

# “UNITED VOICES for SEX OFFENSE REFORM” General Meeting Minutes (with Guest Speaker)

Tuesday, October 3, 2023, 7:30 PM EST / Via ZOOM

Attendees: 33

## Overview:

- Team updates will be discussed at our next general meeting on 10/17/2023
- Procedure for the meeting protocol with a speaker and for asking questions
- Information about tonight’s guest speaker and introduction
- Presentation, Q & A, Group Discussion

## Notes:

1. 9/19/2023 meeting minutes were approved and will be posted on the [website](#).
2. Introduction and welcome to our guest speaker Dr. Emily Horowitz, Ph.D.

Emily Horowitz, Ph.D., is a professor of sociology and criminal justice at St. Francis College in Brooklyn, NY. She serves as a director at the National Center for Reason and Justice, an organization that supports the falsely accused and/or wrongfully convicted and works for child protective laws based on science and research. She is on the advisory committee for the regional advocacy group Restorative Action Alliance. She is an author and has been the keynote speaker at NARSOL’s conference. Emily’s presentation is about her newly published book, [“From Rage to Reason: Why We Need Sex Crime Laws Based on Facts, Not Fear”](#).

3. Presentation, group questions, and discussion.

Emily discussed how she approached writing her new book with the premise that conclusive data proves that the sex offense registry is further punishment. History and research show that the low recidivism rate for sexual offenses is not due to the registry, but that the registry increases the rate of recidivism.

- The first part of her book addresses the challenges and impacts of registry laws, including employment, housing, and travel.
- The second part of her book addresses the psychological and emotional impacts of registry laws, including social shunning, banishment and harassment, and the collateral damage to registrants and their families.
- Emily answered questions from the group about her research, the challenges we face in changing the mindset regarding sexual offenses, the importance of building a foundation to educate lawmakers and the public, and the benefits of collaborating with other organizations. She emphasized that there is no factual argument for the registry and that the registry creates additional harm.
- Emily can be reached at [ehorowitz@sfc.edu](mailto:ehorowitz@sfc.edu). Please contact her to receive a discount on her book, which can be ordered at [Bloomsbury.com/9781440879395](https://www.bloomsbury.com/9781440879395).

9:00 p.m. Adjourn Meeting - Next Meeting Date is Tuesday, October 17, 2023, 7:30 p.m. EST