



VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL AND ONLINE SUBMISSION

Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
Department of Homeland Security

Office of the Inspector General
Department of Homeland Security

Office of Immigration Detention Ombudsman
Department of Homeland Security

RE: Systemic Sexual Abuse and Harassment, Physical Assault, Verbal Abuse and LGBTQ+ Discrimination, Forced Labor, Retaliation, Medical Neglect and Disability Discrimination, Excessive Use of Solitary Confinement, Suppression of Constitutional Rights, and Denial of Grievance Procedures at the South Louisiana ICE Processing Center in Basile, Louisiana

September 15, 2025

Dear Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Office of the Inspector General, and Office of the Immigration Detention Ombudsman:

Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights, the American Civil Liberties Union of Louisiana, the National Immigration Project, and the Southeast Dignity Not Detention coalition submit this complaint on behalf of four individuals subjected to sexual, physical, and verbal abuse, retaliation, abusive implementation of solitary confinement, and medical neglect by officials at the South Louisiana ICE Processing Center (“SLIPC”) in Basile, Louisiana:

- Mx. Maria Luisa Garcia-Valenzuela (“Mario”) (A# [REDACTED])
- Mx. Monica Renteria-Gonzalez (“Monica”) (A# [REDACTED])
- Mx. Kenia Campos-Flores (“Kenia”) (A# [REDACTED])
- Jane Doe¹

Beginning in September 2023, former Assistant Warden, Mr. Manuel Reyes (“AW Reyes”) orchestrated an unsanctioned, late-night forced labor scheme that targeted transgender and gender-nonconforming detained people; perpetrated and enabled repeated acts of sexual harassment and assault; and oversaw a pattern of retaliation, including the inhumane use of solitary confinement, physical abuse, and baseless disciplinary citations after complaints were made. Facility and ICE personnel also denied or delayed urgent medical and mental health care and failed to provide reasonable accommodations for disabilities.

¹ This individual is proceeding anonymously as “Jane Doe” due to fear of retaliation.

These actions and omissions are egregious violations of the ICE Performance-Based National Detention Standards (“PBNDS”)², the Department of Homeland Security’s Prison Rape Elimination Act (“DHS PREA”)³ standards, ICE’s own Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention (“SAAPI”) directives,⁴ Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act,⁵ and constitutional due process protections⁶ that ICE facilities must comply with. ICE has a duty to ensure detained peoples’ constitutional and statutory rights are protected, and staff should have taken care to uphold those rights in their conduct and decision-making.

SLIPC is an all-female ICE detention facility in Basile, Louisiana, where people of various gender identities are also detained. SLIPC is operated by the GEO Group, Inc. (“GEO”) under ICE supervision within the New Orleans Field Office’s (“NOLA ICE”) area of responsibility. As previously documented,⁷ NOLA ICE facilities are plagued by rural isolation, severe barriers to legal representation, and longstanding reports of medical neglect, sexual and physical abuse, LGBTQ+ discrimination, retaliation, coerced labor, denial of grievance procedures, and misuse of solitary confinement.⁸

People detained in NOLA ICE facilities have reported regular instances of shackling in painful positions for extended periods, denial of access to clean drinking water, food contaminated by rodent feces and in inadequate portions, and restrictions or denial of medical and mental health treatment. Detained women and menstruating individuals have reported denial of essential menstrual products. Others reported being taunted, beaten, deprived of sleep, or sexually assaulted by guards.⁹

Immigration detention in Louisiana has become a profit-driven system that prioritizes contracts and revenue over the rights and dignity of immigrants. This system routinely violates civil and human rights by confining immigrants in punitive conditions indistinguishable from criminal incarceration, in some cases for years.¹⁰ The conduct described herein exemplifies systemic failures in prevention, detection, response, and accountability.

² ICE, Performance-Based National Detention Standards, 2011, (Revised Dec. 2016) (hereafter “PBNDS 2011”).

³ The Dep’t of Homeland Sec., Standards to Prevent, Detect, and Respond to Sexual Abuse and Assault in Confinement Facilities (DHS PREA), Fed. Reg. (Mar. 7, 2014), <https://www.ice.gov/prea>. (hereafter “DHS PREA”).

⁴ ICE, Policy No. 11062.2: Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention (SAAPI Directive) (May 22, 2014), <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/detention-reform/pdf/saapi2.pdf> (hereafter “2014 SAAPI Directive”). *See also* U.S. Immigration & Customs Enf’t, Enforcement & Removal Operations, ICE Health Serv. Corps, Directive No. 03-01, Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention (Sept. 27, 2023) (hereafter “2023 IHSC SAAPI Directive”).

⁵ Rehabilitation Act of 1973, § 504, 29 U.S.C. § 794

⁶ U.S. CONST. amend. V.

⁷ RFK Hum. Rts. et al., Inside the Black Hole: Systemic Human Rights Abuses Against Immigrants Detained and Disappeared in Louisiana, ACLU La. (Aug. 1, 2024), https://www.laclu.org/app/uploads/drupal/sites/default/files/inside_the_black_hole_systemic_human_rights_abuses_against_immigrants_detained_disappeared_in_louisiana.pdf. (hereafter “Inside the Black Hole: Systemic Human Rights Abuses Against Immigrants Detained and Disappeared in Louisiana”)

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ Richard Luscombe, Abuse of Migrants Rampant at Louisiana ICE Centers, Report Finds, ACLU La. (Aug. 26, 2024), <https://www.laclu.org/news/abuse-migrants-rampant-louisiana-ice-centers-report-finds/>.

ICE operates SLIPC pursuant to a contract with for-profit prison company, the GEO Group, Inc. (“GEO”). ICE and GEO are contractually obligated to maintain the minimum standards and abide by policies outlined in the PBNDS at SLIPC.¹¹ The PBNDS mandate safe and sanitary living conditions in immigration detention and prohibit excessive use of force, medical neglect, and retaliation.¹² As outlined below, ICE and its contractors at SLIPC have a practice of violating the rights of detained people. In many instances, the abuses that detained people describe meet the definitions of torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment under international human rights treaties to which the United States is a party.¹³ Individuals in immigration detention have the right to freedom from First Amendment retaliation, adequate medical care, and non-punitive and safe living conditions.¹⁴ The named individuals have reported violations of their civil and human rights by ICE and officers at SLIPC.

