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ACS Issue Brief Outlines Challenges to Detention Policy

Authors Identify Scourge of Sexual Violence in U.S. Prisons, Offer Solutions to Attorney General

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Washington, D.C. – The American Constitution Society for Law and Policy (ACS) today released a timely new Issue Brief calling for national standards and solutions to the “human rights and public health crisis” of sexual violence in our prisons, jails and detention facilities.

In “Improving Prison Oversight to Address Sexual Violence in Detention,” authors **Melissa Rothstein**, East Coast Program Director for Just Detention International (JDI) and **Lovisa Stannow**, JDI’s Executive Director, discuss the urgent need for national standards addressing sexual abuse in detention, in addition to a strong monitoring system to improve safety in detention facilities.

“When the government removes someone’s liberty, it incurs the absolute responsibility to protect that person’s safety and dignity,” write Rothstein and Stannow. “Far too often, corrections officials are failing at that task.”

The authors detail the problem of sexual violence in detention and its systemic and managerial underpinnings. They discuss the need for improved corrections oversight and the specific role that the national standards can play. Rothstein and Stannow conclude by urging the Attorney General to ratify the recommended standards, as well as establish a strong, independent mechanism for measuring compliance.

The ACS Issue Brief is available [here](#). Please contact Chris Cassidy at CCassidy@ACSLaw.org or 202.393.6181 to arrange interviews with the author.

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