



New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Working for a World Without Violence.

Dear Colleague,

Over the past few weeks, it's become clear that we are in the middle of a human rights tragedy. Across the country, ICE is holding undocumented adults and children in various facilities in our own communities. Here in New York, there are at least [four](#) makeshift holding locations for children, and [seven](#) county jails and detention facilities identified for adults. The New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault is troubled by this government's unclear policies on family reunification as well as standards for care. Specifically, we are horrified by the [numerous accounts of sexual violence](#) experienced by adults and children while incarcerated by ICE. We are dedicated to partnering with local organizations to ensure that the people incarcerated by ICE have access to the relevant community resources to report and heal from this abuse.

NYSCASA is proud to share the attached [one-pager](#) on the rights that people incarcerated in this country have when reporting sexual violence. Our one-pager details how any volunteer entering a facility can make a report of sexual violence and help their client receive services. We recommend that volunteers who are providing legal or translation services reach out to the [local rape crisis program](#) to collaborate on how to best provide services to clients held by ICE in their community. NYSCASA is eager to support in this work.

In the coming months and years, we will need to untangle the many bureaucratic and policy errors that led to this immigration crisis. However, in the meantime, NYSCASA is taking seriously the power dynamics that allow for abuse in ICE facilities. In addition to linking volunteers with rape crisis programs, we also want to begin to collect valid data on the number of sexual violence reports from undocumented people held by ICE. Please share the number of reports that your organization receives with our PREA Director, Eirik Bjorkman (ebjorkman@nyscasa.org).

Nobody deserves sexual abuse or assault. Thank you for your efforts to meaningfully address the needs of undocumented adults and children in your community holding facilities.

In community,

Joanne Zannoni
Executive Director of New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault