





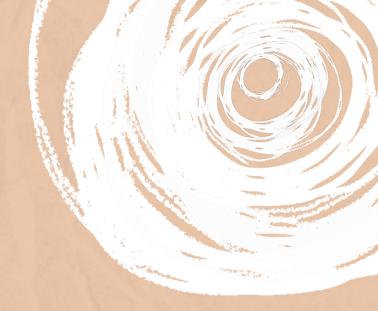
## Sexual Violence & Criminalized Youth

Presented by Nanee Sajeev nanee@endsexualviolencect.org Justice-Involved Advocacy Coordinator



## Today's Hiscussion

- Who/What is the CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence?
- What is sexual violence and how does it impact young people who are system-involved?
- What can we do about it?





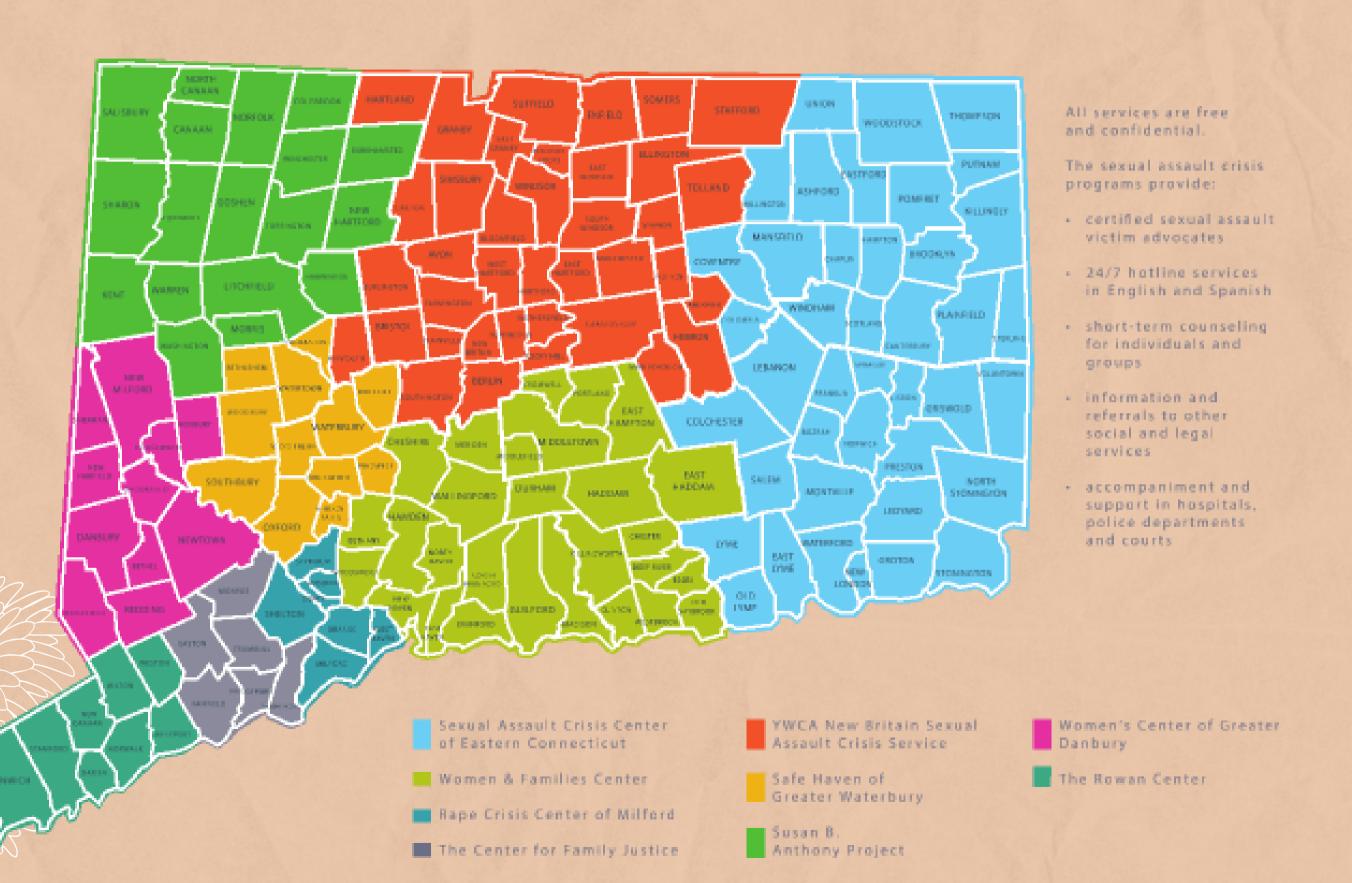


Support. Advocate. Prevent.

