



## *History@Work* Roundtable on Gender Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (GDSH) Report Call for Volunteer Respondents

### The Ask

The National Council on Public History's (NCPH) Gender Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (GDSH) subcommittee invites you to participate as a volunteer in a [History@Work](#) roundtable in which you reflect on a [report](#) and [webinar](#) summarizing the findings of NCPH's April 2022 survey issued in collaboration with the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) on gender discrimination and sexual harassment in public history. The goal of the roundtable is to spur engagement with the report and to encourage use of the findings within our institutions. Reflection requires looking back, but the focus is on the future. How can we apply what we've learned? What are the issues we see affecting the field? Three-four roundtable participants, who will be public historians representing a variety of backgrounds, professional affiliations, and career stages, will be given the same set of questions (see below) to structure their responses. All responses will be edited for length, clarity, and focus. Participants will have a chance to view all edited responses and add concluding or clarifying remarks.

## Respondents

We know we cannot represent all perspectives in one roundtable. But we hope to receive interest from people in the field with a variety of perspectives on these issues. Ideally, we will have respondents from large and small public history institutions with and without paid staff and/or HR departments; respondents with many years in the field who may be in positions of institutional power, as well as respondents who are newer to the field or who educate those in public history institutions; and respondents who reflect the rich diversity of the public history field in terms of race, gender, and ability. We are primarily interested in respondents who want to engage with the report and who have either begun using it to institute change, or who want to explore how to use it to move forward and make change in public history.

## The Questions

If you are invited to participate and you decide to contribute, you will be asked to respond to as many or as few of the questions below you would like. Your total word count for your responses to the questions should not exceed 1,500 words, and it can absolutely be well under 1,500 words.

- What stood out to you as you reviewed the survey report and/or the webinar? What did you find most surprising, interesting, or troubling from our findings?
- Do the survey findings reflect your experiences in public history? How or how not?
- What do you see as the biggest issue for public historians in terms of sexual harassment and gender discrimination?
  - For example, survey respondents reported that harassment came from community partners, board members, donors, and members of the public. The nature of our work as public historians means we rely on these relationships, so how do we protect paid and unpaid staff in these situations?
- What can our professional associations like NCPH and AASLH do to address these issues?

- Based on lessons learned from the report ([see “Conclusions and Implications,” beginning on page 67](#)), what strategies might your institution (or institutions more broadly) employ to address these issues?
- Has your institution implemented any policies in recent years to address gender discrimination and sexual harassment? How has that gone?
  - Do you think that the current political climate, especially attacks on LGBTQ+ rights and critical race theory, has affected public history institutions and their ability or willingness to address gender discrimination and sexual harassment?
- Have you seen institutions—yours or others with which you’re familiar—successfully shift workplace culture around issues like racism, microaggressions, or others? What lessons can we draw from these successes that we can apply to public history institutions addressing sexual harassment and gender discrimination?

## Notes on Style

If you are invited to participate accept the invitation, before you start writing, please review *History@Work* [guidelines](#) for general notes on style. Our roundtable on [Montpelier’s Mere Distinction of Colour](#) can serve as an example as to what this roundtable might look like in practice. You may also want to look at some of the pieces *History@Work* has published on this topic.

<https://ncph.org/blog-search/?swpquery=GDSH>  
<https://ncph.org/history-at-work/how-should-we-respond/>  
<https://ncph.org/history-at-work/from-metoo-to-systemic-cultural-change-2/>  
<https://ncph.org/history-at-work/sexual-harassment-committee-report/>  
<https://ncph.org/history-at-work/code-of-ethics-feedback/>

## How to Express Interest

If you are interested in participating as a respondent, please send a few sentences expressing why to [historyatwork@ncph.org](mailto:historyatwork@ncph.org). *History@Work*

Last updated July 21, 2023

Editors, along with a representative from the GDSH Committee and NCPH, will select respondents. We will respond to all queries. If you would like to be considered, please email us by Tuesday, August 15, 2023.

## What's Next?

If you are invited to be a part of the roundtable, we will let you know, and a *History@Work* editor will be in touch with you about next steps. This process may change as we go along, but this is a version of what you can expect: You will be asked to respond to questions above of your choosing. Then, we will edit for clarity and length. Next, we will combine the responses and divide the entire roundtable into roughly 700-1000-word parts. We will share this draft with all respondents, and you will have a chance to respond to what others have written about (or clarify your own contributions). Editors will be from the existing *History@Work* editorial pool and may also include individuals from the NCPH office and/or the GDSH committee.

## Draft Timeline

By August 15, 2023, respondents identified

By September 19, 2023, draft responses received by *History@Work* editors

By October 17, 2023, *History@Work* editors complete initial editing

By October 31, 2023, respondents review the roundtable and add additional comments or reflections if desired

By November 21, *History@Work* editors and NCPH review as needed

By November 28, 2023, roundtable sent to *History@Work* copyeditors

By December 21, 2023, roundtable publication starts

Last updated July 21, 2023

## Questions

If you have questions about this invitation or the survey, please contact Mary Rizzo, GDSH committee member: [mrizzonj@gmail.com](mailto:mrizzonj@gmail.com).

If you have questions about the *History@Work* editing process, please contact Nicole Belolan: [nbelolan@gmail.com](mailto:nbelolan@gmail.com)

*History@Work* is dedicated to practicing a sustainable, inclusive, and collaborative writing and editing practice with you. If we can make your involvement in this roundtable more sustainable or inclusive, please let us know. Thank you for considering this invitation and for all you do for public history.