

WELCOME

The webinar will begin shortly.

While you are waiting, please mute your sound.

Use the chat box to type questions during the webinar.

CA Advancing PREA Office Hours: Letter Writing Workshop

DATE

January 31, 2023

1:00-2:00pm

Introductions



EDWARD CERVANTES
(He/Him/His)

Senior Program Officer
Just Detention International



MARSELA ROJAS
(She/Her/Hers)

Project Manager
VALOR

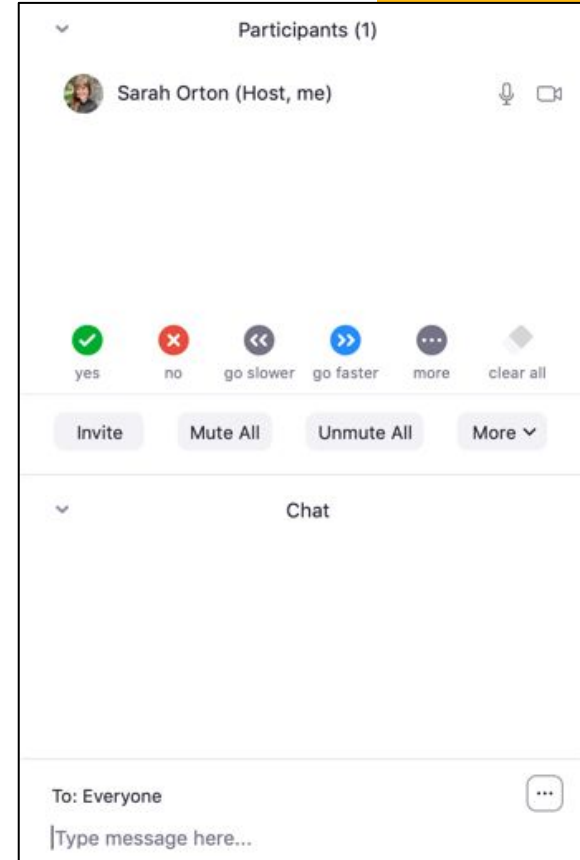


JENNICA SINOR
(She/Her/Hers)

Project Coordinator
VALOR

How to Use Zoom

- Text chat
- PowerPoint Slides
- Phone



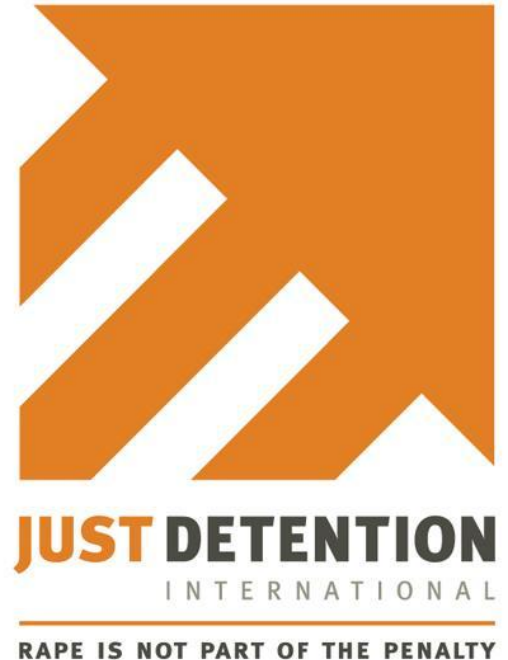
ValorUS' Mission

ValorUS is committed to preventing and ending sexual violence by advancing equity and eradicating oppression.



JDI's Mission

JDI is a health and human rights organization that seeks to end sexual abuse in all forms of detention.



JDI's Core Principle

No matter what crime a person may have committed, **rape is not part of the penalty.**



CA Advancing PREA Overview

- Build strong relationships between CA state prison/ county jail staff and rape crisis advocates
- Create sustainable agreements and protocols for the provision of victim services to survivors



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Session Objectives



Determine ways to assess the needs of incarcerated survivors via letter correspondence

Session Objectives



Provide strategies to build rapport, trust, and ongoing advocacy with incarcerated survivors

Session Objectives



Describe the resources and healing materials available to address incarcerated survivor's needs

Large Group Discussion

How have you needed to adjust your advocacy and pace when responding to letters vs. hotline or in-person advocacy?

What are some challenges you've experienced while communicating with survivors through letters?

