

Using video as a tool for social change has been central to my life for the last 15 years. My current documentary project, **ENEMY ON THE INSIDE** involves a cross-cultural, cross-racial look at the notion of “enemy”-- how do we reconcile the insider as enemy, how do we have a relationship with someone who becomes the enemy, what is an enemy?

Over 85 percent of child sexual abuse (CSA) is committed by those who are in relationship with the children they abuse. Because CSA perpetrators come from within the inner circle, family members often fear what will happen to the perpetrator (and consequently the family) if the abuse is reported. This fear is often greater than their fear of what will happen if the perpetrator is not stopped. Not surprisingly, less than 10 percent of CSA is actually reported.

Ninety percent of people say they are unsure of what to do when they suspect or discover the abuse. They are afraid of what will happen if one of their own is turned in because criminal prosecution tears families apart and often does not repair the damage caused by the abuse. CSA is difficult to prosecute and indict with only two percent of those arrested being convicted. However, locking someone up isn't the solution as prison without sex offender re-education does not prevent repeat abuse when prison terms end and perpetrators return to their families and communities. Likewise, social ostracism of child sex offenders often leaves most incest perpetrators untouched. It does not improve the safety of children who are abused within their circles of friends and families.

Project So Far: I have interviewed 26 CSA perpetrators – fathers, brothers, uncles, and stepfathers across different cultural backgrounds and age groups. I have also finished shooting performances by poets and choreographers who use the body as site of resistance to undo the legacy of abuse. By showing my own conflicts with how to hold CSA perpetrators accountable compassionately, I attempt to complicate and politicize compassion. Joining me are many survivors of CSA, activists, and mental health professionals. Together we create an interdisciplinary Memorandum of Understanding about accountability. We critique the prevailing models of accountability such as sex offender treatment and criminal prosecution while asking questions about the integrity, safety and practicality of restorative justice. We explore the meaning of justice for all families, but in particular for men of color, women of color and children of color.

Long Term Goals: To expand the value and usability of the video, it is being incorporated into the long-term work of various non-profit organizations, including Generation Five, Stop It Now, Rio Grande Counseling Center, and Men Can Stop Rape. My project is not funded by these organizations but they are the beneficiaries of the video.

“We will use Enemy On The Inside for our multi-city 3-day training of trainers and in conjunction with community dialogues to publicize our new paradigm of Transformative Justice. Our audience will be community organizations that Generation Five is already in relationship with. In addition, the video and CD-Rom will be part of a curriculum for a CSA offender module that is designed to help child sex offenders look at their treatment within the process of transformation and accountability, and therefore politicize child sex offender treatment.” - **Sara Kershner, Generation Five**

“Men Can Stop Rape models alternative masculinities for high school students and college men. We will use the video to enhance the work of the organization in Washington, DC by showing how child sex offending is linked to masculinity and show that perpetration of CSA is not about children but about all the things that make perpetration of violence conceivable and doable without getting caught.” - **Pat McGann, Men Can Stop Rape**

“In our 5 on-site programs the video will be used to do community intervention in situations where a community is in an uproar over a sex offender moving into the neighborhood. The video will help dispel the idea that the safety of a community rests with one perpetrator and help Stop It Now educate families about how to create an internal environment where primary prevention of CSA is possible. By putting a face on the perpetrators who are part of families and communities, Stop It Now hopes to encourage more people to come forward before they offend.” - **Maxine Stein, Stop It Now**