product of that work and work by many organizations and individuals concerned about preventing and addressing sexual abuse of youth in custody. We would like to thank them for their insightful and honest commentary about the situations that youth face and how sexual abuse affects them.

The series includes four other graphic novels targeted to: (1) boys ages 10-14; (2) boys ages 14-18; (3) girls ages 10-14; and (4) LGBT youth.

END SILENCE is a first step in reaching out to youth in juvenile justice settings in order to help them identify, address, and respond to incidents of sexual abuse by staff or other youth. We hope the publication will deepen the dialogue about strategies to eliminate sexual abuse of youth in custody.

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
- Medical health information
- Guidance on telling parents
INTRODUCTION

Mary’s Friend is a graphic novel for female youth, aged 10-14, that focuses on an incident of inappropriate touching between two female youth at a day reporting center.

At the end of the graphic novel you will find: blank slides for youth to fill in an appropriate continuation for the story; a glossary of terms; discussion questions; resources for youth; and note pages. While we understand different states house youth in different settings or classifications, this publication is meant to address sexual abuse of youth in custody nationwide. To that end, we have generalized some content and details of this novel.

This graphic novel is intended to be “stand alone” material to orient and educate youth about the issue of sexual abuse in custodial settings: we hope it provokes discussions with and between youth.

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

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

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
(Feel free to ask other additional questions)

• Do you think Mary made a good choice telling her mother what Sarah did?

• Would you have told anyone?
  Who?

• Who else could Mary have told about what happened?

• Did you think the adults would believe Mary or Sarah?
  Why?

• Do you think Sarah should have gotten in trouble?
GLOSSARY CONTINUED

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

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.
**GLOSSARY**

**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.

**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.

**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.
Hi, my name is Sarah. What's your name?

Mary.

Do you know where to go?

No. This is my first day.

Okay, let me show you around.

Hey Mary, want to play some games with us?

Am I allowed?

Sure, no one cares who you hang out with here.

Thanks Sarah. Does this make us friends?

Sure it does.
A few weeks later... Hi Sarah, are we going to play games today?

Hey Mary.

Of course, don't we always?

Based on what Mary said, I do believe this incident took place. I believe it only happened once with Mary, but I do think there may be a culture presented here of inappropriate touching.

The practice Mary described could either be horseplay or grooming. Whatever the situation, it seems like a good idea to investigate further and train youth and staff about what is appropriate and what is not appropriate.

Sarah is no longer at the center.

That does not mean you should not look into this and take precautions to see it doesn't happen again.

Ms. Wilson, please accept my deepest apologies. We will make sure it does not happen again. It seems your daughter was allowed to play with the older girls and this is against our policy. We will address this issue with all the staff supervisors, case managers and counselors who work here.

There was a breakdown in supervision at this center and as a result there was an incident of abuse that took place. This must be corrected and we will be doing additional training with all of you to insure it does not happen again.
THE NEXT DAY...

MARY AND MS. WILSON, I WOULD LIKE YOU TO MEET MS. WASHINGTON. SHE IS OUR FORENSIC INTERVIEWER.

MARY, I AM GOING TO TALK WITH YOU FOR A LITTLE WHILE ABOUT YOUR FRIEND SARAH.

WHAT'S WRONG MARY?

MY MOM SAID NO ONE SHOULD TOUCH ME THERE.

BUT THAT'S WHAT FRIENDS DO MARY. I WAS JUST PLAYING, WE ALL DO IT.

UM, CAN MY MOM STAY WITH ME?

SURE, SHE CAN SIT OVER THERE, OKAY?

OKAY.

ARE YOU SURE?

MY MOM SAID NO ONE, NOT EVEN FRIENDS.

YOUR MOM DIDN'T MEAN YOUR FRIENDS, SHE'S NOT TALKING ABOUT THIS.

WHAT'S WRONG MARY? WHY ARE YOU MOVING AWAY?

BECAUSE YOU ARE TOUCHING ME AND I DON'T LIKE IT!

THANK YOU SO MUCH MARY, THIS HAS REALLY BEEN HELPFUL.

YES, NOW WHY DON'T YOU GO SIT WITH YOUR MOM WHILE I TALK TO MR. Randle. I HAVE SOME MAGAZINES AND GAMES OVER THERE I THINK YOU MAY LIKE.

YOU ARE VERY QUIET THIS AFTERNOON MARY, IS SOMETHING WRONG?

NOTHING MOMMY.

ARE YOU SURE? YOU KNOW YOU CAN TELL ME.
WELL, SARAH IS MY FRIEND AND I DON'T WANT TO GET HER IN TROUBLE.

WHY WOULD SHE GET IN TROUBLE?

I DON'T KNOW, WE PLAY GAMES TOGETHER WHEN I COME IN THE AFTERNOON, BUT TODAY...

MARY, TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED. NO ONE WILL GET MAD AT YOU FOR TELLING THE TRUTH.

SHE TOUCHEO ME AND IT FELT FUNNY. I DIDN'T LIKE IT, BUT SARAH SAID EVERYONE DOES IT. I DON'T WANT TO BE DIFFERENT.

DID YOU TELL ANYONE AT THE CENTER?

NO. I DIDN'T WANT HER TO GET INTO TROUBLE AND SHE IS MY FRIEND.

MARY, REMEMBER I TOLD YOU NO ONE SHOULD TOUCH YOU IN A WAY YOU DON'T LIKE, NOT EVEN YOUR FRIENDS.

I AM PROUD OF YOU FOR TELLING ME. IT TOOK A LOT OF COURAGE.

I KNOW MOM.

HELLO, MAY I SPEAK WITH DIRECTOR, MR. RANDLE.

MAY I ASK WHO IS CALLING?

MY NAME IS MS. WILSON. MY DAUGHTER, MARY, COMES INTO THE CENTER FOR SCHOOL AFTERCARE.

OKAY, PLEASE HOLD AND I WILL GET MR. RANDLE.

GOOD AFTERNOON MS. WILSON, HOW MAY I HELP YOU?

MR. RANDLE, MY DAUGHTER, MARY, ATTENDS AFTER SCHOOL CARE AT YOUR CENTER AND SHE TOLD ME THAT ONE OF THE OLDER TEENAGE GIRLS IN YOUR PROGRAM TOUCHED HER INAPPROPRIATELY.

ARE YOU SURE? WE ONLY TAKE GIRLS FROM ELEVEN TO FOURTEEN HERE.

YES, SHE SAID THE GIRL'S NAME IS SARAH.

I AM SO SORRY TO HEAR THAT THIS HAPPENED TO MARY, AND I AM DEEPLY TROUBLED. I WILL LOOK INTO THIS SITUATION IMMEDIATELY.

IN THE MEAN TIME I WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK WITH MARY. WOULD YOU BRING HER IN AFTER SCHOOL TOMORROW?

YES, WE WILL BE THERE.

STAFF, I HAD A TROUBLING CALL EARLIER TODAY FROM A PARENT. FROM WHAT I CAN GATHER, THERE HAVE BEEN SOME MIXING OF THE OLDER TEENAGE GIRLS AND THE YOUNGER GIRLS HERE FOR AFTER SCHOOL CARE.

MR. RANDLE, IT'S NO BIG DEAL. THERE ARE ONLY A FEW GIRLS IN THE PROGRAM, SO WHAT IF THEY MIX?

IT IS A BIG DEAL AND IT IS AGAINST OUR POLICY. THERE HAS BEEN AN ALLEGATION OF INAPPROPRIATE TOUCHING AND WE TAKE THIS VERY SERIOUSLY.