

End the Sex Abuse  
To Prison Pipeline  
National Action Program Toolkit

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# INFO BRIEF

## End the Sex Abuse to Prison Pipeline

### *Title IX and Trauma Informed Services for Middle and High School Students*

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#### **What is Title IX?**

Title IX is a section of the Education Amendments of 1972 that requires equal education opportunities for girls in federally funded educational programs. The purpose of Title IX is to circumvent the perpetuation of society's gender discrimination in academic settings; ideally it should operate as a force to rebalance the scales of justice.<sup>1</sup> While Title IX is traditionally thought of as a method to provide young women equal opportunities in sports, the amendment extends to 10 key areas: Access to Higher Education, Career Education, Education for Pregnant and Parenting Students, Employment, Learning Environment, Math and Science, Sexual Harassment, Standardized Testing and Technology.<sup>2</sup>

In recent years, Title IX legislation has been used to address the crisis of sexual harassment and sexual assault on college campuses. Title IX has become particularly integral in holding universities and schools accountable for sexual assaults that are overlooked or ignored by the administration and campus police. By June 15, 2016, there were 246 federal Title IX investigations against college universities, alone.<sup>3</sup>

#### **Title IX and Vulnerable Girls**

Title IX's promise of equal education opportunity is as important for middle school and high school girls who have experienced sexual trauma. Girls are sexually abused at a rate 4.4 times higher than boys, and their behavioral reaction to trauma is often criminalized.<sup>4</sup> Traumatic experiences are often the cause for youth involvement in the criminal justice system, with 31% of girls having been victims of sexual violence, 41% being physically abused, and 84% experiencing family violence. In schools, zero-tolerance policies prioritize discipline over educational attainment; this disproportionately affects students of color. For example, Black girls are six times more likely to be suspended than white girls, and three times more likely to be suspended than Black boys for the same behavior.<sup>5</sup> LGBTQIA youth are also disproportionately affected. Students suspended or expelled are in turn three times more likely to be drawn into the juvenile justice system the following year.

If a student is engaged in rule infractions or otherwise disruptive behaviors that are a result of trauma, that student is in need of the appropriate trauma-related services, as opposed to disciplinary action. The rights of girls are further violated when they are punished, pushed out, or criminalized instead of recognized as survivors of trauma, and provided services such as emotional counseling and health assistance. Girls who experience sexual or physical abuse are entitled to an equal education and when their experience is not recognized, they are deprived of that right.

#### **Requirements of Title IX**

- All federally funded school districts are required to have a certified Title IX Coordinator who has been properly trained to handle cases of sexual violence. The Campus Save Act, as well as the Title IX Guidance (known colloquially as the DCL), stress that training should include guidance on how to deal with cases of sexual violence **as well as how to identify them.**<sup>6,7</sup>
- In middle schools and high schools too many girls who are survivors of sex assault are being routinely denied an equal education opportunity—penalized for their trauma—

- induced behavior instead of receiving wraparound trauma-informed services. Schools must be required to work with their Title IX coordinators to rectify this injustice.<sup>8</sup>

### **NOW's Action Agenda:**

- Lobby school districts to instill a properly trained Title IX Coordinator, who can not only handle cases of sexual abuse but also be trained to identify it.
- Lobby school districts to train faculty and staff on identifying students who are in need of trauma-informed services, and provide appropriate services.
- Lobby school districts to develop protocols and provide services for sexually traumatized students with a view to ensuring an equal education opportunity for survivors, allowing them to stay in school, recover from trauma, and not just survive but thrive.

### **Sources**

1 Lhamon, Catherine E. "Questions and answers on Title IX and sexual violence." Washington, DC. (2014)

2 See 1.

3 Kingkade, T., & Post, H. (2016, June 26). List of 195 higher Ed institutions under title IX sexual violence. Retrieved March 2, 2017.

4 Saar, Malika Saada, et al. "The sexual abuse to prison pipeline: The girls' story." (2015).

5 Morris, Monique W. "Race, Gender, and the" School to Prison Pipeline": Expanding Our Discussion to Include Black Girls." (2012).

