

## Women Veterans and Chaplains Conference 2020

### Media Information and Resources

1. **Moral Injury Support Network for Servicewomen, Inc., MISNS**

(MISNS, pronounced “missions”) specializes in education, research, and advocacy in military chaplaincy and soldier care. MISNS 'research focus is on pastoral support to female service members. Women are an underserved population when it comes to spiritual leadership and support. By conducting studies with female service members as the primary population, MISNS is able to develop theories and practices that will enhance the lives of women in the military.

As an educational and training organization, Moral Injury Support Network for Servicewomen, Inc. helps men and women in the chaplaincy hone their skills as religious professionals and care providers. MISNS also works with seminaries, religious groups, and professional chaplain organizations to provide content for continuing education and professional growth. MISNS ' training inventory includes seminars, case studies, keynote speeches, class curriculum, and other products.

2. **Women Veterans Social Justice Network, WVSJ** is an outreach and community based non-profit working to bring together national and local resources available to women veterans in a single, easy to understand and navigable resource. The online social network organization started with peer support groups that utilized social media and education, to inform, support and advocates on behalf of women veterans. It focuses on issues of Military Sexual Trauma (MST), Moral Injury, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), homelessness, suicide awareness and prevention, and VA and community-based services and benefits available to women veterans and their families.

WVSJ continues their primary mission of providing information, education, encouragement, and support to women veterans, regardless of the era in which they served, as well as support tools and resources to the veteran's families and the community at large. It supports and partners with others in the academic, military, faith, and other communities in joint programs of benefit to women veterans.

3. **Leashes of Valor** is a national non-profit working to provide every post 9/11 veteran who needs one with a highly-trained service dog to assist them in mitigating the symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) or a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).

4. **Moral injury** is a term that refers to the inner conflict military service members feel when their sense of moral rightness is violated during their time in the service. Initial findings of a current study underway on moral injury for women veterans led by Dr. Daniel Roberts of Moral Injury Support Network for Servicewomen, Inc. suggest military sexual trauma is one common cause of moral injury among women, as well as witnessing atrocities, killing in combat, and being forced to do things that are against one's moral values.
5. Moral injury and military sexual trauma (MST) are not synonymous terms. MST can lead to moral injury, but so can other things, such as acts of betrayal, witnessing atrocities and being powerless to do anything about it, hazing, combat exposure, failing to prevent immoral acts, etc.
6. Conservative estimates state that 20% of women veterans have experienced military sexual trauma, but that does not fully account for the 80-90% of assaults that go unreported.
7. Current moral injury definitions and constructs focus on the experiences of men in combat and do not fully account for the experiences of women. Only about 20% of moral injury participants in previous studies were women. The study co-led by Dr. Daniel Roberts focuses exclusively on moral injury in women veterans.
8. After experiencing a moral injurious event and then receiving therapy and counseling, many women still struggle for decades to cope. Many women in my study experienced homelessness, suicide, and drug abuse.
9. Approximately 10% of homeless veterans are women and their numbers are increasing faster than men (<https://www.military.com/militaryadvantage/2018/03/28/female-veterans-are-fastest-growing-segment-homeless-veterans.html>).
10. The suicide rate of women veterans is twice that of non-veteran women. Almost 300 veteran women died of suicide in 2017. [VA 2019 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report pdf](#)
11. Servicewomen are twice as likely as men to develop PTSD and other types of psychological stress ([https://www.womenshealth.va.gov/WOMENSHEALTH/outreachmaterials/mentalhealth/substance\\_abuse.asp](https://www.womenshealth.va.gov/WOMENSHEALTH/outreachmaterials/mentalhealth/substance_abuse.asp)).
12. VA Suicide Data Page [https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide\\_prevention/data.asp](https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention/data.asp)