



Survivors Network of those Abused By Priests  
P.O. Box 6416, Chicago, Illinois 60680-6416  
312-409-2720  
[www.snapnetwork.org](http://www.snapnetwork.org)

August 24, 2007

Dear Sister Shinnick:

Let us begin by saying that we chose to honor your request that we not be present at your national conference. We hope it was a productive one, one that helped you serve God's people.

Please understand that we have attempted to set up a meeting with LCWR representatives. However, since we are working women and men, it is difficult to plan an expensive trip away from our responsibilities at a time that is suitable to everyone. We are also hesitant to make plans for a meeting that will be costly for us when we have yet experienced any good faith from the LCWR to this point.

Our hesitancy to meet with you is simple: We have seen no steps that LCWR has taken either to respond to our requests or to make efforts in the area of public outreach to those who have suffered from sexual abuse by women religious. We requested an agenda early this spring, but your response was that there was no agenda; that this would be a meeting for "the representatives of SNAP and LCWR to express their respective concerns as well as to hear each other's points of view."

We expressed our concerns and our points of view and listened to yours when we met in Chicago in October, 2004. Another meeting with the identical purpose and with no results is neither helpful nor productive. If we are to put in this time and expense an agenda would assist us in preparing for the meeting, and help us make the best use of our trip. We would also ask that since you have requested this meeting the LCWR pay for our travel and lodging.

The LCWR literally had years to respond positively and publicly to reach out to survivors in Ft. Worth, Anaheim, Atlanta, as well as Silver Spring and Kansas City, but has yet to do so.

We continue to ask the LCWR again for our same requests made in October of 2004:

1. To place a link to SNAP on the LCWR webpage.
2. To ask member orders to do the same. Those without a webpage could provide the information in their literature.
3. To begin fostering a trusting relationship between SNAP and LCWR by inviting SNAP members who are victims of sexual abuse by women religious to speak to LCWR member communities during LCWR national and regional conferences.
4. To provide us with a list of member orders with addresses and names of contact persons if a survivor of sister or nun sexual abuse would wish to find healing and comfort from an order.

In addition to these original requests, we would ask that the LCWR set up a national review board for sexual abuse by women religious to ensure this abuse comes to an end and so that those who were sexually abused by women religious can begin their journeys of healing.

We sincerely hope that this meeting you suggested will come to fruition. It is imperative that we work together for education, prevention and healing in this most painful area.

Sincerely,