



Gender Identity Center of Colorado Inc.

T.I.P. Journal

Volume 10 Issue 3
Fall 2009

After much thought I have decided that I will not be providing any kind of a pen-pal service, and there are many reasons for this decision. Many of the prisons do not allow this and it is amazing how many who receive this try to take advantage of our free service. I'm sure that there are other ways for those who seek this service to find it and I truly wish those who are seeking this the best of luck in finding a way.

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Volume 10 Issue 3

As many of you know, Teeg is recovering from major surgery at the moment and has asked me to put this newsletter together for her. My name is Miranda and I'm a 51 year old transwoman and member of the GIC.

Like many, I've known since the age of 4 that I was different and that my body didn't fit me. I had no idea what a transsexual was until last January. I just thought I was crazy.

I've been transitioning now for 9 months and have found the GIC to be a very special organization with very knowledgeable and caring members. I am grateful to the GIC for literally saving my life by being there when I needed them most.

I can't pretend to imagine what its like for all of you to be trans in a place that hostile, every day, 24/7. Please accept my love and caring thoughts. Your sister, Miranda

Attorney: Victim was transgender inmate, By Curtis Lum

The attorney for a man who was allegedly sexually assaulted Sunday at O'ahu Community Correctional Center said the victim is a transgender inmate and that the assailant is a male corrections officer.

Lawyer Myles Breiner said his client, 31, is being held at OCCC while awaiting transfer to Lau-maka Work Furlough Center, a transitional program for inmates who are about to be released. Breiner said his client has served eight years of a 10-year sentence for burglary and was transferred to OCCC from Halawa Correctional Facility late last year.

Breiner said his client has the appearance of a woman, but has not undergone surgery to become a woman. Breiner said the inmate was therefore placed in a prison module for men. Breiner said his client was working Sunday with the OCCC breakfast cleanup crew when an adult corrections officer followed him to a secluded area of the kitchen and forced the inmate to perform a sexual act. Breiner said a security camera recorded the guard as he followed the inmate to the kitchen.

The incident was reported to OCCC officials as well as to Honolulu police, which classified the case as a second-degree sexual assault. The case remains under investigation. Tommy Johnson, deputy director with the Department of Public Safety's Corrections Division, acknowledged that an incident was reported and an investigation was launched. But he declined to comment on whether the suspect is a corrections officer. The inmate remains at OCCC. "That person was immediately taken to a medical unit and offered psychological and mental health services," Johnson said of the inmate. "The complainant is safe and that's all we can comment at this point."

Breiner said he believes the suspect, identified in police reports as a 42-year-old man, has been an adult corrections officer for one or two years. Breiner said there may have been an arrest in the case, but police records yesterday did not show that anyone was arrested in connection with the case.

Regardless of where he was confined, Breiner said, this incident shouldn't have been allowed to occur. Breiner said most of the adult corrections officers are highly qualified, but that more should be done to evaluate people who become guards.

"The vast majority do their job and they're professional. The problem is you get people in it who are not properly trained, especially dealing with inmates like my client who are transgender individuals. They deserve the same protection as anyone else," Breiner said.

Subscription Information

The TIP Journal is free to all inmates incarcerated in jail or prison. Once paroled, or for those not incarcerated, the newsletter is \$25.00 per year. Once added, you will remain there until paroled or your mail is returned as undeliverable.

Please use this form to ADD or REMOVE yourself from our mailing list:

You must use the name in which you were incarcerated under only.

Name: _____

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Please add me, I am a prisoner (Free newsletter)

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Please remove me from your mailing list.

Total Subscription Due: \$ _____

There are ways to get many of the past issues of the TIP Journal but because of the time involved in getting an old one printed I'll have to ask for a fee but even better yet ! If you know someone on the 'outside' with an access to a computer they can look at and download them at;

Gicofcolo.org

Go 7 over at the top of the page to;

'News and updates'

Then towards the top on the bottom right hand corner click on; 'read the GIC TIP Journal'

**Visit us on the web
www.gicofcolo.org**

About the Tip Journal

Editor :
Teeg TG Spirit

The TIP journal is published quarterly by the Gender Identity Center of Colorado, Inc. The views and opinions expressed in the GIC TIP Journal are those of the authors alone and do not necessarily represent the views and opinions or the official policy of the Gender Identity Center of Colorado, it's board, officers or staff, or that of the Tip Journal and it's editors.

Submission Guidelines

We are always looking for stories, poems and artwork from our readers and subscribers. If you have a piece of art, a poem or story you would like to see in the TIP Journal, please send it to the address below. If you submit artwork and would like it back, please also enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope to be returned to you.