forwardy CONNSACS

### 24-Hour, Toll-Free Hotlines: 1-888-999-5545 (English) | 1-888-568-8332 (Español)

Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence is a statewide coalition of individual sexual assault crisis programs whose mission is to end sexual violence and to ensure high-quality, comprehensive, culturally competent sexual assault victim services.





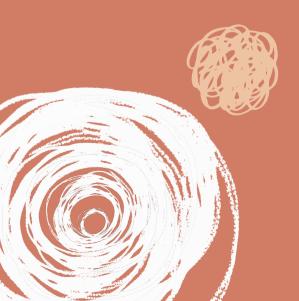


Share your reflections!
I feel...I wonder...I think





# What is Sexual Violence?



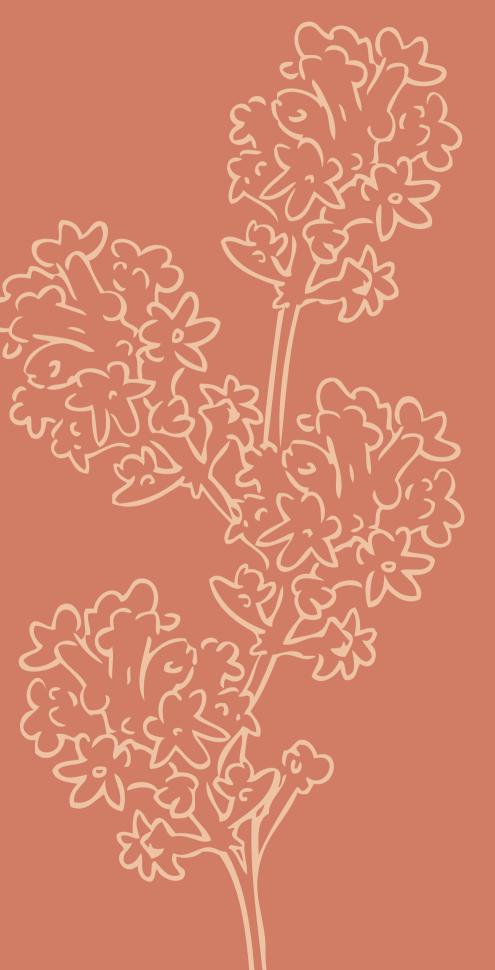


SEXUAL VIOLENCE IS ANY UNWANTED CONTACT OR NONCONTACT SEXUAL ACTS OR BEHAVIORS. SEXUAL VIOLENCE DESCRIBES A RANGE OF BEHAVIORS CARRIED OUT WITH THE USE OF COERCION, MANIPULATION, THREATS, INTIMIDATION, FORCE, OR ABUSE OF POWER. THESE INCLUDE RAPE OR ATTEMPTED RAPE; FONDLING; INCEST; EXPLOITATION; EXHIBITIONISM; OBSCENE PHONE CALLS, EMAILS, OR TEXT MESSAGES. SEXUAL CONTACT WITHOUT AFFIRMATIVE CONSENT IS SEXUAL



VIOLENCE;





### Impacts of Sexual Violence can include

### IN GENERAL:

increased use of drugs and/or alcohol, depression, anxiety, self-harming behaviors, chronic headaches or other pain, insomnia, hypervigilance, perfectionism, people-pleasing/fawning

### FOR CHILDREN:

this may include STIs, isolating themselves from friends and family, regressive behaviors, an increase in sexual behaviors and understandings of sexual topics that are not developmentally appropriate, unexplained changes in eating habits, being overly compliant, new and extreme worry or fear.

