Gina Jackson, MSW

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**Emily Buehler** 

Bureau of Justice Statistics 810 Seventh Street NW Washington, DC 20531 Emilv.Buehler@usdoi.gov

Dear Ms. Buehler,

I am writing to provide public comment on the **Survey of Sexual Victimization (SSV) for the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003** which requires the Federal Bureau of Prisons; state prison and juvenile justice systems; private prisons; correctional facilities operated by the U.S. Military and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; local, private and tribal jails; local and private juvenile justice facilities; and juvenile facilities in Indian country to track the data collected in SSV.

There is a critical data point missing in SSV. That is the race of the survivors and perpetrators. There is an extreme disproportionality of Native Women and Girls of sexual violence. It is well known and documented that there is disproportionality for people of color as well as transgender people.

Another data point is the gender identity including transgender to be able to identify the sexual violence that we know is disproportionate. This is critical information that is needed to protect people within the system.

Moving towards understanding how to create systems that protect victims of sexual violence, it is absolutely imperative to collect race data.

I am a social worker who has spent more than 30 years working towards justice, equity, and systems change in tribes, the state, and on a national level. The inequalities are great in this country and without comprehensive understanding of the sexual violence in prisions, juvenile justice systems, and correctional facilities we are not going to make effective systems change.

Sincerely,

Gina Jackson, MSW