



**SANTA BARBARA RAPE CRISIS CENTER**  
**CENTRO CONTRA LA VIOLACION SEXUAL**

**VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER**

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**PRISONER RAPE REPORT**

The U.S. Department of Justice released its first statistical report on prisoner rape on July 31, 2005, while cautioning that the report findings represent only the tip of the iceberg. The government report, which covers formal complaints filed by inmates, found that nearly 2,100 incidents of sexual violence were substantiated in U.S. prisons, jails, and youth detention centers last year.

The U.S. Department of Justice report documented a total of 8,210 allegations of sexual violence in 2004. Almost 42 percent of those allegations involved staff-on-inmate sexual abuse, and an additional 11 percent involved sexual harassment of prisoners by staff. The report established that the most common outcome of investigations into incidents of sexual violence was a determination of lack of evidence.

“This report is an important step toward acknowledging that sexual violence behind bars is a nationwide human rights problem of alarming proportions,” said Lovisa Stannow, Acting Executive Director of Stop Prisoner Rape. “However, in order for us to establish the true prevalence of prisoner rape, we need to talk to inmates directly, rather than rely on administrative records.”

The U.S. Department of Justice report, which will be published annually, is mandated by the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA), the first-ever federal legislation to address prisoner rape. A survey of past and present inmates, which will provide a much more detailed account of the prevalence of prisoner rape, will be initiated in 2006.

**WOMAN OF COLOR NOT 'HOT' ENOUGH FOR MANAGER?**

Make-up mogul L’Oreal will soon be touching up its legal defense for an appearance in a San Francisco trial court. On August 11<sup>th</sup>, the California Supreme Court upheld an employee's right to sue for retaliation after she refused to fire a worker who was not sexually attractive or “hot” to her male supervisor. The decision is a victory for working women everywhere.

Elysa Yanowitz, a highly rated L’Oreal employee of 18 years, alleges she was subject to negative reviews, unwarranted criticism in front of her staff, and new job requirements when she resisted L’Oreal executive John Wiswall’s order, which she believed was sex discrimination. According to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, Wiswall directed Yanowitz to fire a top-selling, saleswoman of Middle Eastern descent who was “not good-looking enough” and ordered to “get me somebody hot.” Throughout the six-year legal battle, Yanowitz has said that Wiswall made his preference for fair-skinned blondes clear during visits to the store when he pointed out a young attractive blonde woman and stated, “God damn it, get me one that looks like that.”

EEOC statistics reveal that sex-based discrimination claims are all too common, with 24,249 claims filed in 2004. Additionally, the EEOC resolved 24,751 charges of retaliation discrimination in 2004, recovering more than \$90 million in monetary benefits for spurned employees.

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **ACTIVISM 101: SEPTEMBER'S ADVOCATE MEETING**

Mark your calendar now for this month's Advocate Meeting on Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Your very own Training Coordinator, Heather, will lead you in an exploration of Activism. Find out how to get even further involved in the community without overextending yourself! Several of your fellow Advocates will also share some of their experiences as activists to help expand your possibilities for instigating and supporting social change. Come for the inspiration; come for the company; come for the food. Heather can't wait to see you!

## **SEPTEMBER OFFICE CLOSURE**

SBRCC's office will be closed on Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2005 in observance of Labor Day. Of course, the 24-hour hotline will still be operational throughout the holiday.

## **SBRCC NEEDS MORE ADVOCATES – HELP SPREAD THE WORD!**

The next English Crisis Intervention Training is scheduled for *October 3, 2005 – November 30, 2005*. Classes will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 – 10 p.m. If you know anyone who may be interested, please have them contact Heather by email at [heather@sbrcc.net](mailto:heather@sbrcc.net) or by phone at 963-6832, x. 28. We are always looking for bilingual (Spanish/English) volunteers. And, for this training, we are making a special invitation to men in an effort to recruit additional male advocates. Please spread the word to anyone that you think might be a possible rape crisis advocate.

## **JOIN SBRCC'S TEAM FOR THE 15TH ANNUAL HEART & SOLE AIDS WALK/RUN '05! SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2005 AT LEADBETTER BEACH, SANTA BARBARA**

Be a part of SBRCC's team of volunteers and staff at the Annual Heart and Sole AIDS Walk on *Saturday, October 1, 2005*. The walk is a benefit for Pacific Pride Foundation's (PPF) HIV/AIDS programs and services. SBRCC will walk to show our support for PPF and the members of our community affected by HIV/AIDS. Together, we have a goal to raise \$500 for PPF's crucial community services. The Walk route is 10-kilometers (6.2 miles) and leads walkers along the beach on Cabrillo Boulevard. The Walk ends with a beachside celebration with complimentary snacks, live music, free massages, and an awards ceremony. For more information, see [www.aidswalksb.com](http://www.aidswalksb.com). To join the SBRCC team, contact Alena at [alena@sbrcc.net](mailto:alena@sbrcc.net) or 963-6832 ext. 29.

## **ARE YOU SBRCC'S NEXT LIBRARIAN?**

SBRCC is looking for a volunteer to help organize the library of books and other resources related to ending sexual violence. If you have a few hours a week to volunteer during September and support SBRCC by helping with the library, please contact Alena at [alena@sbrcc.net](mailto:alena@sbrcc.net) or 963-6832 ext. 29.

## **SPEAKER'S BUREAU TRAINING**

Here's your chance to overcome your fear of public speaking and help dismantle rape culture at the same time! Speaker's Bureau Training is open to all certified Rape Crisis Advocates. After the 12 hour training, you will be ready to give Sexual Assault Awareness and Rape Prevention presentations to middle and high schools, colleges and universities, and community groups. The upcoming training sessions are scheduled as follows:

- Tuesday, September 20, 7:00-10:00p.m.
- Tuesday, September 27, 6:00-9:00p.m.
- Tuesday, October 4, 6:00-9:00p.m.
- Tuesday, October 11, 6:00-9:00p.m.

To sign up or get more information about Speaker's Bureau training, please contact Alena at [alena@sbrcc.net](mailto:alena@sbrcc.net) or 963-6832 ext. 29.

### **MY STRENGTH CAMPAIGN: SBRCC TO SUPPORT STATEWIDE RAPE PREVENTION EFFORTS**

This month, you may notice new sexual assault prevention messages popping up in high schools and local media. The California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA) is launching a statewide social marketing campaign beginning on September 13<sup>th</sup>. The “My Strength Campaign” is designed to raise awareness of sexual violence among youth and highlight the vital role young men can play in fostering healthy relationships. The My Strength Campaign was originally developed by Men Can Stop Rape in Washington D.C., and has been adapted to bring its message of positive behavior change to California. SBRCC will be supporting the efforts of CALCASA to empower young men to help prevent sexual violence. For more information about the campaign, please see [www.mystrength.org](http://www.mystrength.org).

### **CALL REPORT FORM REMINDER**

Advocates must complete and return Call Report Forms to SBRCC *within 48 hours* after the contact date with the client. In addition, follow-up should be provided within 72 hours after initial contact.



**Happy Birthday to:**



- Naty on September 9th
- Mojdeh on September 9th
- Nicolasa on September 10th
- Gelare on September 20th
- Debra on September 20<sup>th</sup>
- Vicki on September 29<sup>th</sup>