### REMEMBER:

Every victim/survivor's experience is unique, as are the ways they physically, emotionally, and behaviorally respond to their experiences.

## Prevalence of Sexual Violence



1 IN 4 GIRLS AND 1 IN 13 BOYS EXPERIENCE SEXUAL VIOLENCE
BEFORE THEY TURN 18

NATIONALLY, 41.3% OF FEMALES WHO
EXPERIENCED A RAPE IN THEIR LIFETIME FIRST EXPERIENCED
ONE PRIOR TO THE AGE OF 18;
30.1% WERE AGED 11 TO 17.

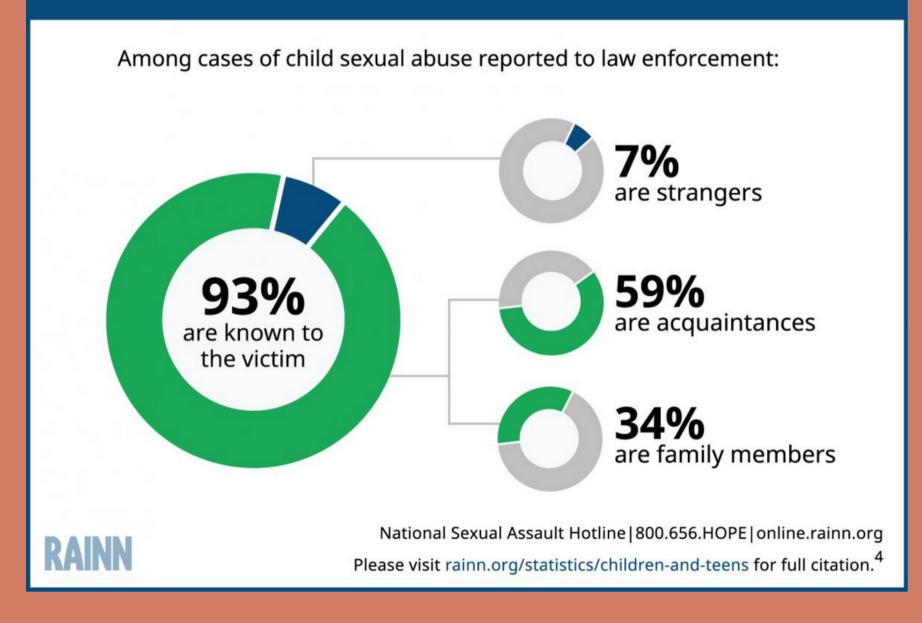
Pereda N, Guilera G, Forns M, Gómez-Benito J. The prevalence of child sexual abuse in community and student samples: A meta-analysis. Clinical Psychology Review. 2009;29:328–338. doi:10.1016/j.cpr.2009.02.007

## Why might a young person not share their experiences of sexual violence?

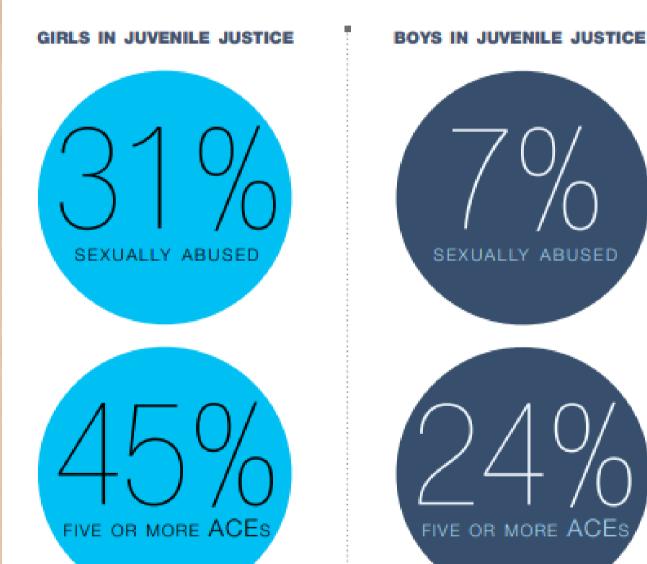
## Barriers to Hischosure

- Lack of language or understanding
- Shame & Guilt
- Lack of support system & safe spaces