Artwork, poems and stories must be free of any foul, obscene, sexual or inappropriate language or images of the same. Submission of such material will result in rejection. Due to the amount of items received not all items will be published in the current issue.

We reserve the right to edit for content.

Advertising Information

We are looking for advertisers to help off-set the cost of the publication of the TIP Journal. Our rates are as follows. Ad must be submitted digitally and can be edited for an addition \$25.00.

Ad Size	Single Issue	Annual (4 Issues)
Full Page	\$90	\$270
Half Page	\$50	\$150
Quarter Page	\$30	\$90
Eighth Page	\$20	\$60

**Our mailing address
Remember we have moved**

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*Support,
Advocacy,
Education,
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The Transgender, Gender Variant and Intersex (TGI) Justice Project's mission is to challenge and end the human rights abuses committed against transgender, gender variant/genderqueer and intersex (TGI) people in California prisons and beyond. www.tgijp.org

Transgender Law Center (TLC) is a civil rights organization advocating for transgender communities. TLC provides free legal services to transgender people throughout California and works with community members and partnering organizations on cutting-edge transgender rights policy initiatives. www.transgenderlawcenter.org

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JDI applauds the decision by the Michigan Department of Corrections

Just Detention International (JDI) applauds the decision by the Michigan Department of Corrections to settle a class action lawsuit brought by more than 500 female prisoners who were sexually assaulted in Michigan prisons. The case has been going on for more than 10 years -- with the state previously refusing to take responsibility for the rampant abuse in its facilities, even after losing two related trials. The state will pay a total of \$100 million to the women victimized in Michigan's prisons.

Settling this case is a positive first step, but not enough to address and prevent the sexual violence that continues to plague Michigan corrections facilities. With support from the Arcus Foundation, JDI is working with the Wayne County, Michigan, jail to provide training, review policy, and create strong partnerships with local rape crisis centers. JDI hopes that today's settlement encourages the state prison system, as well as other county jails in Michigan, to follow Wayne County's example and work to end sexual abuse of those in their custody.

Transgender inmates fight for hormone therapy

Charlie Butts - OneNewsNow - 8/16/2009 4:05:00 AM

The Idaho Department of Corrections has settled lawsuits filed by two transgender inmates who were denied feminizing hormone therapy.

Although details of the settlement have not been revealed, prison policy on the subject has been changed to help identify and treat similar inmates. Matt Barber of Liberty Counsel says that nowhere does it suggest that transgendered inmates will receive what he believes they really need.

"Perhaps the state here might consider helping these severely disturbed individuals to get the spiritual and psychological help they need to align their falsely, self-perceived gender identity with their God-given gender reality," Barber notes.

Barber believes prison officials are doing transgendered inmates a disservice. "The American Psychological Association still considers gender confusion -- GID, gender identity disorder -- a disorder. It is a mental disorder," he contends.

According to Barber, prisons throughout the U.S. should help suffering inmates to overcome their gender delusions.

I'm finally able to do a little bit of fill in writing here and want to let the readers know that although this issues is a little late that we/I will keep on schedule for the mailing of the quarterly issues of the Transgender in Prison (T.I.P) Journal. Keep those letters and suggestions coming and any news that you may have concerning Transgender in prisons that you may come across. I'm always open to stories and suggestions. By the winter issue I am hopeful that I am back to as 'normal' as I use to be and you will have that issue by Christmas time. In the meantime please have as good of a Thanksgiving as you are able to under the circumstances and just 'know' that I do think of each and everyone of you.

September 8, 2009

Lambda Legal Locations

The Real Story of Prisoner Rape

Dear Friends,

Almost three decades ago, Just Detention International (JDI) was founded by prisoner rape survivors who refused to remain silent about the abuses they had endured while behind bars. Since then, all of us at JDI have remained committed to keeping the perspectives of survivors central to our work. Prisoner rape survivors serve on our Board of Directors, Survivor Council, and Survivor Speakers List. Their experiences are crucial to changing attitudes about sexual violence in detention, and to sparking reform.

At JDI, we receive dozens of letters every week from prisoner rape survivors. Their stories invariably shock the conscience; many also inspire hope, as survivors describe their advocacy on behalf of others, often while still locked up. The courage and wisdom of these prisoners motivate everyone at JDI to work even harder to end sexual assault in detention.