As part of the notoriously abusive New Orleans ICE Field Office (“NOLA ICE”),¹⁵ the actions of ICE and its contractors at SLIPC operate with systemic impunity.¹⁶ The failures documented in this complaint, including coerced labor, sexual assault, retaliatory solitary confinement, medical neglect, excessive force, and discriminatory abuse reflect entrenched practices that facility leadership cannot or will not remedy. We urge the DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL), pursuant to its authority under 6 U.S.C. § 345, to immediately recommend:

- 1) Release of the named individuals in this complaint who remain detained and all individuals currently detained at SLIPC to their communities;
- 2) Termination of ICE’s Intergovernmental Services Agreement (IGSA)¹⁷ with SLIPC;

¹¹ PBNDS 2011.

¹² PBNDS 2011, Section 1.2.I, Environmental Health and Safety (Revised Dec. 2016) (“This detention standard protects detained people, staff, volunteers and contractors from injury and illness by maintaining high facility standards of cleanliness and sanitation, safe work practices and control of hazardous substances and equipment.”).

¹³ Inside the Black Hole: Systemic Human Rights Abuses Against Immigrants Detained and Disappeared in Louisiana. *See also* Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, Dec. 10, 1984, 1465 U.N.T.S. 85.

¹⁴ *See Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678, 694 (2001) (asserting that “punitive measures could not be imposed upon [noncitizens] ordered removed because ‘all persons within the territory of the United States are entitled to the protection’ of the Constitution” (quoting *Wong Wing v. United States*, 163 U.S. 228, 238 (1896))); *see also Cruz v. Beto*, 405 U.S. 319, 321 (1972) (establishing that people in prison, “like other individuals, have the right to petition the Government for redress of grievances”); *City of Revere v. Massachusetts Gen. Hosp.*, 463 U.S. 239, 244 (1983) (extending constitutional protections available to imprisoned people to civilly-detained people).

¹⁵ Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights, et al., “Inside the Black Hole: Systemic Human Rights Abuses Against Immigrants Detained and Disappeared in Louisiana” (August 2024), https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/66324b38260b26fc98b4f52f/66c77c4848f4fc74670650f5_Inside%20the%20Black%20Hole_Systemic%20Human%20Rights%20Abuses%20Against%20Immigrants%20Detained.pdf (documenting systemic human rights abuses against individuals detained in the nine Louisiana ICE facilities, including retaliation, sexual and physical abuse, verbal abuse and LGBTQ+ discrimination, coerced labor, medical neglect and disability discrimination, excessive use of force, denial of grievance procedures, and violations of First Amendment rights).

¹⁶ Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Retention Memo, Re: ICE’s Oversight of the New Orleans Field Office (December 7, 2021), https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2022-08/2021.12.07%20CRCL%20Retention%20Memo%20to%20ICE%20-%20Oversight%20of%20New%20Orleans%20AOR%20-%20Redacted_508.pdf.

¹⁷ An Intergovernmental Service Agreement (“IGSA”) is a contract between ICE and a state or local government entity that authorizes the detention of immigrants in local facilities. In practice, the local government often

- 3) Pending release and termination of the IGSA, a full investigation of the violations described herein, including retaliation, sexual abuse and harassment, verbal abuse and LGBTQ+ discrimination, coerced labor, medical neglect and disability discrimination, excessive use of force, denial of grievance procedures, and violations of Constitutional rights. We urge CRCL to promptly open an investigation into the matters raised by this complaint and report its findings by November 15, 2025. Relatedly, we ask that CRCL share any data or records resulting from such an investigation. Further, we ask that CRCL recommend financial penalties against GEO where wrongdoing or mismanagement is found.

We request a response in writing within one week detailing your agencies' plan of action to remedy the civil and human rights violations described herein.

I. Factual Background

The facts presented below are drawn from the testimonies of four survivors: Mario, Monica, Kenia, and Jane Doe. These facts demonstrate systemic abuse at SLIPC.

Forced Labor Targeting Transgender and LGBTQ+ People

Assistant Warden Mr. Manuel Reyes (“AW Reyes”) ran an unsanctioned 'night shift cleaning crew' between 8:00 pm and 6:00 am. This program was not reported in official records and targeted transgender and LGBTQ+ detained people. Mario, Monica, and Kenia were forced into hard manual labor without protective equipment. Tasks included stripping floors, painting, and exposure to industrial-strength chemicals, causing burns, respiratory distress, and lasting injuries.

Sexual Assault, Harassment and Exploitation

AW Reyes stalked, harassed, and assaulted detained people in camera ‘blind spots.’ Mario and Monica witnessed AW Reyes coercing sexual acts from others. Monica was groped and assaulted multiple times. AW Reyes also told him that he watched him shower on cameras. Kenia was harassed and threatened with retaliation when refusing to cooperate. Jane Doe was repeatedly stalked, groped, and coerced into performing oral sex under threat to her and her family.

Retaliation and Solitary Confinement

All complainants faced retaliation after filing grievances or PREA complaints. They were placed in solitary confinement for minor or fabricated infractions. Mario was beaten, handcuffed, and placed in solitary for 14 days. Monica and Jane Doe were similarly segregated without due process.

Physical Abuse and Excessive Force

Officers physically assaulted detained people at AW Reyes’ direction. Mario was handcuffed and beaten by a group of officers after asking to report his abuse to the Warden.

subcontracts the operation of these facilities to private prison companies such as GEO Group or CoreCivic. Termination of the IGSA therefore eliminates ICE’s legal authority to detain individuals at the facility.

Medical Neglect and Disability Discrimination

Mario, with epilepsy and nerve damage, was denied medical consistent treatment. Monica's chemical burns and injuries were untreated due to fear of retaliation. Jane Doe, with epilepsy and spinal injury, was denied seizure medications, neurologist care, and emergency care after repeated seizures. She collapsed and was forced to walk post-seizure without support, worsening her conditions.

Failure of Oversight and Accountability

Multiple PREA complaints to ICE were dismissed as 'unsubstantiated.' Grievances and OIG hotline calls were ignored. FBI interviews occurred, but SLIPC retaliated against those who spoke.

The survivors' individual stories are detailed below:

Monica (he/him); Transgender Man; Detained Since May 9, 2023

Monica has been detained by ICE continuously since on or about May 9, 2023. In late September 2023, AW Reyes approached Monica about joining a "cleaning crew" to work an "off the books night shift program," alongside another transgender man detained at SLIPC. That month, Monica began to perform hard manual labor at the instruction of AW Reyes. The "shifts" occurred late at night, between the hours of 8:00 pm and 6:00 am. Unlike the other work programs at SLIPC, these work shifts were not recorded in a formal log book or shift schedule. AW Reyes approached transgender people and masculine-presenting LGBTQ+ people to participate in this "program." Each person targeted by AW Reyes identified as transgender or LGBTQ+.