### CHILD VICTIMS OFTEN KNOW THE PERPETRATOR



## What About Joung People Who Ave System-Involved?

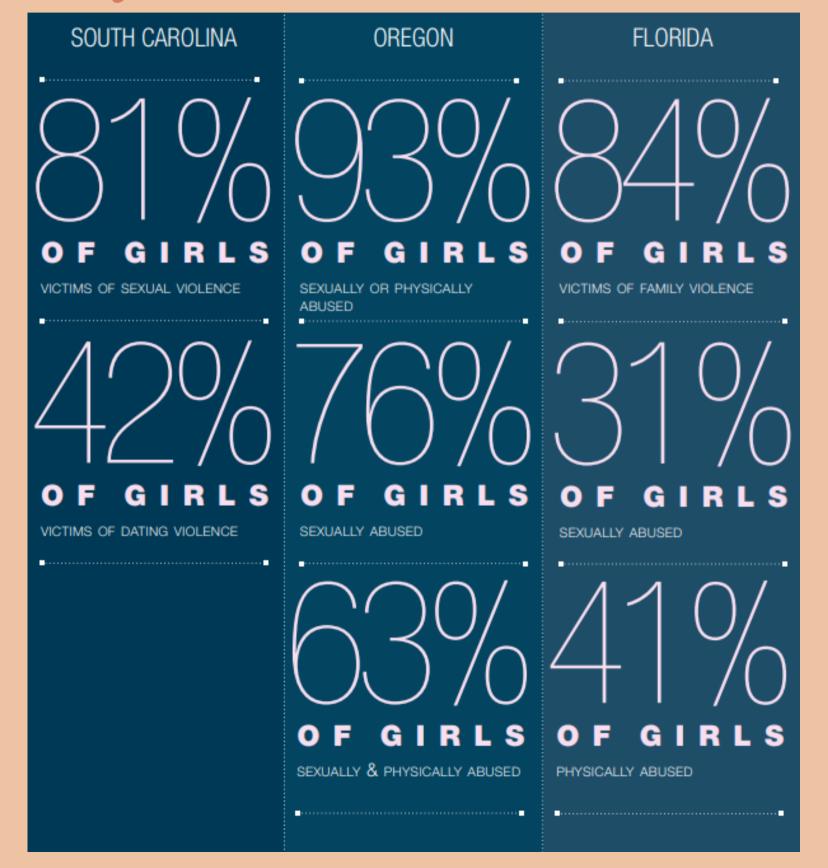


Girls' rate of sexual abuse is 4 times higher than boys' in juvenile justice, and girls' rate of complex trauma (five or more ACEs) is nearly twice as high.

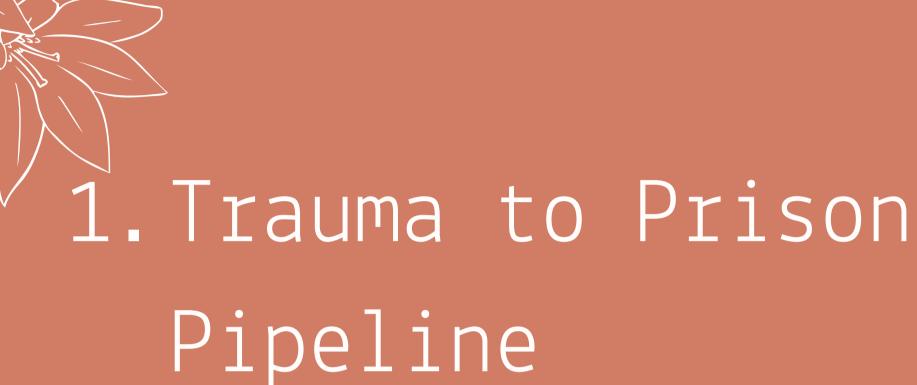
Source: Michael T. Baglivio et al., US Dep't of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention, *The Prevalence of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) in the Lives of Juvenile Offenders*, 3 J. Juv. Justice 1, 9 (Spring 2014), available at http://www.journalofjuvjustice.org/J0JJ0302/J0JJ0302.pdf.



