

What Kind of Police Do You Call on the Police? Sexual Abuse by Law Enforcement
NSAC 2016 Panel

Panelists

Cynthia Totten, Senior Program Director, Just Detention International

Ms. Totten provides training and technical assistance for corrections agencies and direct service providers around the country on preventing and responding to sexual violence in detention. She also advocates to bring basic international human rights standards into U.S. prisons and jails, and has contributed to JDI's federal policy and international programs. A lawyer with nearly two decades of experience in human and civil rights advocacy, Cynthia previously represented plaintiffs in employment class action lawsuits.

Morgan Givens, Program Officer, Just Detention International

Mr. Givens provides training and assistance to support corrections agencies in their implementation of the Prison Rape Elimination Act standards. Prior to joining JDI, Morgan was a police officer with the Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Police Department. He is a committed advocate for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people and, as a member of a panel based at Appalachian State University, helps lead community discussions to promote and protect the rights of transgender people.

Dr. Amy Dellinger Page, Professor and Chair of Sociology, Appalachian State University

Dr. Page holds an MA in Counseling Psychology from Radford University and a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. She regularly teaches courses about gender and interpersonal violence, and has published in the areas of police officers' attitudes toward women and rape, North Carolina sex offender policy, interpersonal violence, and gender variance. She serves as Co-Chair of Appalachian State University's Interpersonal Violence Council and also co-chaired their committees for training and assessment of the campus climate.

Andrea Ritchie, Police Misconduct Attorney and Organizer

Ms. Ritchie has engaged in extensive research, writing, litigation, organizing and advocacy on profiling, policing, and physical and sexual violence by law enforcement agents against women, girls, and LGBT people of color over the past two decades. In 2014 she was awarded a Senior Soros Justice Fellowship. Andrea is co-author of *Say Her Name: Resisting Police Brutality Against Black Women* and author of *Law Enforcement Violence Against Women of Color*, in *The Color of Violence: The INCITE! Anthology*, and a number of law review articles on racialized policing of gender, gender identity, and sexuality. She is currently at work on a book titled *Invisible No More: Racial Profiling and Police Brutality Against Black Women and Women of Color* to be published in 2017.

Tracy D. Wright, North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault and National Resource Sharing Project

Ms. Wright, a Technical Assistance Provider and Women of Color Leadership Project Coordinator, provides technical assistance and training to 16 state and territorial sexual assault coalitions. Additionally, she works with national entities to create a coordinated response to ending sexual violence, addresses emerging issues and carves out initiatives specifically for women of color in the anti-sexual violence movement.

I. Introductions and Welcome

Cynthia Totten (panel facilitator)

- This panel will explore what we know and what we do not know about police sexual misconduct and discuss best practices for addressing it. The panel will explore the heightened vulnerability of poor and disenfranchised women of color and LGBT individuals — among other marginalized groups — to sexual abuse by law enforcement. Participants will be encouraged to consider how to improve the victim advocacy community's responsiveness to ensure that victims of this abuse receive the help and justice they deserve.

Play AJ+ video about Holtzclaw case: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kQGbtzTSvXA>

II. What is the Field of Play?

For Tracy Wright

- Can you give us a working definition of police sexual misconduct? What are we talking about?
- How often do survivors of police sexual abuse contact you for services?
 - How prepared are rape crisis counselors to help survivors of police sexual abuse?

For Morgan Givens

- What is the culture within police departments regarding issues of sexual abuse and sexual harassment?
 - Can you talk about the disconnect between gendered street abuse and harassment in general and similar abuse perpetrated by law enforcement officers?

For Dr. Page

- In what ways does Morgan's experience reflect your research?
 - Can you expand upon what research says regarding law enforcement officers' perceptions about sexual assault?

For Andrea Ritchie

- What does research and your advocacy on these issues tell us about dynamics of police sexual abuse?
 - When does it occur, how, and to whom?

III. What do Rape Crisis Organizations Need to Know?

For Morgan Givens

- How to report?

- When to subvert the chain of command
- What are internal and external reporting mechanisms

For Andrea Ritchie

- What barriers do particularly vulnerable communities face in getting help?
 - Lack of information
 - Prejudice and bias

For Dr. Page

- Can you talk about how to make the Prison Rape Elimination Act helpful for people in Lock-Ups?
 - Teaching the community about PREA requirements in lock-ups and holding cells
 - Empowerment for lock-up detainees

For Tracy Wright:

- How can advocates leverage their existing relationships with law enforcement agencies to advocate for better policies and practices to stop police sexual abuse?
 - Educate the public about their rights and applicable law enforcement procedures and policies

IV. Barriers to Advocacy on the Issue

For Tracy Wright and Andrea Ritchie

- Please discuss barriers to working with the community on ending police abuse.
 - Lack of advocacy organizations partnering with existing groups in marginalized communities
 - Fill the void created by a lack of trust in law enforcement officers

For Dr. Page and Morgan Givens

- How can we foster relationships with police officers who will take the lead on driving this change?

V. What is the Way Forward?

- How, as advocates, do we address this problem and drive change? How do we increase access to services for those who are victimized and work to ultimately reduce the incidence of sexual misconduct by law enforcement officials?

Open the floor for discussion and questions from the audience.