6 Ali, R. (2010). Dear Colleague Letter: Harassment and Bullying. *US Department of Education*.

7 See 3.

# ACTION BRIEF



## Title IX For Schools With A Coordinator

### *Title IX and Trauma Informed Services for Middle and High School Students*

Title IX dictates that no person can be denied benefits or discriminated against based on sex or gender in federally funded institutions (20 U.S.C § 1681).<sup>1</sup> Every educational institution receiving federal funding must have a Title IX Coordinator, whose role is to ensure schools are compliant with Title IX, coordinate investigative and disciplinary processes, and **look for patterns or systematic problems with compliance to ensure schools fulfill their federal obligations.**

### **Title IX and Protecting Vulnerable Girls**

Title IX is intended to ensure equal education opportunities for all girls and women. Unfortunately, one in four girls in the U.S will experience some form of sexual abuse before the age of 18. If a student is engaged in rule infractions or otherwise disruptive behavior that is a result of trauma—regardless of where or when that trauma is experienced—that student is in need of the appropriate trauma-related services, as opposed to disciplinary action. The rights of these girls are only further violated when they are punished, pushed out, or criminalized\* instead of being recognized as survivors and provided services such as emotional counseling and health assistance. Girls who experience sexual or physical abuse are entitled to an equal education and when their experience is not recognized, they are deprived of that right.

- 1. Therefore, we urge that the [school/school districts] Title IX Coordinator establish and rigorously implement a trauma-informed screening process for students in order to discern those who may be victims of abuse.**
- 2. Any student suspected of having experienced sexual trauma must be provided trauma informed services, especially if there are any behavioral issues resulting from the trauma that are impacting their educational experience and performance.**

*\*Traumatic experiences are often the cause for youth involvement in the criminal justice system, with 31% of girls having been victims of sexual violence, 41% being physically abused, and 84% experiencing family violence.*

#### **Sources**

<sup>1</sup> Lhamon, Catherine E. "[Questions and answers on Title IX and sexual violence.](#)" Washington, DC. (2014)

# ACTION BRIEF



## Title IX For Schools Without A Coordinator

### *Title IX and Trauma Informed Services for Middle and High School Students*

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Title IX dictates that no person can be denied benefits or discriminated against based on sex or gender in federally funded institutions (20 U.S.C § 1681).<sup>1</sup> Every educational institution receiving federal funding must have a Title IX Coordinator, whose role is to ensure schools are compliant with Title IX, coordinate investigative and disciplinary processes, and **look for patterns or systematic problems with compliance to ensure schools fulfill their federal obligations.**

If a school does not have a Title IX Coordinator, they are not in compliance with the law.

- 1. As such, we urge you to comply with Title IX requirements and appoint a Title IX Coordinator at [school/school district].**

### **Title IX and Protecting Vulnerable Girls**

Title IX is intended to ensure equal education opportunities for all girls and women. Unfortunately, one in four girls in the U.S will experience some form of sexual abuse before the age of 18. If a student is engaged in rule infractions or otherwise disruptive behavior that is a result of trauma—regardless of where or when that trauma is experienced—that student is in need of the appropriate trauma-related services, as opposed to disciplinary action. The rights of these girls are only further violated when they are punished, pushed out, or criminalized\* instead of being recognized as survivors and provided services such as emotional counseling and health assistance. Girls who experience sexual or physical abuse are entitled to an equal education and when their experience is not recognized, they are deprived of that right.

- 2. Therefore, we urge that [school/school district] establish and rigorously implement a trauma informed screening process for students in order to discern those who may be victims of abuse.**
- 3. Any student suspected of having experienced trauma of any kind must be provided trauma informed services, especially if there are any behavioral issues resulting from the trauma that are impacting their educational experience and performance.**

*\*Traumatic experiences are often the cause for youth involvement in the criminal justice system, with 31% of girls having been victims of sexual violence, 41% being physically abused, and 84% experiencing family violence.*

### **Sources**

<sup>1</sup> Lhamon, Catherine E. "[Questions and answers on Title IX and sexual violence.](#)" Washington, DC. (2014)

# PHONE SCRIPT



## **Title IX For Schools With A Coordinator** *Trauma Informed Services for Middle and High School Students*

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Hello, my name is **[name]** and my zip code is **[zip code]**.

As a constituent, I am calling to express my concern with **[Name of School/School Districts]** implementation of a Title IX strategy. After careful research, I have found that **Name of School/School District** does not have any policy or system in place that addresses children who have are victims of sexual abuse.

