

Public Comments relating to the National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States held on September 8-9, 2021

Juanita Perry

For the Housing recommendations, are all the recommendation just focused on emergency shelter? I would expand that for transitional and permanent housing as well. There should also be some language about training and resources though communities coordinated entry processes. I am assuming that I will have the opportunity to respond by the Federal agency's deadline of Oct. 29.

Elizabeth Pardue Sullivan

Secured survivor databases of sex trafficking and sexual violence reporting do not currently exist. The creation of these databases, with the expressed consent of survivor provided information, would speed the forensic analysis of past and ongoing criminality exponentially and help survivors of the same perpetrators to connect and corroborate information for evidentiary procedure, witness testimony, and unified healing in a highly efficient and supportive manner. As of now, one of the only ways for survivors to potentially connect and provide corroborating information is by going public. Given the violent criminality involved, this endangers survivors and their loved ones immensely by exposing them to possible retribution by offenders without any judicial protections and deters reporting. Existing models for secured databases are already in existence and can be easily modified to meet these needs. Thank you for your time and good works.

I would also like to add that local law enforcement officials in my state are extremely limited. The local FBI and TBI have only one investigator for each agency actively working on hundreds of ongoing cases. This makes their jobs nearly impossible and limits their investigations to ongoing cases only while prohibiting them from investigating older cases.

I am from the state of Tennessee. There is a long, horrific, and continuous system of covering up these crimes. And taking direct retribution against survivors.

Juanita Perry

Thank you. Our office have prevention resources to place someone in housing immediately not just in shelter. I will wait to respond to the recommendations.

Elaine Stedt

Speaking on behalf of the Office on Child Abuse and Neglect, Children's Bureau, I appreciate and value this dialogue and feedback. It would be helpful to get this PPT. We will share it with our leadership and

think through the short and long term goals of the recommendations. I have to run to another meeting, but look forward to additional conversation once we've provided context to our leadership.

Madeline Hehir

I'm on the NAC call and you mentioned that detailed state responses can be posted online in a database. We had previously been told by the NAC that our responses would not be directly quoted or published, but rather that the report would refer to 'a state said...'. We may have written our responses differently if we knew they could be published, quoted, or publicly attributed. Can you please clarify whether our responses can be published?

Elizabeth Pardue Sullivan

Thank you! I am very disappointed that Tennessee opted out and am wondering why they were permitted to opt out of a congressional mandate. I am not surprised, however. Being a former trauma therapist and a survivor of child sex trafficking and torture that began when I was a toddler, and was operated by local officials in Knoxville, TN and the surrounding counties, every road to justice has been much more than blocked, and I live with constant threat. There are many others like me here, but we do not have methods to communicate with each other so that we can build cases against the individuals, companies, and official agencies involved. Based upon the gloating behaviors of criminal authorities, I can only imagine things have gotten much worse for children today. I can provide much more detailed information of the offenses and obstructions of justice if you are interested. Any help you can provide would mean the world to us, literally.

Realizing that many public and private interests see dollar signs rather than people, it might also be helpful to let these people know that the lasting harm, disability, and economic loss resulting from sexual violence is incalculable. Whenever a sexual perpetrator benefits from and gets away with criminality, the society as a whole ends up paying for the consequences of their crimes. Data can also be collected and analyzed on these issues.

Survivors and people working in the fields of investigation that I have discussed this with have said the database would be extremely helpful with their work. Yes, though, it must be highly secured.

Before the public segment ends, I would like to thank you for allowing me to attend and opt in for Tennessee in whatever small way I can. My contact information is [redacted email address]. Thank you for working on these extremely important issues. You are saving lives and creating a better future for humanity.