

February 2018 - In This Issue:

#MeToo and the Victimization of People with Disabilities

In the News

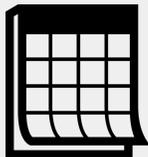
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Vera Center on Victimization + Safety



Upcoming Webinars and Trainings

2018 End Abuse of People with Disabilities Webinar Series

Working with Interpreters: Enhancing Communications with Individuals Who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing

March 20, 2018
2 - 3:30 pm ET

This webinar will help participants ensure quality and appropriate language access delivery. Presenters will highlight the importance of confidentiality, impartiality, and accuracy and provide practical strategies for working with interpreters.

[Register here.](#)

#MeToo and the Victimization of People with Disabilities

By: Ashley Brompton, Program Associate



People with disabilities are **three times** more likely to be sexually assaulted, raped, or sexually abused as children. At a time when the #MeToo campaign is shedding light on the issue of sexual violence, it is critical that we not forget to include people with disabilities in this important movement. There are important steps that the #MeToo campaign can take to ensure that people with disabilities feel welcomed to the conversation:

1. Amplify the voices of survivors with disabilities.
Too often, the voices of people with disabilities and their

Creating and Maintaining a Safety Net for Survivors with Disabilities

May 15, 2018
2-3:30 pm ET

This webinar will provide information to domestic violence and sexual assault providers on how to connect survivors with disabilities to additional, necessary resources as well as how to ensure that those benefits and resources are protected even when an individual with a disability is employed as a part of the movement.

[Register here.](#)

As a reminder, registration closes one week prior to the webinar date for all of our webinars.

Save the Dates for our 2018 End Abuse of People with Disabilities Webinar Series!

We have an exciting new line-up of End Abuse webinars planned for 2018 that we hope you will enjoy.

Save the Dates:

March 20, 2018
May 15, 2018
July 17, 2018
August 14, 2018
September 18, 2018

Don't forget - you can view all of our archived [webinars](#) on our End Abuse of People with Disabilities website.

experiences are marginalized by mainstream campaigns to address violence and abuse. This emerging campaign can take a different approach by centering the experiences of people with disabilities along with other historically marginalized populations. Doing so allows the #MeToo campaign to amplify the voices on the margins, including people with disabilities.

2. Offer models for healthy sexuality for people with disabilities.

People with disabilities have natural human desires, including the desire for relationships and sex. People with disabilities are just as likely to seek out companionship as a person without a disability, but a systemic denial of information about healthy relationships and sexuality can make them less aware of potential abusive behaviors. By talking about what is healthy and nurturing in sexual relationships and making this information available to everyone, including people with disabilities, the #MeToo campaign can present an alternative model for healthy sexuality.

3. Make space for people with disabilities.

People with disabilities need to see people who look like them in the movement to end sexual assault. Responses to the epidemic of sexual assault, such as #TimesUp, which seeks to end workplace harassment and is lauded as "inclusive," need to ensure that they are accounting for accessibility for people with disabilities. There are great examples of how to create a space for survivors with disabilities to share their stories and build community. For example, Rooted in Rights is featuring a [series of blogs](#) written by survivors with disabilities about their experiences with sexual assault and trauma.

4. Highlight what is being done to support survivors with disabilities.

Survivors with disabilities need to know about resources that are designed to help them. While it is true that some rape crisis centers and other sexual assault service providers are not accessible to all people with disabilities, there is clearly a trend toward [accessibility for all survivors](#). These encouraging changes are helping ensure that people with disabilities can receive safe, welcoming services following trauma.

Society needs to collectively recognize the epidemic of sexual violence against people with disabilities and make large scale changes to include them in the conversations on prevention and services to see real, long term, systemic change.



Share Your Ideas!

Do you have ideas about issues we could highlight in our monthly newsletter, topics for our monthly webinar series, or information about new initiatives that seek justice for people with disabilities? We want your feedback! Take advantage of this feature in our newsletter and submit your ideas thoughts and feedback by emailing cvs@vera.org.



In the News

An op-ed talks about the need for healthy sexuality education for people with I/DD this Valentine's Day. [Read the Durango Herald article.](#)

Center on Victimization and Safety | Vera Institute of Justice

cvs@vera.org

212.376.3096

endabusepwd.org

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