Title IX is critical to the safety of our students, particularly young women. Title IX is a federal law that prohibits discrimination based on sex in any federally funded educational institution including sexual harassment. Each district is required by law to have a Title IX coordinator to ensure that reports of sexual harassment are being handled properly, and that legal assistance and mental health services are readily available.

Although your district has a Title IX coordinator, they have failed to implement a program that adequately meets the needs of your students, especially those that are the most vulnerable.

I am concerned with the number of young women who do not have access to the services they need through Title IX legislation. Your school is one that does not ensure these services. Many girls are victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse, and if we do not appropriately respond to obvious signs of trauma or punish them for acting out, we say we don't care. We are saying we don't care about their pain, their safety, or their futures. Title IX ensures that trauma is not mislabeled as bad behavior and works to provide survivors the resources they need. I care deeply about young girls in our school system and I hope you do as well.

The implementation and enforcement of Title IX policies are necessary to protect the most vulnerable students. **Would you commit to making sure that your coordinator establishes and rigorously implements a trauma informed screening process for students who may be victims of abuse?**

Thank you for your time, do you need any more information from me?

# PHONE SCRIPT

## Title IX For Schools Without A Coordinator *Trauma Informed Services for Middle and High School Students*



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Hello, my name is [name] and my zip code is [zip code].

As a constituent, I am calling to express my concern with [Name of School/School Districts] implementation of a Title IX Coordinator. After careful research, I have found that [Name of School/School District] does not have a Title IX coordinator *nor* a Title IX policy.

Title IX is critical to the safety of our students, particularly young women. Title IX is a federal law that prohibits discrimination based on sex in any federally funded educational institution including sexual harassment. Each district is required by law to have a Title IX coordinator to ensure that reports of sexual harassment are being handled properly, and that legal assistance and mental health services are readily available.

I am concerned with the number of young women who do not have access to the services they need through Title IX legislation. Your school is one that does not ensure these services. Many girls are victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse, and if we do not appropriately respond to obvious signs of trauma or punish them for acting out, we say we don't care. We are saying we don't care about their pain, their safety, or their futures. Title IX ensures that trauma is not mislabeled as bad behavior and works to provide survivors the resources they need. I care deeply about young girls in our school system and I hope you do as well.

A Title IX coordinator is the first step in a long process, but a very necessary one. Implementation and enforcement of Title IX policies are necessary to protect the most vulnerable students. **Would you commit to implementing a Title IX coordinator and making sure that your coordinator establishes and rigorously implements a trauma informed screening process for students who may be victims of abuse?**

# Social Media Toolkit:



## End The Sex Abuse to Prison Pipeline

*The Women's March, Black Lives Matter, DAPL, Occupy: What do these movements have in common? They all started in the digital world.*

### Why is online activism important?

Often, people dismiss social media and its' importance in social justice movements. However, over the past 20 years, studies have found that social media is a unique tool that allows people to connect, learn, and mobilize at an unprecedented rate. Here are a few reasons why:

1. Social media helps link people from all over the world who are dedicated to the same causes, building a community made up of a variety of ideas, narratives, and experiences.
2. It has the power to educate many people at once and connect them to resources they might not otherwise find.
3. It can enhance our offline activism, creating a foundation and jumping-off point for 'on the ground' action.

## 4 Ways to Enhance Your Online Activism

### **Quality, not Quantity**

While there's something to be said for saturating people's timelines with news you care about, the quality of your posts is far more important. Make your posts meaningful by retrieving your information from reputable sources. Attach relevant videos, articles, and graphics to captivate readers, and make sure your posts are well-written and free of grammatical errors.

### **Engage in (Informed) Disagreement...**

Conversing with people who hold opposing views is healthy and sometimes even productive! It forces us (and others) to consider, defend, and reevaluate our beliefs. However, when voicing your opinions with people on the internet, keep the conversation respectful. Stick to the facts, refrain from name-calling, and see your position through.



### **...But, Remember to Pick Your Battles**

Although it can be productive to engage in healthy discussions, sometimes it just isn't worth it. Consider the level of influence you have over the person you're trying to debate. Offer to speak offline with someone about an issue you feel particularly passionate about if it feels appropriate for the situation.