## What About Young People Who Ave System-Involved?







- 2. Survived & Punished
- 3. Carceral Facilities









## OUR CRIMINAL LEGAL SYSTEM RELIES ON & ASSUMES THAT

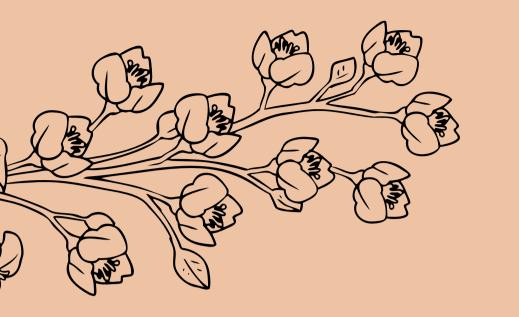
Crime is neutral, apolitical, and unconnected to oppression

Survivors never commit crimes and are perfectly sympathetic

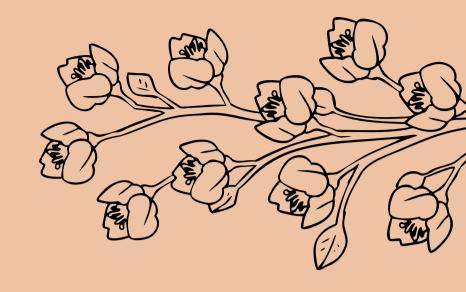
Survivors want incarceration, deportation, and punishment. These things make the world safer.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE ISSUES WITH THIS?

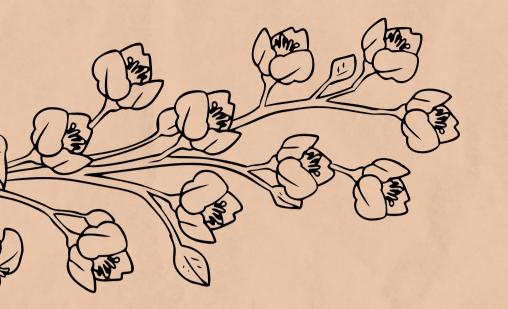




### Trauma to Prison Pipeline



MANY SURVIVORS ARE
CRIMINALIZED FOR THE WAYS
THEY EXPERIENCE &
NAVIGATE TRAUMA AND
SURVIVAL



### Trauma to Prison Pipeline

### **How Victimization Creates "Pathways to Crime"**



Unmet Needs for Safety, Housing, Food & Human

Connection

### "Compelled to Crime"

Self-defense

violence.

- Defense of children
- Coerced into participating in abuser's crimes
- Confessed to abuser's crimes because of intimidation

ARREST & CHARGING DECISION Charging decisions are rarely nuanced enough to consider the role of domestic

### Attempts to Meet Needs

- · Run away from home
- Use drugs to cope
- Move in with older boyfriend
- Live on the street
- Trade sex for money or drugs
- · Shoplifting, theft

### Domestic

Increased Vulnerability

& Social

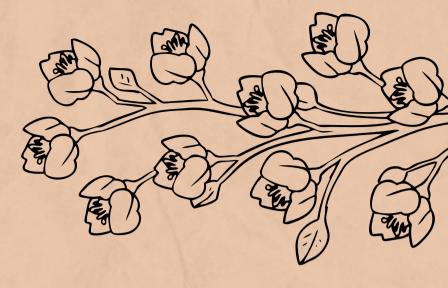
Dislocation

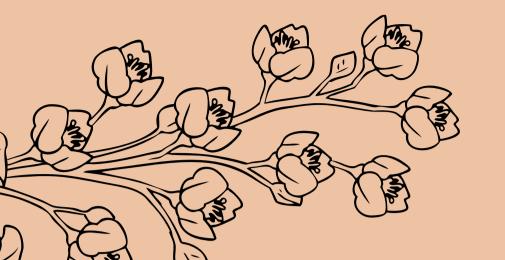
Violence

98% physically abused 349 convicted of murder

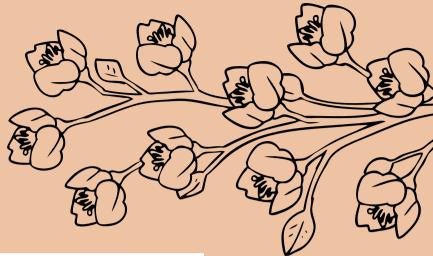
TRIAL & SENTENCING Survivors are often not believed because of their addiction, prior criminal history, or prior self-defense. They may minimize the abuse. Culture, language, stereotypes, and discrimination also play a role.

