

Report to the United States Congress Activities of the Review Panel on Prison Rape in Calendar Year 2009

This report is submitted in accordance with Section 4(c)(1)(A) of the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA), Public Law 108-79, 117 Stat. 972 (codified as amended at 42 U.S.C. §§ 15601-15609 (2006)), which requires the Attorney General to submit a report on the activities of the PREA Review Panel for the preceding calendar year to Congress.

According to PREA, the duty of the Panel is to hold annual public hearings, based on statistics gathered by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), concerning the operation of the three prisons with the highest incidence of sexual victimization and the two prisons with the lowest incidence of sexual victimization in each category of facilities identified under Section (4)(c)(4) of the statute. *Id.* § 15603(b)(3)(A). The purpose of the hearings is to aid the BJS in the identification of common characteristics of victims and perpetrators of sexual victimization in these correctional facilities, as well as of those facilities and systems that have the highest and the lowest incidence of sexual victimization. *Id.*

The most recent BJS PREA data collection, Sexual Victimization in Juvenile Facilities Report by Youth, 2008-09, was released in January 2010. The Review Panel convened public hearings based on this report in June 2010. The written testimony submitted at those hearings is available at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/reviewpanel/transcripts.htm> and the hearing transcripts will be posted to the same page upon their completion.

New Appointments to Review Panel in 2009

In December 2009, the Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs, pursuant to a delegation from the Attorney General, made the following appointments to the Review Panel that which became effective on January 1, 2010:

- Retained Gwendolyn Chun, retired Executive Director of the Juvenile Justice Institute, Center for Criminal Justice Research and International Initiatives, Department of Criminal Justice, North Carolina Central University, who represents the interests of the juvenile justice community.
- Appointed new member Dr. Reginald Wilkinson, Executive Director, Ohio Business Alliance for Higher Education and the Economy, Columbus, Ohio, and formerly longstanding Director of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections; and past President of both the American Correctional Association and the Association of State Correctional Administrators, to represent the interests of corrections agencies.
- Appointed new member Sharon English, nationally-recognized advocate for victims issues, retired Deputy Director for the California Youth Authority's Office of Prevention and Crime Services, and former Special Assistant to the Director, OJP Office for Victims of Crime, to represent the interests of PREA victims.

Orientation for Reconstituted Panel

On February 18-19, 2010, the Panel met informally with several constituency groups, including those representing victim advocates and correctional institutions, to ensure that its work best serves all who have a stake in eliminating sexual victimization, consistent with its mandate under PREA. During its meetings with key stakeholder representatives, the Panel elicited suggestions about the most effective ways to fulfill its mission. The Panel also met informally with representatives from the BJS to discuss the Bureau's research, including the methodology and findings of its report entitled *Sexual Victimization in Juvenile Facilities by Youth, 2008-09* (BJS Juvenile Report). In addition, the Panel discussed the status of various PREA-related initiatives with representatives from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs (OJP), DOJ; the Bureau of Justice Assistance, OJP, DOJ; and the National Institute of Corrections, Federal Bureau of Prisons, DOJ.