Some survivor stories are posted on JDI's website. They are often graphic, describing rapes and other forms of sexual abuse. As such, they are not suitable reading for everyone. At the same time, at JDI we believe that it is essential to let these voices be heard, to speak the truth about what occurs in U.S. prisons and jails.

Richard, for example, is incarcerated in Texas, where he has been assaulted repeatedly after being denied the special housing he obviously needs. He writes: "My emotional condition is not the best and it's very difficult to find hope on some days. I reported the assaults, yet was accused of lying and told to keep my mouth shut.... [T]he officials I was supposed to trust were the ones who turned their backs to me and let it all continue." Rebecca was abused by staff at a federal prison in Kentucky. She says: "Here is what I will do when I get released from prison. I will reach out, do what I can, and fight for every other woman in prison or jail."

Thank you for helping JDI uphold every person's right to be free from sexual abuse. No matter what crime someone might have committed, rape must not be part of the penalty.

Sincerely,

Lovisa Stannow

Prisoner Safety Act Passes California Senate

Bill expands protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender prisoners

SACRAMENTO, Calif. - September 3 - The state Senate today passed the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Prisoner Safety Act, AB 382, with bipartisan support in a 23 to 14 vote. Sponsored by Equality California (EQCA) and introduced by Assemblymember

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3325 Wilshire Boulevard
Suite 1300
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Southern Regional Office
730 Peachtree Street N.E.
Suite 1070
Atlanta, GA. 30308-1210

Partnership for Safety and Justice
P.O. Box 40085
Portland, OR 97240-0085

American Civil Liberties Union
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Aids Project
125 Broad Street, 18th Floor
New York, NY 10004

The above are some of the resources that may be of help to you including the one in OR. For a pen pal service which we do not supply. As I receive this information I read them before putting them in here and because of space I cannot put all that they do into an issue as some are multi pages long and there is not enough space in the T.I.P. Journal to add all their services. If the organization is not listed in here then it is likely I do not have any personal knowledge of it so when I receive some of the many letters which I receive every month I am simply overwhelmed. I try to answer

Idaho settles lawsuits from transgender inmates

By REBECCA BOONE | Associated Press Writer • Published August 06, 2009

BOISE, Idaho – The Idaho Department of Correction has settled lawsuits with two transgender inmates who castrated themselves after they were denied feminizing hormone therapy.

The terms of the settlements were not disclosed, but the department has changed its policy for identifying and treating transgender inmates. The policy now limits the time inmates must wait for treatment, specifies how they may be diagnosed, and clarifies when they qualify for hormone therapy.

Josephine Von Isaak sued the state in 2006 and Jenniffer Ann Spencer sued the following year. Both inmates, who were born with male anatomy but consider themselves female, contended they were subjected to cruel and unusual punishment because they were denied treatment for gender identity disorder.

Spencer was serving time on a 2000 conviction for possession of a stolen car and escape when she cut off her own testicles with a disposable razor blade in 2004 an apparent effort to rid her body of testosterone. Spencer survived the self-castration, and prison doctors prescribed testosterone replacement therapy - refusing to prescribe the estrogen Spencer wanted.

Isaak, who is serving a life sentence for second-degree murder, said she was also compelled to remove her own testicles with a razor in 2004 after the state failed to diagnose and treat her disorder. Even then, Isaak said in the lawsuit, she went without the estrogen treatment she wanted, and a year after self-castrating she amputated the tip of her penis with a razor blade.

The state cited Isaak's birth gender and schizophrenia diagnosis when it denied her female hormones and a surgical sex change. In Spencer's case, the state said a diagnosis of gender identity disorder wasn't warranted and that Spencer had lied about living as a woman and taking birth control pills before her incarceration.

Isaak's lawsuit was formally dismissed in the wake of the settlement Wednesday. Spencer's lawsuit has not yet been formally dismissed, but both Spencer's and the state's attorneys signed a stipulated dismissal request that was filed in court Monday.

Shannon Minter, legal director of the National Center of Lesbian Rights and the attorney who represented both Spencer and Isaak, could not be immediately reached for comment.

Idaho Department of Correction spokesman Jeff Ray said he couldn't comment on the details of the settlements because it was a confidential legal matter. However, Idaho Department of Correction Director Brent Reinke said the department changed its policy on transgender inmates to create a more detailed standard operating procedure.

"It gives the staff more clarity in the specific steps that we're required to follow," Reinke said. "The new policy doesn't provide any more services than the old policy did. It was developed in response to the need for more clarity for the specific steps we're going to be following when dealing with this particular type of inmate."