### **Collaborate and Connect with Others**

Pooling your resources with like-minded groups can make your movement that much stronger. Don't let your hashtags disappear into oblivion; work with local activists to expand your movement into different communities.

**Note:** The current cultural climate has bred an increased uptick in aggressive rhetoric in digital spaces. If you are feeling unsafe in a particular space or with a particular user, please do not hesitate to disengage and block that person/user.

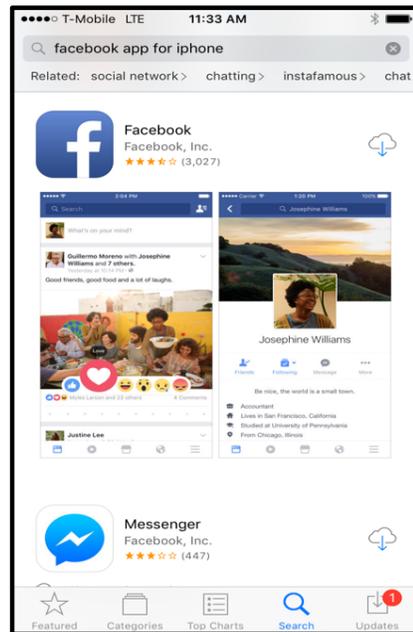


# How to Use Facebook Live

For newcomers to this feature of Facebook, here are a few simple steps for Facebook Live use and best practices.

**NOTE: You can only go live on Facebook through Facebook’s iOS (iPhone, iPad) app or Android (Galaxy, Notebook, etc) app. Facebook Live is not applicable through desktop computers or laptops.**

Step 1: Download the Facebook App on your iPhone or Android phone:



Step 2: Once it is downloaded and you have logged in under your NOW profile, go to the top of your News Feeds. Tap **‘What’s On Your Mind?’**

Step 3: Tap  **Live Video.**

Step 4: Write a description of your broadcast (using the aforementioned guidelines).

Step 5: Tap **Go Live** to begin.

Step 6: Tap **Finish** when you want your video to end.

In order to film an event such as a panel discussion, an interview or a conference, it is suggested the person use an iPad rather than a cellular phone. For events such as these, the same rules apply, however, make sure your front facing camera (the camera used to take selfies) is in use. Using an iPad also affords you the ability to set it up on a docking station and let it record as you are live.

# End the Sex Abuse to Prison Pipeline: Facebook Guide

With the End the Sex Abuse to Prison Pipeline (ESAPP) campaign, our goal is to educate our followers on what the issues are and what we can do on a local level to help young women. **Our main legislative focus with ESAPP is Title IX, specifically in middle school and high school.** In middle and high schools, many girls who are survivors of sexual assault are routinely penalized for their trauma-induced behavior instead of receiving physical and mental health services. Schools are required to work with their Title IX Coordinators to rectify this injustice and ensure that vulnerable girls are able to fully pursue their education.

As such, ESAPP-related posts should pay particular attention to:

- Educate the public on what the Sex Abuse to Prison Pipeline (SAPP) is
  - Scholarly Research on the SAPP and who it affects
  - Research done by NOW on the SAPP
- Info and News on Title IX
  - What Is Title IX
  - How does it help young women in school?
- Hard news stories or human interest pieces on those who were SAPP victims or legislation

*See our Resources for the ESAPP campaign on [NOW.org](http://NOW.org) for more information!*

## ESAPP: Facebook Examples

- Do you know how SAPP impacts your local high school? This resource breaks down how Title IX works for young women in the education system: <http://bit.ly/1iZBXzf>
- When girls are not given resources for an education free from violence, they can enter a cycle of sexual violence and trafficking. This is the Sex Abuse to Prison Pipeline. <http://bit.ly/2ISMOQv>
- Did you know that the Trump campaign called the Office for Civil Rights “self-perpetuating, absolute nonsense?” If eliminated from the DoE, women and girls protected under Title IX will be unable to attend school without fear of violence, harassment, and intimidation: <http://bit.ly/2eNXVWr>
- The Sex Abuse to Prison Pipeline, often ends with young women as victims of sex trafficking. NOW is committed to helping girls before it reaches that stage. <http://bit.ly/2ISE5hg>
- All federally funded school districts are required to have a Title IX coordinator trained to handle cases of sexual violence. Does your school district have a Title IX Coordinator? Call your local school board today: [Link to NAP’s Title IX Phone Script]
- How does Title IX impact the Sex Abuse to Prison Pipeline? Read NOW’s Title IX Brief to learn more about how this cycle impacts women and girls: [\[Insert Title IX Information Brief Here\]](#)

