



For Immediate Release
March 11, 2008

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Statement of National Prison Rape Elimination Commission on
Hearings by DOJ Review Panel on Prison Rape

Washington, DC – The bipartisan National Prison Rape Elimination Commission ("the Commission") today released the following statement on hearings being conducted by the Department of Justice Review Panel on Prison Rape in Washington, D.C. on March 11-14, 2008 and in Houston, Texas on March 27-28, 2008.

"The Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 authorized a specially created Department of Justice Review Panel to analyze Bureau of Justice Statistics reports on the incidence and characteristics of sexual assault behind bars. The Review Panel is charged with identifying common characteristics of victims and perpetrators of prison rape, and of prison systems with the highest and lowest incidence of prison rape.

We look forward to learning about the Review Panel's proceedings. We trust their conclusions will prove useful as we work to develop zero-tolerance standards for enhancing the detection, prevention, reduction and punishment of detection and prevention of sexual assault behind bars."

The Commissioners are the Honorable Reggie B. Walton, who serves as Chairman, Vice Chairman John A. Kaneb, James Aiken, Jamie Fellner, Pat Nolan, Gus Puryear, Brenda V. Smith, and Cindy Struckman-Johnson. For more information about the Commission and its work, please visit www.nprec.us.

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