AW Reyes would enter the housing units and wake up Monica and the others and bring them to do hard manual labor in various locations inside SLIPC. The "shifts" were randomized and Monica and the others did not have a designated schedule. AW Reyes would compensate them for their labor at times by adding \$1/day into their commissary accounts. Other times, he would bring a trash bag full of commissary items and give them to Monica and the others.

AW Reyes routinely entered the housing unit late at night, between two and three o'clock in the morning, while detained people were sleeping. He would walk around the unit while people were sleeping and take people's used underwear and sanitary pads from the housing unit. Monica witnessed him say to a detained woman walking to her bunk in her nightshirt, "Is that how your breasts bounce when you are fucking?"

AW Reyes required Monica and others to perform hard manual labor without any personal protective equipment, resulting in significant health risks and physical injuries. Despite repeated requests, Monica and others were denied access to gloves, face shields, and steel-toed boots. In response to these requests, AW Reyes would say: "What, you aren't strong enough?" Monica and others were forced to perform this labor while exposed to harsh chemicals, equipment, and dangerous conditions. For example, on one occasion, a stripper chemical Monica was using to strip the facility floors burned through his fabric shoes and the skin of his feet. Monica reported this injury to an ICE officer and was taken to the medical unit. On another occasion, Monica was painting the floors in the SLIPC medical unit when a metal frame that AW Reyes was holding fell and landed on Monica's foot, resulting in a severe injury. Monica's foot turned black and he could

not put weight on it for over two weeks. Due to fear of retaliation by AW Reyes, Monica did not seek medical treatment for this injury. Monica and others routinely experienced burning eyes and nostrils and chest pain after inhaling industrial strength cleaning chemicals without personal protective equipment.

AW Reyes also sexually harassed and assaulted the detained people he targeted for this “work program.” Monica witnessed AW Reyes sexually abuse at least two other detained people, engaging in forced sexual intercourse in SLIPC. AW Reyes also began to sexually harass and abuse Monica. In December 2023, Monica was working in the Echo unit at SLIPC, laying a coat of wax on his hands and knees. AW Reyes approached Monica from behind and forcibly placed his groin directly against his buttocks. AW Reyes had an erection. Approximately one month later, while mopping floors in the training room, AW Reyes came up behind Monica and again forcibly placed his groin directly against Monica’s buttocks. He then stated, “Monica is very firm.” After this incident, Monica experienced significant emotional distress. AW Reyes continued to stalk Monica throughout the facility and sexually harass him, making comments about his appearance and gender identity. For example, AW Reyes repeatedly gave Monica makeup items and questioned his identity as a transgender man. AW Reyes told Monica that he “watched [Monica] shower through the cameras” and asked him “Why do you take so long in the shower? Why do you take the chair inside the shower with you?”

In February 2024, after suffering from consistent sexual and physical abuse, Monica told AW Reyes that he refused to work. A few hours later, an officer came to the housing unit and escorted Monica and another detained trans man to the Charlie housing unit. They were instructed to start cleaning the unit. AW Reyes then entered the unit and cornered Monica, demanding to know why he was refusing to work for him. Monica felt extreme emotional stress and began to cry. AW Reyes told Monica that he was “protected by the higher ups” and there was “nothing anyone could say or do to hurt or affect him.”

When Monica registered as transgender with ICE, AW Reyes approached Monica in the medical unit and spoke to him in Spanish. Two other SLIPC officers (upon information and belief, “Officer Tichy” and “Officer Lege” witnessed this interaction). Monica told AW Reyes “my sexual preferences are none of your concern.” ICE officer, “Officer Ruiz,” then approached Monica and AW Reyes. AW Reyes told Officer Ruiz, “I don’t know what is going on with Monica. She was such a beautiful girl who always wore makeup.”

In April 2024, Monica again attempted to refuse AW Reyes “work program.” Monica verbally reported the sexual abuse and harassment to the Prison Rape Elimination Act (“PREA”) officer in the SLIPC medical unit. Upon information and belief, the complaint was “dismissed as unsubstantiated” by ICE in August 2024. Monica also filed multiple complaints by phone with the Office of the Inspector General (“OIG”) hotline.

On or about April 17, 2024, Monica was placed in a solitary confinement cell after having a minor verbal altercation with another detained person in the housing unit and sentenced to 14 days in segregation. The other person received no disciplinary segregation. Another transgender person in his dorm who also filed grievances against AW Reyes was also placed in solitary confinement on this date. AW Reyes told Monica, “this is what happens when you aren’t where you are supposed

to be,” referring to Monica’s refusal to participate in his “work program.” Monica then submitted a written statement to ICE, detailing this sexual and physical abuse by AW Reyes. The next day, on or about April 18, 2024, AW Reyes came to the segregated housing unit and screamed at Monica, telling him “You should have never put my name on it!”—referring to Monica’s statement to ICE. Monica was subjected to 14 days of solitary confinement.

During this time, Monica was also subjected to sexual abuse and harassment by another officer at SLIPC, upon information and belief, “Sergeant Poullard.” Sergeant Poullard repeatedly handed Monica notes reading, “I know you are gay and like girls.” On one occasion, in front of the Echo unit, Sergeant Poullard showed Monica an inappropriate pornographic picture of herself and stated “This is a sexy dress. You wear it with no panties.” This incident caused Monica significant emotional distress.

In May 2024, Monica filed a PREA complaint detailing the sexual harassment by Sergeant Poullard. After Monica filed this complaint, Sergeant Poullard approached him in the housing unit and said “Yeah, they can’t do nothing to me.” Upon information and belief, the complaint was “dismissed as unsubstantiated” by ICE in July 2024.

Upon information and belief, AW Reyes left his position at SLIPC in July 2024. On or about August 6, 2024, agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (“FBI”) interviewed Monica and others at SLIPC. Monica disclosed the sexual and physical abuse by AW Reyes to the FBI agents. On or about August 27, 2024, Monica was interviewed by ICE officials conducting an audit of SLIPC. Monica disclosed the sexual and physical abuse by AW Reyes to auditors. Following his disclosure of the abuse to these entities, SLIPC officials targeted Monica for searches and baseless disciplinary write ups. Monica filed grievances reported this retaliation and filed verbal reports using the OIG phone hotline. On or about September 23, 2024, Monica was interviewed by two ICE officials and again reported the sexual and physical abuse by AW Reyes. He received no additional response following these reports.

As of the date of this complaint, Monica remains detained at SLIPC. He continues to suffer ongoing emotional distress from his mistreatment and abuse by AW Reyes and other officials at the facility.

Mario (he/him); Transgender Man; Detained Since February 23, 2024

Mario has epilepsy requiring daily medication and residual nerve/functional impairment of his left hand following a prior attempted amputation in Mexico. Beginning on or about February 7, 2024, the Assistant Warden conscripted Mario for his “night shift program.” AW Reyes taunted Mario’s gender, saying “Aren’t you a man? Can’t you do manly work?” on one instance and “if you think you are a man, I’m going to treat you like a man” on another.