# End the Sex Abuse to Prison Pipeline: Twitter Guide

On Twitter, NOW's goal with the ESAPP campaign is to educate, inform, and engage. Most people are unaware of the SAPP phenomenon, therefore it is important that we raise awareness as to the extensive impact of this issue, particularly for young girls of color. For example, does your social media community know that girls in the U.S are sexually abused at a rate over 4 times as high as boys, and that their behavioral reaction to trauma is often criminalized? Traumatic experiences are frequently the cause for youth involvement in the criminal justice system, with 31% of girls having been victims of sexual violence, 41% being physically abused, and 84% experiencing family violence. Schools are in an important position--and required--to work with their Title IX Coordinators to help vulnerable girls and ensure they are able to pursue their education.

As such, SAPP-related posts should pay particular attention to:

- Education on the SAPP
  - Facts/stats tweets on the SAPP
  - Statistics on who is affected by the SAPP and what happens to young girls
  - Links to material we have created on the SAPP
- Education and awareness raising around Title IX
  - Highlight how Title IX helps young girls in middle school and high school in addition to on college campuses
  - Demonstrate the importance of mental health assistance with Title IX

## SAPP: Twitter Examples

- NOW's new initiative to dismantle the Sex Abuse to Prison Pipeline aims to help thousands of young girls every year who are victims of sexual violence. Find out more here: [Link to resource on the Sex Abuse to Prison Pipeline]
- Dismantling the Sex Abuse to Prison Pipeline is the first step in helping vulnerable African American and Latina girls.
- Did you know that Title IX guarantees mental counseling, legal assistance, and health services to any girl who reports sexual abuse to her school officials? #KnowYourIX
- Title IX doesn't just protect young women on college campuses, it looks out for girls in middle and high school. Find out more about Title IX here: [Link to NOW Resource Tab on Title IX]
- Almost 85% of girls in juvenile detention centers have been sexually abused in their lifetime. It's time to stop ignoring the facts around sex abuse and incarceration.
- Racial discrimination comes in all forms: African American girls are 6x more likely to be punished in high school than White girls for the same behavior.
- Title IX Coordinators are MANDATORY at every federally funded school; this includes middle school and high school. #KnowYourIX

# Sex Abuse to Prison Pipeline Resources



## General Resources

### The Sexual Abuse to Prison Pipeline: The Girls' Story

This report defines and describes the sexual abuse to prison pipeline, reveals its underlying causes, and provides guidance for reforms that would help dismantle it. It maps out key points in the pipeline—the detention of girls who are victims of sex trafficking; the criminalization of girls who run away from home or become truant; and those who cross from the child welfare system into juvenile justice.

### Race, Gender, and the School to Prison Pipeline: Expanding Our Discussion to Include Black Girls

This resource refers to the policies, practices, and conditions that facilitate both the criminalization of educational environments, the processes by which this criminalization results in the incarceration of young adults, and how to reduce the criminalization of black females in our nation's learning environments.

## Title IX Resources

### Questions and Answers on Title IX and Sexual Violence

The Office of Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Education provides guidance for elementary/secondary schools and postsecondary institutions concerning their obligations under Title IX to address sexual violence as a form of sexual harassment.

### List of 195 Higher Ed Institutions Under Title IX Sexual Violence Investigations

A list of sexual violence investigations opens at the postsecondary level including the dates the specific investigations were initiated. As of June 15, 2016, there are 246 sexual violence cases under investigations at 195 postsecondary institutions.

### Dear Colleague Letter: Harassment and Bullying

The Office for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Education discusses student-on-student sexual violence, explaining a school's responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to sexual violence against students in accordance with the requirements of Title IX. This resource provides guidance on the unique concerns that arise in sexual violence cases, examples about key Title IX requirements and how they relate to sexual violence, and discusses proactive efforts schools can take to prevent sexual violence.

### Supporting A High School Student Survivor

A toolkit for high school student survivors outlining Title IX, and information on high school student survivors' legal rights, school's' legal obligations, and resources and tools for accessing support.