The old policy - six pages long and last revised in 2003, calls for a Management and Treatment Committee made up of prison doctors and mental health workers to approve the diagnosis of gender identity disorder and to come up with a treatment plan. Inmates who come into the prison already taking cross-sex hormone therapy can continue the treatment, if approved by the prison committee.

The new policy says inmates must be given information about available treatment for gender identity disorder, that inmates can't be harassed by staffers for having been evaluated for the disorder, and that they must be moved to appropriate housing units while they are evaluated. It also spells out that outside consultants may assist in the diagnosis and that a recommendation for treatment must be completed within two months of a gender identity disorder diagnosis.

Also under the new policy, if an inmate is taking cross-sex hormones when they enter prison, they will be allowed to continue unless another medical condition makes it unsafe or inadvisable to continue.

Four of the approximately 7,300 inmates in Idaho's prison system are diagnosed with gender identity disorder, Reinke said.

I write to and get permission to all the recourses that I list in here and hope to be able to add many more in the very near future . If you have any then please feel free to send them to me if they have to do with this format and I will be more than happy to try to contact them before I list them. Teeg

August 18, 2009

Youth in Detention: Targets of Sexual Abuse

Dear Friends,

With the release in June of national standards addressing prisoner rape, this form of abuse has received unprecedented attention - from government officials and journalists alike. Much of the discussion has focused on adult prisons and jails, which hold the vast majority of U.S. inmates. In the meantime, however, juvenile detention centers remain plagued by sexual violence - and largely hidden from public view.

Rather than receiving the special protections they need, youth behind bars are exceptionally likely to be subjected to rape and other forms of abuse, often by the very corrections officials whose job it is to keep detainees safe.

Sexual abuse scandals have rocked various youth detention systems in recent years, including the now notorious Texas Youth Commission (TYC) where for many years incarcerated juveniles were subjected to systemic abuses at the hands of corrections officials and detainees alike. Recent studies from the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) confirm that incarcerated youth are especially vulnerable to abuse. A pre-test of the first-ever nationwide BJS survey of juvenile detainees found that a shocking one in five youth reported being sexually abused in the previous year. (The full survey is due to be released in December 2009.)

JDI is committed to ending the sexual abuse of youth by working directly with detention systems. This week, JDI is wrapping up a series of staff training sessions at all of the California Division of Juvenile Justice's facilities. Officials have learned about the dynamics and impact of sexual violence in detention, and about how to respond to abuse without further traumatizing survivors. Meanwhile, in collaboration with the TYC, JDI has helped revise the training curriculum for Texas juvenile detention staff and is preparing to do a comprehensive review of TYC policies.

To learn more about the sexual violence of juvenile detainees, please go to JDI's Fact Sheet, Incarcerated Youth at Extreme Risk of Sexual Abuse.

Sincerely,

Lovisa Stannow

“Hello everyone, Teeg here.

I'm still in the healing process from my recent surgery and want to thank Miranda and a few others who have helped me with getting this out and with some of my other duties at the Gender Identity Center of Colorado while I have been laid up. Several of you have been kind enough to send me stamps and one even a whole new book of which I am so grateful for. I'm sorry that I have been unable to thank you with a personal letter but my activities have been very limited since June. Even this issues is a little late with being published but at least it has finally been done.

I have received a few letters of 'suggestions' on how I should write this journal but will keep to the current format as it is what the majority of you wish to read. I am getting more and more mail after each and every issue and I do read each and every one of them so thank you for all your input, kind words and suggestions. I'd like to mention once again especially to the new subscribers that this is a labor of love that is held to it's current 8 pages because of the cost of mailing., I am not able to answer many of the requests for personal a personal letter from me due to my time restrictions and the many that I receive. I will also not supply a 'pen-pal' service because of the same reasons as I know that this is what many of you wish for. I do offer some resources in the newsletter that will do so, most at a small cost.

Please continue to send stamps or any other financial help as you are able as the list of people who request the Transgender in Prison newsletter continues to grow. I know that this is hard for most of you but some have been able to help me with the cost.

Cont. on page 8

A federal judge denies additional hair-removal treatments

BOSTON — A federal judge in Boston on Tuesday denied additional hair-removal treatments for a murderer who is seeking a taxpayer-funded sex-change operation, saying the inmate has failed to prove she will suffer "serious harm" without further electrolysis.

Michelle Kosilek also failed to prove that her rights have been violated by being denied hair-removal treatment, U.S. District Judge Mark Wolf said. Wolf, however, said he may revisit the issue if more information comes to light in state Department of Correction documents.