AW Reyes and other officers at SLIPC also consistently deadnamed Mario, calling him “Maria! Maria!” on a near-daily basis. Mario experienced severe psychological distress as a result of this harassment, including suicidal ideation. He was placed in solitary confinement, in an administrative segregation “suicide watch” cell on at least two occasions.

After Mario filed a PREA complaint and asked to change his gender markers, the PREA officer responded, “even if we take off your transgender marker, there is no hiding that you are transgender,” and no protective action followed.

On or about April 17, 2024, Mario was placed in a solitary confinement cell after having a minor verbal altercation with another detained person in the housing unit and sentenced to 14 days in segregation. The other person received no disciplinary segregation. Another transgender person in his dorm who also filed grievances against AW Reyes was also placed in solitary confinement on this date. AW Reyes instructed the officers to keep Mario separated from the other detained transgender person who reported his misconduct.

After he was released from solitary confinement, on or about May 2, 2024, Mario attempted to report AW Reyes’ abuse to the Warden, but AW Reyes refused to allow Mario to speak to the Warden. AW Reyes then instructed officers to handcuff Mario and take him to back a solitary confinement cell. At the direction of AW Reyes, an officer at SLIPC, upon information and belief, “Officer Tichy,” approached Mario in the Bravo hallway and instructed him that he was going to solitary confinement. A group of approximately five officers then surrounded Mario, threw him to the ground, handcuffed him, and slammed his face against the floor.

While they transported Mario to the cell, one officer grabbed Mario’s left wrist—which he had recently had surgery to repair—and tightly squeezed the bone, causing Mario excruciating pain. The officers laughed and mocked Mario’s screams. The officer then tightened the handcuffs on Mario’s wrists, causing severe pain. After this incident, Mario’s wrists were bruised and swollen. He began to experience suicidal ideation and was placed on suicide watch in segregation. The officers forcefully stripped him naked and mocked his body. Afterwards, AW Reyes went to the solitary confinement unit where Mario was being held and asked Mario in a threatening manner, “Do you like me, Mario?”

Mario was subjected to an additional five days of solitary confinement. After this placement in solitary confinement, Mario filed a written report to ICE describing the retaliation and physical abuse. Mario stopped participating in AW Reyes’ “work program.” Approximately seven days after the incident, Mario was taken to the medical unit and received an x-ray of his wrist, but never received the x-ray results or any additional medical information.

Following FBI interviews on August 6, 2024, and an ICE audit interview on August 27, 2024, Mario experienced intensified retaliation, including searches and citations. He remains detained and continues to suffer ongoing harm.

Jane Doe (she/her); Detained November 2023–January 2025

In November 2023, shortly after entering ICE custody at SLIPC, Jane Doe first encountered AW Reyes. Without introducing himself, he asked Jane Doe her name and country of origin. Believing him to be an ICE officer overseeing her custody, Jane Doe provided him with her name and told him where she was from. He also asked for her sponsor contact information and personal contact information. Again, believing him to be an ICE officer in charge of her custody, Jane Doe provided him with her cell phone number and the name, cell phone number, and address of her mother. Jane

Doe later learned from other detained people that this individual was not an ICE officer but rather the Assistant Warden of SLIPC.

At this time, Jane Doe also learned from other detained people that AW Reyes ran an unofficial “night shift program.” In November 2023, AW Reyes and Jane Doe discussed whether she would like to participate in this program. As a bilingual English-Spanish speaker, Jane Doe often volunteered to translate for officials at SLIPC. However, because of her health conditions, including epilepsy, Jane Doe decided to decline the offer to participate in AW Reyes’ “night shift program.” When she declined his offer, AW Reyes became enraged and stated: “Don’t worry about it, you’ll come work for me.” He then began persistently sexually harassing and stalking Jane Doe at SLIPC.

AW Reyes learned Jane Doe’s daily schedule, including the specific times she was required to go to the SLIPC medical unit to receive her seizure medication. Each day, when Jane Doe would go to the medical unit to receive her medication, AW Reyes would be waiting for her in the hallway outside the medical unit. He would make inappropriate and aggressive sexual comments to her. For example, on one occasion, he stated “you have a nice body” and asked her if her “butt was fake” and whether she “had plastic surgery.” When Jane Doe replied and asked him to stop making the comments because “it was making her uncomfortable,” AW Reyes stated “a lot of things are going to make you uncomfortable.” On another occasion AW Reyes, referring to the fact that he had Jane Doe’s mother’s address, stated “you know the [country] isn’t too big. I can find you there. I used to work there.”

These near-daily instances of sexual harassment continued to escalate. For example, in January 2024, AW Reyes approached Jane Doe as she left the medical unit. He asked her “Are you okay?” and forcefully grabbed her hands. Jane Doe moved away from him and said “Please leave me alone.” A few weeks later, AW Reyes approached Jane Doe in the kitchen and said “You told everyone I’m your boyfriend, right?” Jane Doe replied “no” and walked away.

In February 2024, an officer in the housing unit instructed Jane Doe to go to the warehouse to get sanitation and hygiene items. When she was in the warehouse, in a back corner by the shampoo supply, AW Reyes approached Jane Doe from behind. He began groping her breasts and genitals with his hands. He forcefully moved his hands underneath her clothing and touched her breasts and genitals. Jane Doe began crying and shaking. She repeatedly asked him to stop. He placed his face close to her face and body and smelled her. After approximately five minutes, he released Jane Doe and allowed her to return to the housing unit. After this incident, Jane Doe experienced significant emotional distress. She was unable to sleep and would have recurring nightmares and flashbacks. Jane Doe filed a PREA complaint with ICE by paper form and through the phone hotline. She received no response and no action was taken by ICE.

After this incident, for approximately four months, from approximately February to May 2024, AW Reyes repeatedly stalked and cornered Jane Doe in the warehouse or medical hallway, places he told her were “camera blind spots” in the facility. There, he would force her to perform oral sex on him on a near daily basis, threatening to kill her if she refused. When Jane Doe attempted to resist, he stated “If you don’t do this, you will go to the smooth [solitary confinement] and your family will know everything.” On another occasion, he stated “I know where you are. I know

where your family is. In the [country], you won't have any protection and anybody can go over there and give you a visit." He also stated that he knew "all about her case" and would know "when she was getting deported." This abuse caused Jane Doe extreme emotional distress. She suffered from insomnia, nightmares, flashbacks, extreme anxiety, intrusive thoughts, and increased stress.

