



For many, joining the military means suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) from combat, oppressing people & occupying their lands, and/or Military Sexual Trauma (MST) from sexual violence:

- Over 1/2 of women, serving & veteran, experience PTSD & MST.¹²
- PTSD puts veterans at a higher risk for depression, anxiety & drug or alcohol abuse.
- Disability claims made by veterans for MST are granted at much lower rates than for PTSD unrelated to sexual trauma.
- Veterans with PTSD are at greater risk of being homeless. In 2012, 1 in 156 veterans was homeless & in a shelter.¹³
- 10% of trans veterans were turned away from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). 20% reported experiencing discrimination from VA doctors & non-medical staff.¹⁴
- Trans veterans are 20 times more likely than other veterans to commit suicide.¹⁵
- 22 veterans commit suicide every day in the US.¹⁶

NON-MILITARY ALTERNATIVES

You can build your future without joining the military: **National Network Opposing the Militarization of Youth (NNOMY.org)** gives state-by-state resources on alternatives to the military.

Project on Youth and Non-Military Opportunities (projectyano.org) because: You don't have to join the military to learn valuable skills, find adventure, pay for college or serve others!

Center on Conscience & War | centeronconscience.org

Committee Opposed to Militarism and the Draft
comdsd.org

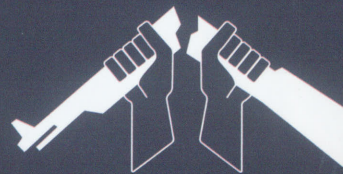
G.I. Hotline | girightshotline.org | 1-877-447-4487

INCITE! | incite-national.org

Iraq Veterans Against War | ivaw.org

Sylvia Rivera Law Project | srlp.org

YA-YA Network | yayanetwork.org



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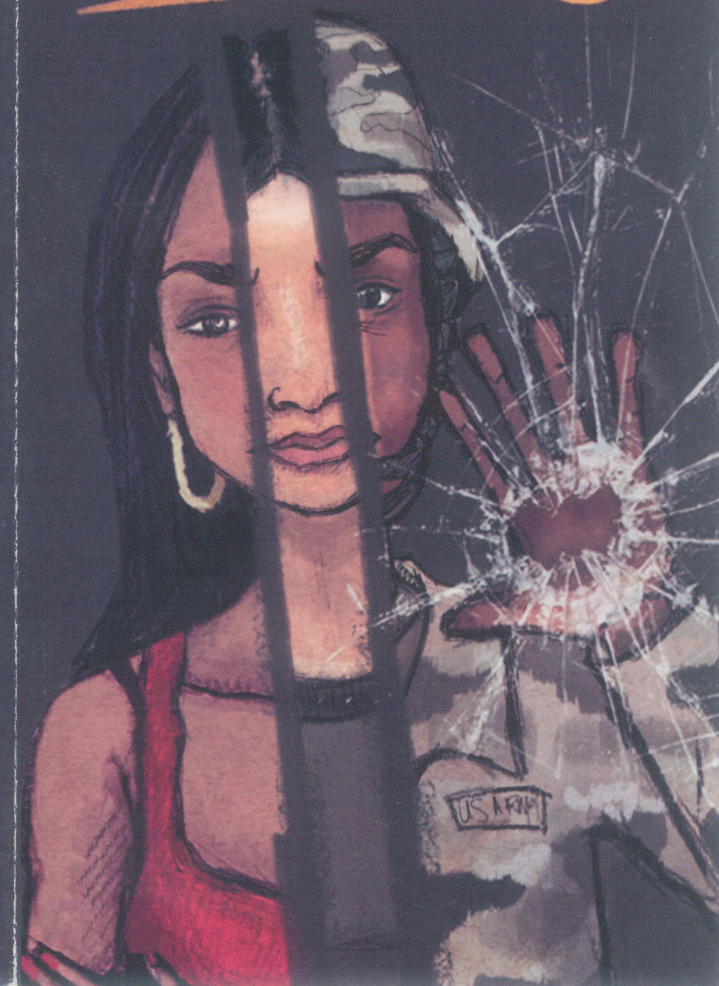
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What every girl
should know
about the
U.S. Military