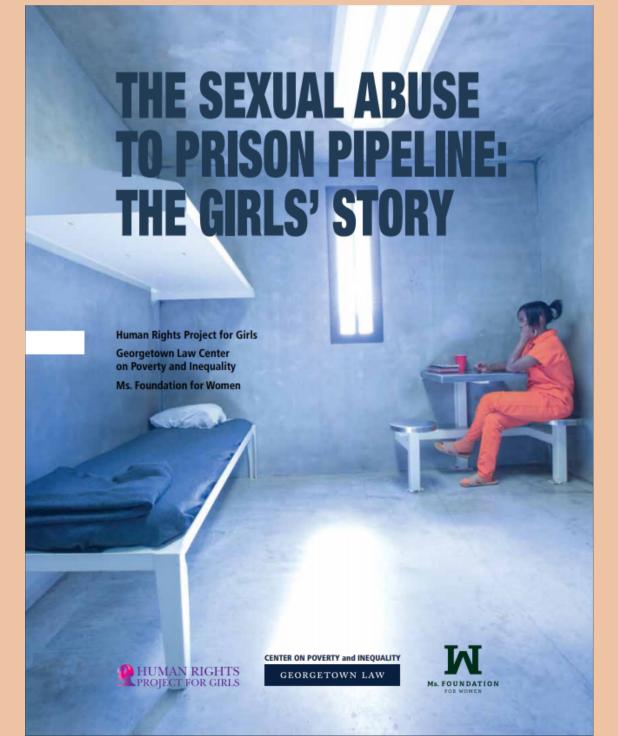
**SURVIVORS IN PRISON** 2,664 women in IL prisons 45 serving life sentences





### Trauma to Prison Pipeline







## Survived & Punished









## WHAT DO WE HOPE JUVENILLE DETENTION CENTERS DO?

- 1. Places of rehabilitation
- 2. Provide people with needed mental health care



- FEMALE-ONLY FACILITIES HAD THE HIGHEST RATES OF YOUTH-ON-YOUTH SEXUAL VICTIMIZATION (5.7%),
- MALE-ONLY FACILITIES HAD THE HIGHEST RATES OF STAFF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT (8.2%).
- AN ESTIMATED 92.4% OF ALL YOUTH WHO REPORTED STAFF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT SAID THEY WERE VICTIMIZED BY FEMALE FACILITY STAFF
- AN ESTIMATED 9.5% OF ADJUDICATED YOUTH IN STATE JUVENILE FACILITIES AND STATE CONTRACT FACILITIES (REPRESENTING 1,720 YOUTH NATIONWIDE) REPORTED EXPERIENCING ONE OR MORE INCIDENTS OF SEXUAL VICTIMIZATION BY ANOTHER YOUTH OR STAFF IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS OR SINCE ADMISSION, IF LESS THAN 12 MONTHS.



DOES MORE SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT MEAN MORE VULNERABNILITY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE BOTH SURVIVORS AND EXPERIENCE CRIMINALIZATION?

BECK, ALLEN J. DAVID CANTO, JOHN HARTAGE, TIM SMITH. SEXUAL VICTIMIZATION IN JUVENILE FACILITIES REPORTED BY YOUTH 2012. NATIONAL SURVEY OF YOUTH
IN CUSTODY 2012. U.S DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS. BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS. 2013.