In April 2024, AW Reyes blocked Jane Doe as she was leaving the medical unit and trapped her next to the Delta unit ice machine in the hallway. He began to look at her body. She said "excuse me" and attempted to walk away, but he blocked her using his body. He then groped her buttocks using his hands and began to rub his groin against her buttocks. Jane Doe attempted to flee and said "please stop and leave me alone." He responded by smiling at her and stated "What are you going to do? There's nothing you can do. Remember I can say hi to your mom." Jane Doe then fled the hallway and returned to her housing unit. After this incident, Jane Doe filed an additional PREA complaint with ICE by paper. She received no response and no action was taken by ICE.

After she filed this PREA complaint, Jane Doe was subjected to three days in solitary confinement. She was not served with any notification of the reason for her placement in the segregated housing unit or any alleged disciplinary violations. While in the solitary confinement cell, AW Reyes approached Jane Doe. He laughed and said "You're supposed to be more submissive because your [country of origin]. You have an attitude. If you were just submissive, you would have had all this special treatment in here." Jane Doe then received paperwork indicating that ICE had closed her PREA complaint because her claims were "unsubstantiated."

Approximately two days later, AW Reyes entered Jane Doe's housing unit, Bravo-Charlie, at 2:00 am and approached her as she slept in her bunk. He began touching her body and shook her awake. He told her he needed to "search her bunk." Jane Doe replied that she was sleeping in her underwear and needed privacy to put on clothes. He refused and forced her out of her bed. He made her stand in front of him in her bra and underwear and looked at her body for several minutes. He then laughed and walked away.

Later that month, AW Reyes approached Jane Doe when she entered the bathroom in the processing area following a legal call with her immigration attorney. AW Reyes used his body to block Jane Doe from exiting the bathroom. He then told her that he was "masturbating to her because he saw her body in medical when she was in an observation cell." She responded "You are sick." AW Reyes smiled and said "I have been masturbating to you. I have eyes everywhere." He then referred to a date when Jane Doe was in medical on February 28, 2024, and told her he had access to "all of the video."

After this incident, Jane Doe began to experience significant emotional distress and her mental and physical health deteriorated. Her seizure activity began to rapidly increase in frequency to near-daily seizures. After this incident, Jane Doe filed an additional PREA complaint with ICE by paper. In response, a PREA officer, upon information and belief, "Officer Guillory," met with Jane Doe and watched the surveillance video from the processing area. The PREA officer acknowledged the video, which upon information and belief, captured this incident, but took no further action. In addition, Jane Doe also filed multiple grievances and made verbal reports of this abuse to SLIPC personnel, including medical personnel, as documented in her medical records.

During this time, AW Reyes began to restrict Jane Doe's movement at SLIPC. When Jane Doe attempted to leave the dorm, the officer in the Bravo-Delta housing unit stated "You are not allowed out of the dorm. This is Mr. Reyes' rules, not mine." For example, on or about May 3, 2024, Jane Doe was bitten by a spider in the housing unit. Her right arm became painfully inflamed and swollen. She asked to go to the medical unit to receive emergency medical care, but the officer refused, referring to "AW Reyes' orders." Finally, thirty minutes later, the officer escorted Jane Doe to the medical unit. When she went to exit the medical unit, AW Reyes blocked her path and stated in a threatening manner that Jane Doe's ICE officer "knows all about" what is happening, implying that he has the ability to impact her immigration case. Jane Doe then approached an ICE officer in her proximity, upon information and belief, "Officer Ruiz" and verbally reported that AW Reyes was sexually assaulting and harassing her. She then wrote a formal grievance to ICE detailing her sexual abuse by AW Reyes.

The next day, AW Reyes approached Jane Doe and stated "No one is going to trust what you say about me because I have a lot of contacts higher up who will cover for me. You are going to be deported in the next two weeks and this will come back to your case. But if you prefer, you can reject a relationship with me." On May 15, 2024, Jane Doe filed another PREA complaint with ICE detailing the sexual abuse and harassment by AW Reyes.

Upon information and belief, AW Reyes left his position at SLIPC in July 2024. After his departure, Jane Doe experienced ongoing abuse and retaliation by other officials at SLIPC. For example, in August 2024, officials targeted Jane Doe for searches and baseless disciplinary write ups. On one occasion, an officer wrongfully confiscated Jane Doe's bath towel. When Jane Doe filed a grievance, the officer said "I wish I could slap your face." On or about August 6, 2024, agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI") interviewed Jane Doe and others at SLIPC. Jane Doe disclosed the sexual and physical abuse by AW Reyes to the FBI agents. On or about August 7, 2024, Jane Doe was subjected to five days of solitary confinement after a disciplinary writeup, resulting in at least four severe seizures that left her with face numbness.

Prior to her detention by ICE, Jane Doe had two or three seizures per year and her epilepsy was properly managed by a medical regimen developed by her neurologist, including two daily medications—Trileptal and Gabapentin. During her intake processing, ICE acknowledged Jane Doe's epilepsy diagnosis and recorded it in her medical records. However, during her 14 months in ICE custody at SLIPC, officials repeatedly denied Jane Doe access to her seizure medications. ICE and SLIPC officials also denied Jane Doe access to a neurologist for the entirety of her 14 month detention. Jane Doe's seizures became more frequent and increased in intensity, beginning in February 2024, following the escalation of her sexual abuse by AW Reyes. Jane Doe's frequent seizures severely aggravated her pre-existing spinal injury. However, ICE denied her access to x-ray scans of her spine or access to a neurologist to assess and treat her back pain.

SLIPC officials routinely denied Jane Doe access to emergency medical care in response to her seizures in the housing unit. For example, in December 2023, Jane Doe had a severe seizure in the Delta-Alpha unit and lost consciousness. SLIPC provided no initial emergency medical response. Instead, they brought a stretcher near the housing unit in an external hallway and forced Jane Doe to get up and walk to the stretcher. On another occasion, officials placed Jane Doe into a wheelchair while she was unconscious, post-seizure. She fell out of the wheelchair and into a concrete wall,

injuring herself. A separate occasion, post-seizure, medical personnel instructed Jane Doe to walk from the medical unit back to the general housing unit with no assistance, without socks or shoes. During the walk, she collapsed twice due to post-ictal weakness, injuring herself on the concrete floor.

