

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

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*

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.

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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.

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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

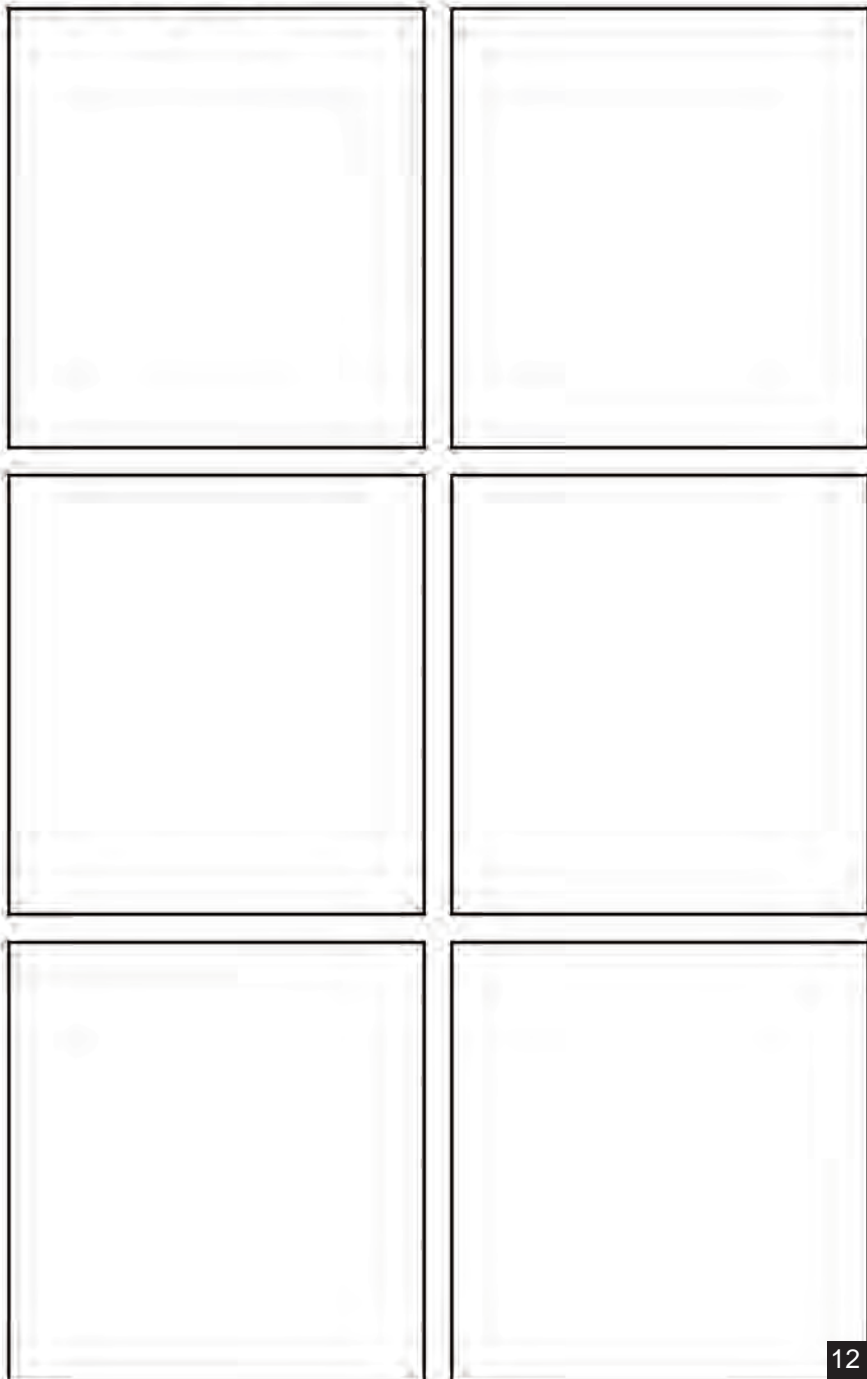
Oral Sex:

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

FINISH THE STORY...





A FEW WEEKS LATER...

HEY MARY.

HI SARAH. ARE WE GOING TO PLAY GAMES TODAY?



OF COURSE, DON'T WE ALWAYS?



MARY. CAN YOU HELP ME PUT THE GAME AWAY?



SURE SARAH, FRIENDS HELP EACH OTHER, RIGHT?



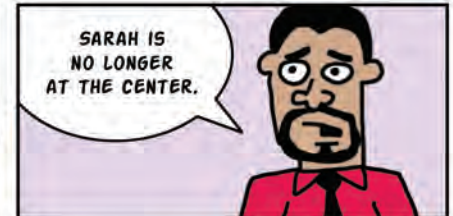
RIGHT.



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.

