



May 9, 2022

Ms. Lisa Monaco
Deputy Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Deputy Attorney General Monaco:

We have followed the unfolding story of sexual assault at Dublin FCI with great concern. We are gratified to learn the Department of Justice has committed to addressing the dangerous environment there following media accounts of appalling conduct by corrections officials. I understand that you commissioned a task force to examine the situation on the ground and that you intend to hold Bureau of Prisons (BOP) personnel accountable.

We commend the criminal division for charging individual officials and staff members responsible for abusing women and engaging in covering up that abuse. Internal affairs files have been opened for each allegation and you have said you intend to get to the heart of misconduct and root it out.

We applaud these steps. We think, however, there is one more thing you can and must do: Help the victims of abuse begin to heal by directing the BOP to seek, and U.S. Attorneys to file, reduction of sentence motions for every woman whose allegations have been found credible.

The Bureau of Prisons can refer compassionate release motions to the U.S. Attorney for filing when it finds extraordinary and compelling reasons warrant a reduction in sentence.¹ While the policy statement describing extraordinary and compelling reasons does not include sexual abuse by corrections officials, it does provide the BOP the power to identify “other reasons,” that alone or in combination with recognized criteria merit compassionate release.² Sexual assault by BOP personnel of incarcerated women is an exceptional abuse of trust. The trauma resulting from such victimization is without doubt an extraordinary and compelling reason justifying consideration for compassionate release.

None of the victims was sentenced to endure such violence. It has made their incarceration degrading and terrifying. The victims could not protect themselves or flee their abusers. Many

¹ 18 U.S.C. § 3582 (c) (1) (A) (i).

² U.S.S.G § 1B1.13, comment (n. 1 (D)).



struggle to speak about their experience for fear of retaliation. Sexual abuse survivors bear the emotional scars of their violation for years. Mental health care in the federal system is inadequate to help them begin to heal.

We know violence and sexual violence are too common in our nation's prisons and jails. The Department's recent investigation of the Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman and of the men's prisons in Alabama reveal in frightening detail how states are failing to keep people in their custody safe. The Justice Department's settlement with 15 women sexually assaulted while incarcerated at FPC Coleman show that federal prisons are dangerous, too, especially for women.

FAMM continues to believe independent oversight of all prisons and jails is required to prevent the harms experienced by incarcerated people and correctional officers alike. For the women abused at Dublin, however, the Department can and should act now to address the physical and emotional harm they have experienced.

A motion filed by the U.S. Attorney on behalf of the Bureau of Prisons is the best opportunity to secure emotional and physical safety for women who endured sexual abuse by BOP personnel. A Department-sanctioned motion carries the weight of the Department's imprimatur, something a defendant-filed motion does not. But, more than that, a motion filed by the United States would convey the gravity of the harm these women endured and signal your commitment to make it right.

Thank you for considering this request. Please feel free to reach out to me if you wish to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,



Kevin A. Ring
President