On multiple occasions throughout her 14-month detention, Jane Doe was denied access to her seizure medication because she was unable to walk to the medical unit due to dizziness and weakness post-seizure. These denials were documented by SLIPC medical personnel as “refusals of medical care.” For example, from November 20, 2023 to December 3, 2023, Jane Doe had a series of severe near-daily seizures. Following these seizures, in a weakened postictal state, Jane Doe was unable to walk to the medical unit to receive her medication or the chow hall to receive her meals. She requested that the medical unit bring her meals and medications to her housing unit as an accommodation, but the officials denied this request. Instead, the officials at SLIPC instructed Jane Doe that she could be “voluntarily placed” in solitary confinement for “medical observation.” Due to fear that solitary confinement would worsen her pre-existing mental health conditions, Jane Doe requested to remain in the general housing unit. In order to receive her daily seizure medication, Jane Doe was required to go to the medical unit at SLIPC three times per day. Jane Doe filed multiple grievances detailing this mistreatment and neglect.

In January 2025, Jane Doe was deported to her country of origin. Upon her deportation, ICE denied her a full 30-day supply of all medically necessary medications, only providing her with a 10-day supply of her seizure medications. She continues to suffer ongoing emotional distress from her mistreatment and abuse by AW Reyes.

Kenia (they/them); Non-binary/Transgender; Detained April 12, 2024–November 29, 2024

In May 2024, AW Reyes approached Kenya and told them to join his so-called “cleaning crew.” Kenya, like others, was forced to work late-night shifts between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., often woken from their bunk and taken without warning. Payment came inconsistently, sometimes just \$1–\$5 a day, and other times a garbage bag full of commissary items.

The work itself was grueling and unsafe. Kenya was ordered to strip floors, paint, and buff surfaces with harsh industrial chemicals, all without any protective gear. They repeatedly asked for gloves or masks but were mocked by officers (“What, you aren’t strong enough?”). The chemicals left Kenya with burning eyes, raw nostrils, and chest pain.

The abuse didn’t stop at forced labor. AW Reyes subjected Kenya to sexualized harassment, regularly commenting on their body and gender identity. When others in the unit began filing complaints against him, AW Reyes turned to Kenya with threats: “Find out who reported me.” When they refused, he warned, “Watch out, we are watching you.”

On November 29, 2024, ICE deported Kenya back to El Salvador. Even after removal, Kenya continues to suffer severe emotional distress from the degradation, forced labor, and harassment they endured under ICE’s custody.

II. Legal Violations

SLIPC's actions from September 2023 through August 2025 constitute egregious violations of the Performance-Based National Detention Standards¹⁸ as well as multiple ICE directives, including the 2014 Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention (SAAPI) Directive,¹⁹ the 2024 ICE Hold Room Directive,²⁰ and the 2023 ICE Health Service Corps (IHSC) SAAPI Directive,²¹ as well as constitutional and statutory protections including the Rehabilitation Act,²² the First, Fifth, and Eighth Amendments,²³ and the Convention Against Torture.²⁴ Collectively, these violations demonstrate that SLIPC failed to provide a safe, secure, and humane environment for those in ICE custody.

A. Forced Labor and Unsafe Working Conditions

The PBNDS prohibits coercive labor practices and requires facilities to provide safe working conditions, including proper documentation of work assignments and protections against hazardous substances. The PBNDS requires that detained work be voluntary and that all working detained people receive basic OSHA-equivalent protections.

Standard 5.8 [Voluntary Work Program] provides that “while not legally required to do so, ICE/ERO affords working detained people basic Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) protections.”²⁵ At SLIPC, detained people were woken in the middle of the night and forced to labor for little to no pay or with token commissary “payment” as a part of the “night shift cleaning program.” This was in direct violation of PBNDS 5.8’s prohibition on coercion and work assignment documentation requirements. Standard 1.2 [Environmental Health and Safety] requires facilities to “maintain high facility standards of cleanliness and sanitation, safe work practices and control of hazardous substances and equipment”.²⁶ SLIPC’s refusal to provide protective equipment violated this mandate.

B. Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention

The PBNDS requires compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) and ICE’s Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention (SAAPI) standards. PREA and the SAAPI directives obligate facilities to maintain a *zero-tolerance policy for sexual abuse*, ensure *multiple safe reporting channels*, protect survivors from *retaliation*, and provide *immediate medical and mental health care*.²⁷ At SLIPC, each of these protections was violated when staff dismissed PREA

¹⁸ PBNDS 2011

¹⁹ 2014 SAAPI Directive

²⁰ ICE, ICE Policy No. 11087.2, *Operations of ERO Holding Facilities* (Jan. 31, 2024).

²¹ U.S. Immigration & Customs Enf’t, Enforcement & Removal Operations, ICE Health Serv. Corps, Directive No. 03-01, Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention (Sept. 27, 2023).

²² Rehabilitation Act of 1973, § 504, 29 U.S.C. § 794

²³ U.S. CONST. amend. I, V, VIII

²⁴ Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, Dec. 10, 1984, 1465 U.N.T.S. 85.

²⁵ PBNDS 2011, Section 5.8, Voluntary Work Program (Revised Dec. 2016), p. 382

²⁶ PBNDS 2011, Section 1.2, Environmental Health and Safety (Revised Dec. 2016), p. 15

²⁷ PBNDS 2011, Section 2.11, Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention (Revised Dec. 2016), p. 133

complaints as “unsubstantiated,” punished survivors with segregation, and denied trauma-informed medical care.

Standard 2.11 [Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention] requires that facilities “act affirmatively to prevent sexual abuse and assaults on detained people; provide prompt and effective intervention and treatment for victims of sexual abuse and assault; and control, discipline and prosecute offenders.”²⁸ At SLIPC, AW Reyes intentionally targeted, coerced, and assaulted LGBTQ+ detained people. AW Reyes and other officers repeatedly coerced oral sex, groped detained people in camera blind spots, stalked women in bathrooms, and mocked transgender detained people. PREA complaints were dismissed as “unsubstantiated,” and survivors were punished with solitary confinement for reporting. These acts directly breached the facility’s duty to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual assault.

Under the 2014 ICE SAAP Directive, ICE has a zero-tolerance policy toward sexual abuse in its facilities and is required to provide immediate protection and health care (medical and mental) for survivors.²⁹ SLIPC’s deliberate failure to implement these protections directly violated these binding standards. ICE’s SAAP Directive states that “all detained people in ICE custody shall be protected from sexual abuse and assault, regardless of whether they are housed in a detention facility or other setting.”³⁰ SLIPC denied survivors trauma-informed care and, in some cases, denied even basic medical evaluation after sexual assault. SLIPC’s failure to protect complainants and refusal to remove abusive officials violated this mandate. Additionally, The ERO Hold Room Directive requires strengthened protections against sexual assault in holding and housing facilities.³¹ By allowing the Assistant Warden to stalk detained people in bathrooms, medical corridors, and housing units, SLIPC failed to uphold these requirements.

