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**From:** NCPH <ncph@iupui.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 2, 2019 9:29 AM  
**To:** board@ncph.org  
**Subject:** NCPH board update on sexual misconduct in public history



Dear 2019 NCPH Annual Meeting Attendee,

Conversations unfolded throughout our annual meeting in Hartford—on social media, in sessions, and in committee meetings—about sexual harassment and trauma.

Most importantly, we want to communicate to all that we hear these brave narratives and appreciate the courage of those who have shared their testimony. No one should have to endure such experiences. We are committed to confronting these issues in the public history community, and we pledge to continue working to make NCPH a safe and responsive environment for all.

Since both longtime and new members of our community might now want more information about what the organization has been doing on these fronts, on behalf of the NCPH board, I wanted to reach out to our membership and to others who joined us for the annual meeting. We want both to let you know what is being done to address these concerns and also to assure you that NCPH works actively to respond to concerns raised by our members and conference attendees. We have scheduled a board meeting in the coming days to further discuss next steps.

Meanwhile, for those who would find useful a summary of activity in this area, work on issues of sexual harassment and trauma has been unfolding across the organization, particularly over the course of the past year; these conversations are embedded in our work across our committees and programs. For instance,

- The Diversity & Inclusion Task Force, NCPH staff, and the board worked together to present a session at the 2018 annual meeting on “Sexual Harassment and Gender Discrimination;” the session resulted in numerous new gender-inclusive practices implemented at the 2019 meeting, including all-gender bathrooms, options to allow attendees to signal pronouns, and other activities. [If you would like to learn more about this session, please see Mary Rizzo’s post for *History@Work*, at <http://bit.ly/2TMbEhP> and for more information on NCPH’s initial responses, see Meghan Hillman’s post at <http://bit.ly/2JYdY5R>.]
- Perhaps most important, the 2018 session led to the board drafting and adopting a new NCPH Events Code of Conduct that includes an email-reporting venue and a value statement. For more information, please see: <http://bit.ly/2TeZDT6>. Having now one meeting’s experience with the code as drafted, we will be revisiting it, and drawing on your feedback to improve this important document.
- Even before this new code was introduced to guide conduct at the annual meeting, back in 2007 NCPH adopted a broader Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct that states our values and expectations more generally: <http://bit.ly/2uFXJQg>.
- The 2019 meeting included the session “From #MeToo to Prevention: Bystander Intervention Training for Public History and Museum Professionals,” led by Chelsea Miller of the New York Coalition Against Sexual Assault. We are in conversation about making available training opportunities for the membership, possibly as webinars and/or future workshops.

Looking ahead, the Curriculum and Training Committee is developing resources for faculty to ensure the safety of their students, and the Advocacy Committee is soliciting feedback on how NCPH can best respond to a range of issues.

We fully recognize that the steps we’ve taken are imperfect and preliminary, and that much work lies ahead. We know that patriarchal power operates in problematic ways across our organization and our fields of practice. As public history

professionals, we have a responsibility to look at the power structures that NCPH as an organization both benefits from and helps to uphold through our board structure, awards programs, networking events, and other programs, and we deeply are committed to those urgent conversations.

In the meantime, if survivors of sexual assault, abuse, or harassment in the public history community would like free, confidential support regarding past or ongoing experiences:

- Chelsea Miller, a public historian currently working at the New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault ([NYSCASA](http://NYSCASA.org)), can assist you with locating advocates and resources in your community. Contact Chelsea by email at [cmiller@nyscasa.org](mailto:cmiller@nyscasa.org) or by phone at 518-482-4222 ext. 300.
- The Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network ([RAINN](http://RAINN.org)), organizes the [National Sexual Assault Telephone Hotline](http://NationalSexualAssaultTelephoneHotline.org). The Hotline is a referral service that can put you in contact with your local rape crisis/sexual violence program, which has trained advocates on staff who can provide free, confidential support. You can call the Hotline at 1-800-656-4673, or access RAINN's online chat service: [www.rainn.org/get-help](http://www.rainn.org/get-help).

Again, we affirm our pledge to continue working to make NCPH a safe and responsive environment for all; we look forward to working with you as we all strive to address these urgent issues. If you have feedback, areas of concern, or ideas for how we can move forward, please reach out via [board@ncph.org](mailto:board@ncph.org).

Sincerely,



Marla Miller  
NCPH Board President



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