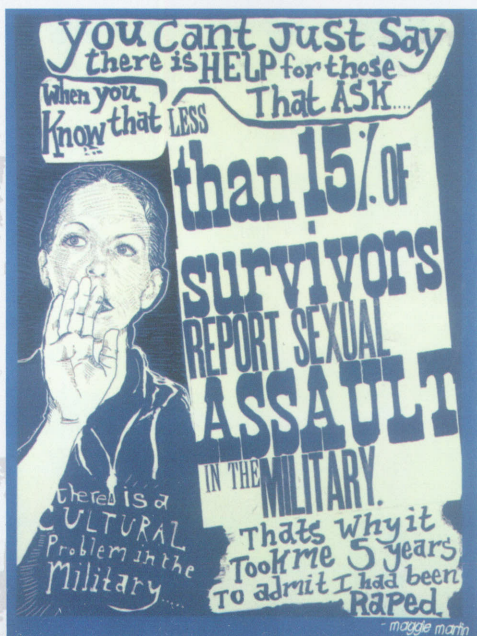
YOUR BODY ISN'T YOUR OWN

You might think joining the military will pay for college, build a career, make your body strong, buy your independence, or be an out from abuse. In reality, joining the military is selling your body to a culture that'll disrespect you & then throw you away.

You'll be subject to military law 24/7—living & breathing their rules, even when off-duty & off-base, until the end of your term. You have to act the way they tell you to; do your hair & wear what they tell you to. Disobedience in the military can result in court-martial, prison, or a bad discharge. Even though you're held accountable 24/7, the military won't be accountable to you for the sexual & physical violence you face.

You might be a girl or gurl, a boi or queer or trans*. As gender & sexual minorities, our bodies are under attack on the street everyday. In the military, your body won't even belong to you—you'll be used for their agenda. **You deserve more than that.**

Trans is one word for a gender identity spectrum that goes beyond the sex you're assigned at birth, such as transgender, transsexual, gender nonconforming, Two Spirit, cross dresser, AG etc. There is currently a ban on Trans people openly serving in the US military*



WHAT RECRUITERS DON'T TELL US

Recruiters don't tell us about the violence that women & trans people disproportionately face during service. They also don't tell us:

- Even though there are more people of color in the military than in civilian population, more white people get promoted to senior ranks
- Recruiters target Black, brown & poor students (as young as middle school)
- Serving in the US military doesn't guarantee citizenship; many people serve & then get deported
- Though service just opened to a limited # of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients, they won't accept you if you don't have papers¹
- Veteran women are 4 times more likely to have lower income²
- Unemployment for young & women veterans is much higher than for civilians of the same age
- Department of Defense regulations prevent trans people from serving openly, yet trans people are twice as likely to be recruited³

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Everyone is at risk of sexual violence in the military, but women & LGBTQI* people are disproportionately attacked at higher rates than in civilian life. Those who are already vulnerable, bear the brunt of violence.

"I was raped twice in the military because I was butch/lesbian/gender nonconforming. The first time was a gang-rape."⁴

Sexual violence in the military has been called an epidemic, with 70 incidences/day⁵:

- 1/3 of women in the military have been sexually assaulted,⁶ making enlisted women twice as likely as civilians.⁷
- 47% of LGBTQ people in military suffered at least one verbal, physical or sexual assault, 91% faced blackmail & 29% were mocked because of sexual orientation.⁸
- 26% of trans soldiers experienced physical assault.⁹
- Women are more likely to be assaulted by a fellow soldier than killed in combat.¹⁰

Even though reports of sexual assaults are increasing, underreporting & retaliation for reporting are serious problems:

- 2/3 of women in the military who reported "unwanted sexual contact" experience negative consequences.¹¹ Sometimes your commanding officer is your rapist.

SOURCES: [1] "Leaving Some Behind: Pentagon Provides Narrow Enlistment Route For Some DREAMers," Think Progress, 2014. [2] "High Unemployment Still Haunting Military Veterans," Reuters, 2014. [3] "Injustice at Every Turn: A Report of the National Transgender Discrimination Survey," National Center for Transgender Equality and National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, 2011. [4 & 6] "Still Serving in Silence," Harvard Kennedy School LGBTQ Policy Journal, 2013. [5] "Meet The Trans Scholar Fighting Against The Campaign For Out Trans Military Service," BuzzFeed, 2013. [7] "Military Sexual Abuse: A Greater Menace Than Combat," TruthOut, 2012. [8] "Sexual Orientation and U.S. Military Personnel Policy," RAND Corporation, 2013. [9 & 14] "Transgender People in the US Military," Palm Center, 2008. [10] "Military Women's Extra Trauma: Combat Stress and Sexual Assault," MinnPost, 2014. [11] "Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment in the Military," RAND Corporation, 2014. [12] "Trauma Sets Female Veterans Adrift Back Home," The New York Times, 2013. [13] "Annual Homeless Assessment Report", US Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2012. [15] "Prevalence of Gender Identity Disorder and Suicide Risk Among Transgender Veterans Utilizing Veterans Health Administration Care," American Journal of Public Health, 2013. [16] "Suicide Data Report", Department of Veteran Affairs, 2012.

**LGBTQI: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer & Intersex people.*