C. Retaliatory Solitary Confinement

The PBNDS requires that any disciplinary or segregation measures be fair, proportionate, and non-discriminatory, with due process protections and safeguards for vulnerable populations. The PBNDS also guarantees detained people a fair and accessible grievance system and strictly prohibits staff from harassing, punishing, or retaliating against detained people for filing complaints.

Standard 2.12 [Special Management Units] requires that “segregation shall not be used for the purpose of punishment or retaliation, and detained people placed in segregation must receive appropriate medical and mental health review.”³² At SLIPC, transgender detained people who reported abuse were punished with up to 14 days of segregation for minor or fabricated infractions, while others involved in the same incidents were not disciplined. In some cases, segregation was misused as “suicide watch,” without the mental health review required by the standards.

²⁸ *Id.*

²⁹ ERO IHSC Directive 03-01, Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention, Sept. 27, 2023, § 7.1

³⁰ ICE Policy No. 11062.2, Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention, May 22, 2014, § 4.2

³¹ ICE Policy No. 11087.2, Operations of ERO Holding Facilities, Jan. 31, 2024, § 6.3

³² PBNDS 2011, Section 2.12, Special Management Units (Revised Dec. 2016), p. 152

Standard 6.2 [Grievance System] provides that “[s]taff shall not harass, discipline, punish, or otherwise retaliate against a detained person who files a complaint or grievance.”³³ Survivors who filed PREA complaints or grievances against AW Reyes were placed in solitary confinement, yelled at, assaulted and threatened with transfer by staff. SLIPC’s consistent use of segregation to punish and deter reporting is a glaring violation of this rule.

Standard 4.6 [Significant Self-Harm and Suicide Prevention] requires facilities to provide “a comprehensive program that minimizes risk” and ensures segregation is only a last resort for suicide precautions.³⁴ Instead, SLIPC repeatedly placed detained people experiencing suicidal ideation in punitive segregation cells, without treatment or monitoring, in flagrant violation of these protections.

D. Use of Force and Physical Assault

The PBNDS authorizes only *necessary and reasonable* force after de-escalation efforts have failed and strictly prohibits excessive or punitive use of force against detained people.

Standard 2.15 [Use of Force and Restraints] authorizes staff to use only “necessary and reasonable force after all reasonable efforts to otherwise resolve a situation have failed” and requires that “staff shall use only the degree of force necessary to gain control of detained people.”³⁵ At SLIPC, officers repeatedly slammed, handcuffed, and struck detained people during retaliatory solitary confinement placements. Jane Doe was forced to stand half-naked during a bunk “search.” These assaults were not necessary to protect safety or security but were carried out to punish detained people for reporting abuse or refusing to participate in the coerced labor program.

Standard 4.3 [Medical Care] further requires that staff avoid actions that cause unnecessary medical harm and provide treatment for injuries.³⁶ Instead, officers intentionally inflicted pain to intimidate and coerce detained people. The squeezing of Mario’s injured wrist, causing severe swelling and bruising, in addition to failing to provide results of x-rays or follow-up care are a clear example of this prohibited conduct.

E. Medical Neglect and Disability Discrimination

The PBNDS requires timely access to necessary medical treatment and mandates reasonable accommodations for detained people with disabilities.

Standard 4.3 [Medical Care] ensures that “detained people have access to appropriate and necessary medical, dental and mental health care, including emergency services.”³⁷ At SLIPC, multiple complainants had serious medical needs including epilepsy, spinal injuries, nerve damage, and mental health conditions, but were denied necessary care by SLIPC. Detained people

³³ PBNDS 2011, Section 6.2, Grievance System (Revised Dec. 2016), p. 441

³⁴ PBNDS 2011, Section 4.6, Significant Self-Harm and Suicide Prevention (Revised Dec. 2016), p. 333

³⁵ PBNDS 2011, Section 2.15, Use of Force and Restraints (Revised Dec. 2016), p. 192

³⁶ PBNDS 2011, Section 4.3, Medical Care (Revised Dec. 2016), p. 277

³⁷ PBNDS 2011, Section 4.3, Medical Care (Revised Dec. 2016), p. 277

with serious injuries were routinely denied medications, specialist care, and timely or adequate emergency response after severe medical events. Instead, officials documented such denials as “refusals of care,” as in the case of when Jane Doe was physically unable to walk to the medical unit after a seizure. By denying seizure medication because Jane Doe was unable to walk post-seizure, SLIPC not only violated PBNDS but also Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.³⁸

Standard 4.4 [Medical Care (Women)] requires that detained people “have access to appropriate and necessary medical and mental health care” tailored to their health conditions.³⁹ Jane Doe, who had complex health needs including epilepsy and spinal injury, was denied accommodations and experienced an escalation of seizures, causing lasting neurological harm. Moreover, Standard 4.8 [Disability Identification, Assessment, and Accommodation] mandates that facilities “act affirmatively to prevent disability discrimination” and provide accommodations ensuring equal access to services.⁴⁰ SLIPC failed to provide reasonable accommodations such as in-unit medication delivery or mobility assistance, forcing Jane Doe to walk unassisted immediately after seizures and subsequently causing injuries from collapses and falls during transport.

Further, under the 2023 IHSC SAAPI Directive,⁴¹ medical and mental health providers were required to respond promptly to sexual assault survivors with trauma-informed care, forensic documentation, and counseling. In fact, in the event of an emergency incident, twenty-four-hour emergency medical and mental health services are required to be made accessible to all impacted individuals.⁴² SLIPC provided none of these protections.

F. Staff–Detained Person Communication and Grievances

The PBNDS guarantees detained people a fair and accessible grievance system and requires staff to ensure meaningful communication, safe reporting access, and prohibit retaliation for filing complaints. DHS PREA regulations and ICE directives require that all allegations of abuse be investigated and tracked.

Standard 2.13 [Staff–Detained person Communication] obligates staff to ensure detained individuals can safely communicate complaints and requires facilities to “encourage and require informal direct and written contact among staff and detained people, as well as the posting of hotline informational posters.”⁴³ SLIPC staff instead weaponized the grievance process against survivors, systematically chilling any attempts at self-advocacy. At SLIPC, survivors were ignored, punished, or told their claims were “unsubstantiated” despite corroborating evidence. OIG and Ombudsman posters were missing from units and detained people who requested complaint forms or attempted to use hotlines were mocked or threatened. Officers regularly deadnamed and misgendered transgender detained people, refused to use correct pronouns, and made discriminatory remarks, including homophobic and transphobic slurs. LGBTQ+ detained people

³⁸ Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act

³⁹ PBNDS 2011, Section 4.4, Medical Care (Women) (Revised Dec. 2016), p. 307

⁴⁰ PBNDS 2011, Section 4.8, Disability Identification, Assessment, and Accommodation (Revised Dec. 2016), p. 364

⁴¹ ICE, ICE Health Serv. Corps, Directive No. 03-01, *Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention* (Sept. 27, 2023).