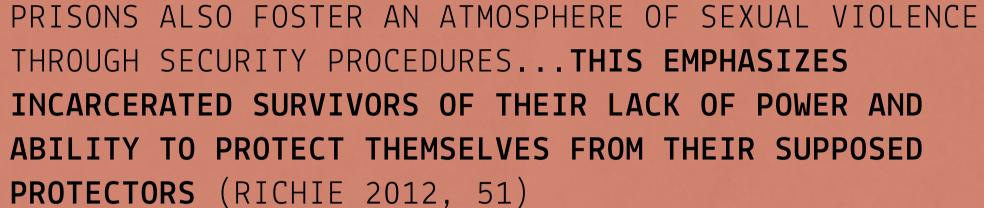




## WHAT DO WE HOPE JUVENILLE DETENTION CENTERS DO?

- 1. Places of rehabilitation
- 2. Provide people with needed mental health care













## WHAT DO WE HOPE JUVENILLE DETENTION CENTERS DO?

- 1. Places of rehabilitation
- 2. Provide people with needed mental health care

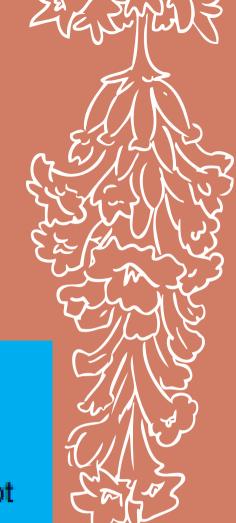
WHEN DID YOU FIRST LEARN ABOUT CONSENT, BOUNDARIES, AND HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP BEHAVIORS?

HOW ARE YOUNG PEOPLES' IDEAS OF VIOLENCE AND RELATIONSHIPS INTERTWINED AND IMPACTED WHEN THEY ARE SEPARATED FROM THEIR COMMUNITY AND FAMILY AND PLACED UNDER STATE SUPERVISION?









"I was locked up ten different times within a two year period. Inside juvie I met other girls like myself who were there for prostitution, running away, and truancy. All of us were from the same neighborhoods, poor families, and seemed to have the same disposition of trauma, anger mixed with hopelessness. We were not violent girls. We were girls who were hurting. Being confined to a tiny cement room was one of the hardest things I have ever had to experience. Being locked up all I could do was reflect on my life but it didn't seem to help. I became even more withdrawn and angry." — Nadiyah Shereff



THERE ARE NO PERFECT
VICTIMS. WE ARE
COMMITTED TO SERVING
ALL SURVIVORS
REGARDLESS OF HOW
THEY'RE LABELED OR
JUDGED BY THE CRIMINAL
LEGAL SYSTEM

WE CAN'T ASSUME THAT
THE LEGAL SYSTEM IS
ALWAYS IDENTIFYING
SITUATIONS AND THE
PEOPLE WITHIN THEM
CORRECTLY OR
ETHICALLY.

NO ONE DOES THE WORK
KNOWING HOW TO DO IT
PERFECTLY FROM THE
START. HOWEVER, WE
DO HAVE MANY OF THE
SKILLS WE NEED
ALREADY



NOT ALL LAWS ARE
JUST. WE HAVE A
RESPONSIBILITY TO
SUPPORT SURVIVORS
AGAINST ABUSES OF
POWER, EVEN WHEN THE
LEGAL SYSTEM IS
INVOLVED IN
PROSECUTING THEM

WE DON'T HAVE ALL
THE ANSWERS, BUT WE
DO HAVE A LOT TO
SHARE AND LEARN FROM
EACH OTHER

### ALLIANCE

Attend our trainings! Learn more about sexual violence and the way it impacts all of us.

### CRISIS CENTERS

Partner with us and your local crisis center!

### EARLY INTERVENTION

Diversion pathways JRB/YSB, Sequential Intercept

### UNDERSTAND & ACCEPT

Survivors are not a monolith, there is no perfect survivor; trauma responses are incredibly diverse and can impact how survivors navigate their environment and how they perceive safety, harm, and authority.



## People and Organizations to learn From

- Mariame Kaba
- K Agebeyi
- Beth Richie
- Andrea Ritchie
- Survived & Punished
- Project Nia\*
- Interrupting Criminalization
- Generation Five\*
- Color of Violence
- Sexual Abuse to Prison Pipeline: The Girls' Story\*









## Sexual Violence & Criminalized Youth

Presented by Nanee Sajeev nanee@endsexualviolencect.org Justice-Involved Advocacy Coordinator