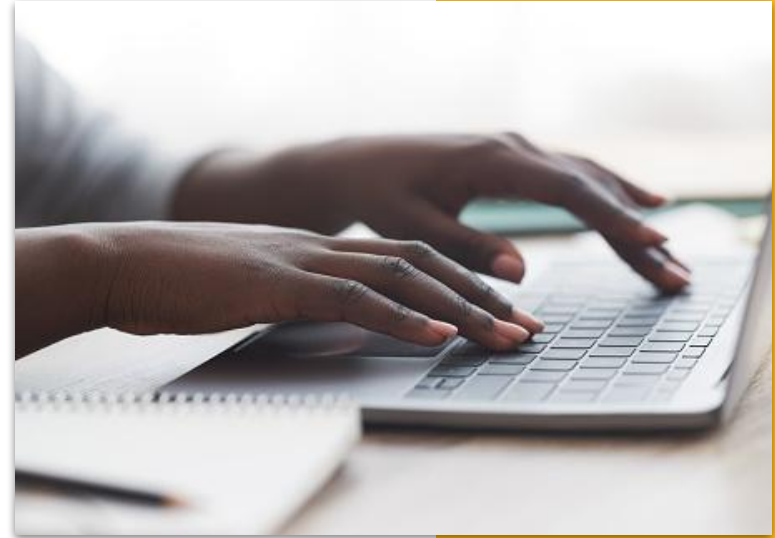


What to Expect

- Letters can vary widely in length and level of detail
- Letters may not directly disclose sexual abuse or sexual harassment
- Letters may be hard to read or understand

Tips

- Respond with consistent timing
- Be mindful of your response length
- Ensure accessible language and font
- Take your time
- Validate their experiences!
- Be clear about your role

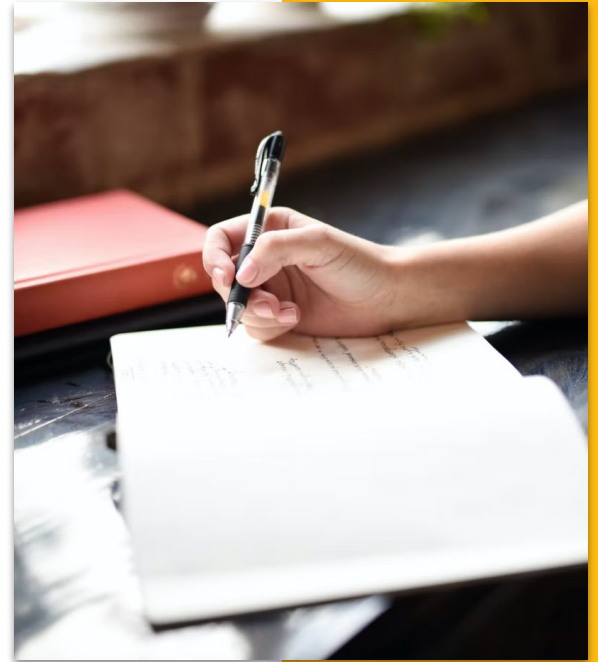


Tips

- Take a survivor centered approach
- Read the letter more than once
- Identify a structure to ensure a holistic response
- Ask clarifying questions if needed
- Build rapport to provide ongoing care

Setting Boundaries

- Professional vs. Personal
- Focus on healing and recovery
- Practice self awareness
- Avoid dual relationships
- Stay within your scope of work



Healing Resources

- Alter safety planning
- Coping skills you may offer to clients in the community may not be applicable for folks in detention
 - Progressive Muscle Relaxation
 - Grounding, breathing, mindfulness exercises
 - Journaling

Prompt for Letter Writing Responses:

1. Identify the problem(s) that you would hope to address in your response.
2. Identify what the survivor is asking for support on.
3. Describe what kind of emotional support you would provide.
4. Identify what you can do and what your barriers are to helping them.
5. Identify how can you continue providing ongoing support to the survivor

Hi,

I am not sure who else to reach out to about this I trust no one here. I need help. A few days ago something happened with another prisoner. I feel dirty and gross and for some reason, I can't stop blaming myself. I do not know what to do, and I haven't told anyone about this. I want to report him but I am afraid, can I even do that? I do not even have any proof so is it even worth it? I also see him everyday like how am I supposed to live like this.

How can you help me through this?

Dear Advocate,

I filed a report after my assault last month but nothing has happened and no one came to investigate or even speak with me. I just found out that the investigation is closed and was unfounded. I am so confused. The CO that assaulted me still works in the unit that I am stuck in. I have to see him everyday, it is painful and traumatizing. I don't know what to do anymore. Do you think you can talk to someone to see if I can move to another housing unit? Do you also think you can help me find out anything about my report and why no one came to interview me?

Thank you.

Questions?



Additional Resources

- ValorUS
valorus.org
- Just Detention International
justdetention.org
- PREA Resource Center
prearesourcecenter.org

ValorUS Hub

The Hub is a repository of resources, web conferences, courses, and newsletters for all staff within California's Rape Crisis Centers and community partners.

Here is how you can get started:

- Step 1: Go to The Hub (www.Valor.US/hub)
- Step 2: Create Your Login/Profile
- Step 3: Explore!

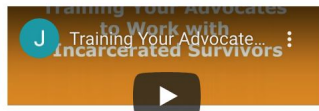


CA Advancing PREA: Resources for California Advocates

CALIFORNIA ADVANCING PREA: RESOURCES FOR CALIFORNIA ADVOCATES

The below resources were developed by Just Detention International and ValorUS to support California advocates.

Training Your Advocates to Work with Incarcerated Survivors



September 24, 2019
CA Advancing PREA Webconference



This webinar introduces a PowerPoint presentation and facilitators guide to RCC staff who will train volunteers and advocates at their agency about how to best serve survivors of sexual abuse and sexual harassment who are incarcerated.