⁴² PBNDS 2011, Section 4.3 Medical Care, Expected Outcomes (Revised Dec. 2016), p. 258

⁴³ PBNDS 2011, Section 2.13, Staff–Detained person Communication (Revised Dec. 2016), p. 171

were told they would “never be believed” if they reported sexual assault, directly undermining their access to grievance and reporting channels.

Standard 6.2 [Grievance System] provides that “[s]taff shall not harass, discipline, punish, or otherwise retaliate against a detained person who files a complaint or grievance.”⁴⁴ At SLIPC, PREA complaints and grievances were closed as “unsubstantiated” without investigation. Detained people who pursued complaints were threatened with transfer to harsher conditions, accused of lying, or placed in segregation as punishment. By blocking access to hotlines, discouraging written complaints, misgendering transgender detained people, and using discriminatory language and threats to intimidate LGBTQ+ complainants, SLIPC violated fundamental PBNDS protections intended to ensure accountability and protect the right to report abuse.

Per PBNDS 2011, CLIPC officials are required to ensure a thorough investigation of any incidents of physical assault perpetrated on a person in ICE custody.⁴⁵ To date, the affected individuals have not received any documentation or evidence of an investigation into any of these incidents. Instead, detained people have reported threats of retaliation in response to any further attempts of impacted individuals filing grievances in response to the incident - which is a flagrant First Amendment violation.⁴⁶

G. Staff Training Failures

The PBNDS requires staff to receive ongoing training in the prevention of sexual abuse and suicide, in addition to the protection of vulnerable populations, including detained people with disabilities and LGBTQ+ individuals. This includes compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) and ICE’s Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention (SAAPI) standards.

Standard 7.3 [Staff Training] mandates that “staff receive initial and annual training in detention standards and ICE policies, including training on sexual assault prevention and intervention, suicide prevention and intervention, and special needs and vulnerable populations.”⁴⁷ At SLIPC, officers mocked and misgendered transgender detained people, used homophobic and transphobic slurs, and refused to use correct pronouns. Staff ignored detained peoples’ reports of suicidal thoughts, placing them in punitive segregation cells instead of providing monitoring or care. Officers also disregarded disability-related needs, including requests for mobility assistance and accommodations for post-seizure impairments.

The mishandling and dismissal of PREA complaints, threats to survivors, and repeated failures to protect vulnerable detained people illustrate systemic deficiencies in required staff training. By failing to comply with PBNDS 7.3, SLIPC created an environment in which abuse was normalized, reporting was discouraged, and vulnerable detained people were left unprotected.

⁴⁴ PBNDS 2011, Section 6.2, Grievance System (Revised Dec. 2016), p. 441

⁴⁵ PBNDS 2011, Section 2.4 Facility Security and Control, (Revised Dec. 2016).

⁴⁶ *Hart v. Hairston*, 343 F.3d 762, 764 (5th Cir. 2003)) (finding that the First Amendment prohibits retaliation for speaking out about conditions of confinement).

⁴⁷ PBNDS 2011, Section 7.3, Staff Training (Revised Dec. 2016), p. 497

H. Constitutional & Statutory Protections

Civil immigration detained people are entitled to fundamental constitutional and statutory protections, which SLIPC repeatedly violated.

The First and Eighth Amendments prohibit the government from retaliating against a client for self-advocacy and disregarding a serious medical need that causes an excessive risk to a detained individual's health and safety.⁴⁸ The First Amendment protects the right to petition the government for redress of grievances. People in ICE custody have a constitutional right to file grievances against government officials who may infringe upon their constitutional rights. This includes ICE Officers. Complaints and grievances can be formal or informal, meaning that they need not be in writing but can be communicated orally. Any action that adversely affects a detained person's life in the facility is considered retaliatory if it is in response to any formal or informal grievance. At SLIPC, detained people who filed PREA complaints or grievances were mocked, threatened, or punished. Such retaliation for protected activity is a direct violation of the First Amendment.

The Eighth Amendment's prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment, though applied directly to criminal incarceration, informs the constitutional baseline owed to civil detained people. Sexual assault by staff, deliberate indifference to medical needs, and prolonged solitary confinement constitute cruel and degrading treatment that falls below this constitutional standard. Additionally, The Fifth Amendment's Due Process Clause prohibits punitive conditions of confinement for civil detained people.⁴⁹ At SLIPC, coerced labor, retaliatory solitary confinement, excessive use of force, and denial of medical care were punitive measures unrelated to any legitimate governmental purpose and thus violated due process. By antagonizing and threatening detained people making complaints, SLIPC violated their First, Fifth, and Eighth Amendment rights.

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794,⁵⁰ requires ICE and its contractors to provide reasonable accommodations for detained people with disabilities. SLIPC failed to accommodate epilepsy, spinal injuries, mobility impairments, and post-seizure limitations, instead forcing detained people into dangerous labor and denying them equal access to medical care. Finally, the Convention Against Torture (CAT) prohibits acts that inflict severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, by or with the acquiescence of public officials.

The United States ratified CAT in 1994 and is legally bound to prevent cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment in all places of detention. Prolonged solitary confinement, coerced sexual assault, forced labor in hazardous conditions, and systemic medical neglect at SLIPC constitute violations of these binding international obligations.

III. Conclusion

SLIPC officials' failure to prevent and respond to coerced labor, sexual assault, retaliatory solitary confinement, medical neglect, excessive use of force, and discriminatory abuse violated the civil

⁴⁸ *Id.*; *Estelle*, 429 U.S. at 104-05 (concluding that the Eighth Amendment prohibits unnecessary and wanton infliction of pain by denying or delaying detained person's serious medical needs).

⁴⁹ The Fifth Amendment's Due Process Clause prohibits punitive conditions of confinement for civil detained people

⁵⁰ Rehabilitation Act of 1973, § 504, 29 U.S.C. § 794

and human rights of the named complainants and others currently detained at SLIPC. The persistent reports of neglect, violence, and retaliation against immigrants detained at SLIPC demonstrate that the violations raised in this complaint are part of a systemic pattern of abuse that those in authority at the facility cannot or will not correct. These long-standing failures at SLIPC can only be remedied by the facility's closure and by holding the responsible parties accountable.

We raise serious concerns about SLIPC's continued operation and request an immediate investigation into the abuses described herein by OIG, OIDO and/or CRCL.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights
American Civil Liberties Union of Louisiana
National Immigration Project
Southeast Dignity Not Detention Coalition