Kosilek, formerly known as Robert, is serving a life sentence for the murder of his wife, Cheryl, in 1990. He legally changed his name to Michelle in 1993 and has been living as a woman in an all-male prison.

Kosilek's lawyer argued in court that there is "serious medical need" for the treatments, which were discontinued in October after seven sessions. The attorney, Joseph Sulman, said halting the treatment has negatively affected Kosilek's mental health. A Department of Correction lawyer said there are cheaper alternatives for hair removal, including depilatories and shaving. Sulman countered that shaving is a "quintessential male" activity.

Sulman also requested internal Department of Correction documents because agency officials have never explained why the electrolysis was stopped. Prisons lawyer Richard McFarland called the request for documents a "fishing expedition" designed to "find some kind of conspiracy."

Wolf ruled in 2002 that Kosilek was entitled to treatment for gender-identity disorder, but stopped short of ordering sex-change surgery. Kosilek sued again in 2005, claiming denial of the surgery was making her suicidal.

State prison officials oppose Kosilek's request, saying it would create security problems.

Kosilek was in court Tuesday, but did not address the judge or speak publicly.

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Please remember to print your name and mailing so that I am able to read it clearly as I usually receive several requests every month with incomplete information and therefore cannot send out and issue nor add to my list for future mailings. Your name must be that of with you are incarcerated under as I get too many returns.

Local state legislators have signed on

Wakefield - Local state legislators have signed on as co-sponsors of a bill that would add protection for transgender people, which is a general term most often associated with a person whose gender identity — his or her self-identification as a particular gender — does not match the person's physical or genetic gender. It does not refer to the person's sexual orientation.

The bill, which would be part of the state's non-discrimination and hate crimes laws, was the subject of a hearing before the Legislature's Judiciary Committee last week.

Filed in January of this year by Rep. Carl Sciortino Jr., D-Medford, and Rep. Byron Rushing, D-Boston, the bill would add the phrase "gender identity or expression" to the list of criteria protected under the state's existing non-discrimination and hate crimes laws, which currently include race, creed, ethnicity and others.

Of the Massachusetts Legislature's 200 members, 104 have signed on as co-sponsors to the bill, including Rep. Katherine Clark, D-Melrose, who represents Wakefield wards 3-6, and Sen. Richard Tisei, R-Wakefield.

The bill needs to be approved by the Judiciary Committee before being sent to the full Legislature for a vote. So far, only three members of the committee — including Clark — have signed on as co-sponsors.

Clark noted the large number of co-sponsors of the bill, saying that the bill would protect transgender people in Massachusetts from discrimination in housing and employment.

"This is a small minority of the population, but I think it was shown to me through people who came to see me and wrote to me that this is a group that really faces huge discrimination and isolation in their lives," she said. "It made sense to me to add them to the existing hate crime bills and our anti-discrimination bill."

Tisei said the Legislature has been "pretty much consumed with fiscal issues" and that the transgender bill is one of many issues that the Legislature is now starting to take a look at. He added that, like previous equal rights arguments, the process is a slow and gradual one.

"I think each time equal rights bills have come up it has been a struggle to get them passed," Tisei said. "It has been an incremental process over a number of years."

The transgender bill faces opposition from the Massachusetts Family Institute, a Christian conservative non-profit that refers to the proposed legislation as the "bathroom bill" and raises concerns that by allowing people to identify as a gender other than what they are physically born as, it could allow people to enter single-sex bathrooms or locker rooms designated for the opposite sex.

On the Web site nobathroombill.com, a color video advertisement shows a young girl on a playground entering a women's bathroom. The video then cuts to black and white and shows an older man in a baseball hat and glasses entering the same bathroom.

"A majority of Mass. Legislators support a bill to make it legal for men to enter WOMEN'S BATHROOMS," the ad then reads. "Tell them they are WRONG before its too late!"

Tisei said the "bathroom bill" argument is a "bunch of nonsense" "I think they're trying to scare people into opposing the bill and I don't think it's really an issue," he said. "I know it's been dubbed the 'bathroom bill,' but this is really a bill to treat people equally and fairly under the law."

Note from 'Teeg' cont.

In the future I have hopes to be able to write an even better newsletter to you in which I am able to include even more up to date resources for you to contact.

I am only able to answer letters that include a s.a.s.e. and even then because of the time restrictions and the amount of mail that I receive and the limitations since surgery that I currently have. I am even unable to help with the mailing of this issue because of this and I apologize for this as it will still be a few months before I am completely healed.

Please continue to have your faith and support and I love doing this newsletter and will not let you down with missing getting out the issues!