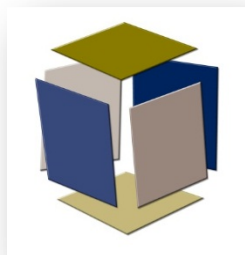


# Board Resource Center

“Making Complex Issues Simple.”



Our work centers on advancing human rights by building the capacities of persons from many different backgrounds.

With plain language media materials, coaching, training and personalized strategic tools, we help people clarify how they want their lives to unfold and how their communities could better serve everyone. Guided by this purpose and led by colleagues who have been victims, we are committed to assuring crimes of abuse are confronted.

Research continues to present a horrific picture. Persons with developmental disabilities are 4 to 10 times more likely to be victims of crime than are others. It is projected that more than 90 percent of people with developmental disabilities will experience sexual abuse in their lives. For these reasons, it is vital that persons with disabilities receive the support they need to learn how to protect themselves. In this newsletter, Molly and Kecia present their stories to explain why they are doing just that - speaking out to peers, advocacy organizations and the general public. They understand that persons with disabilities are especially at risk, most significantly because of learned dependence on a caregiver authority figure.

As self-advocate leaders affiliated with numerous advocacy organizations, including the CA State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD), they have long recognized that abuse is a pervasive and often hidden crime. They know that the first steps towards prevention are raising awareness of the problem along with teaching persons with disabilities about risks and ways to communicate with others. To follow up on plans of the SCDD Self-Advocates Advisory Committee to address abuse of persons with disabilities in California developmental centers, Molly and Kecia call upon their brothers and sisters to learn how to report abuse and protect themselves.

In the short video “Abuse of Persons with Disabilities: The Silent Epidemic,” Molly and Kecia ask all victims, including those who suffer under domestic violence, elder and child abuse, to join together to stop these crimes across our many communities. Their video is offered as an easy-to-understand call to action in many contexts.

**Please share, educate, organize and prevent!**



<http://youtu.be/yhLsATwO0o4>