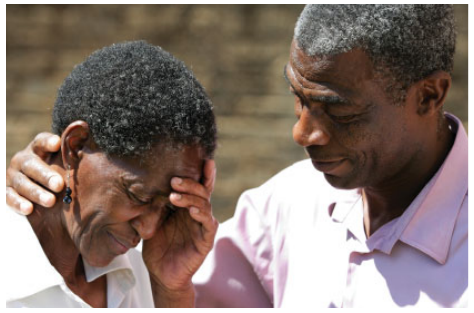


National Crime Victim's Rights Week Next-of-Kin Meeting

The year's theme for National Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) is, "Support Victims. Build Trust. Engage Communities." In observance of this theme, the Metropolitan Police Department will hold its Next-of-Kin Meeting during the week of April 19-23, 2021 for family members with open homicide cases from 2017-2019.



Next-of-Kin Meetings are held three times per year; they provide family members with an opportunity to schedule a personal meeting

with the detective to discuss their loved one's case. These meetings engage victims in the criminal justice process, help build trust with law enforcement, and connect survivors to valuable support resources throughout the community. In support of NCVRW,

Next of Kin will be provided information on how to access the services offered by the Network for Victim Recovery's DC RISE Project. To bring healing to our communities we must equip ourselves with the knowledge and resources necessary to EMPOWER victims to become EMPOWERED survivors, so collectively we build an EMPOWERED community. For more information on upcoming Next-of-Kin meetings, or to inquire about support resources for homicide survivors, please contact the Family Liaison Specialist's Unit at (202) 645-6363 or email at victim.services@dc.gov. —Megan Riley



Metropolitan Police Department
Victim Services Branch/Family Liaison Specialists Unit
101 M Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024

Empower!
GIVING VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES A VOICE



A Publication of the Metropolitan Police Department's Victim Services Branch

Spring 2021 | Volume 12, Issue 4

Message from Tyria Fields



Tyria Fields

This past year has undoubtedly been one of challenges, loss, and unpredictability. It has forced us to rethink and maybe even show a greater appreciation for the smallest things. Collectively we have grown to become a stronger resilient community. We have learned to move in ways that were never thought of before. As

we continue to meander our way through this pandemic, Spring is here to once again encourage us to renew relationships, refresh our minds and continue moving toward greater opportunities. Celebrated April 19-23, 2021, this year's theme for National Crime Victims Rights Week: **Support Victims – Build Trust.** Engage Communities-reinforces occasions to enhance

collaborative relationships and support empowered survivors even more. Please let us know how we can be of service to you. The Metropolitan Police Department is here to help.

Tyria Fields

Upcoming Events and Activities

APRIL

SAAM Day of Action
Tuesday, April 6
MPD Members and the community will be encouraged to wear teal (the color of sexual violence prevention) ribbons.
NOK Meeting (Open cases 2017-2019)
April 19-23
Contact: 202-645-6363
Email: victim.services@dc.gov

Denim Day
Wednesday, April 28
MPD Members and the community will be encouraged to wear denim and take pictures of themselves showing their solidarity for Sexual Assault victims and survivors.
Agency: Metropolitan Police Department Victim Services Branch

Women's History Month
April 27 11 am EST
In recognition of Women's History Month, World Trade Center, DC and World Trade Center Dublin invite you to join us for the launch of

a new monthly webinar series: "A Seat at the Table: Women in Global Leadership" with moderator **Susan Sloan**, author of "A Seat at the Table: Women, Diplomacy, and Lessons for the World." This conversation will feature **Ambassador Capricia Penavic Marshall**, Former White House Social Secretary and United States Chief of Protocol, and author of "Protocol - the Power of Diplomacy and How to Make it Work for You." FREE and open to the public.
Agency: World Trade Center, DC and World Trade Center Dublin
Register Today!
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_MqYWeT1jQNW70F9Fc5oXYw
Contact: **Jan Du Plain**, Embassy Liaison World Trade Center Washington, DC, TCMA
duplainenterprises@gmail.com
(202) 486-7004
Stewards of Children® Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Training
Various Dates (see below)
This training teaches adults how to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. The program is designed for individuals concerned about the safety of children as well as organizations that serve youth. Training includes discus-

sion about critical issues in sexual abuse prevention and the relevance of these issues in our communities through a video sharing the voices of survivors and experts in the field.
Agency: Safe Shores, the Prevention & Outreach Program
English
Thursday, April 1 | 1:30 PM – 4:00 PM
Wednesday, April 7 | 5 PM – 7:30 PM
Tuesday, April 13 | 2 PM – 4:30 PM
Wednesday, April 21 | 1:30 PM – 4:00 PM
Español
Miércoles 14 de abril | 1:30 PM – 4:00 PM
Jueves 29 de abril | 2 PM – 4:30 PM
Registration: <https://www.safeshores.org/get-involved/stewards-of-children>.
Contact: Prevention & Outreach Program at stewards@safeshores.org.
MAY
A Week to Change Direction
May 10-16
This virtual, global event will help us prioritize our mental health and wellness. Our goal is to encourage everyone to stay emotionally healthy. Visit

<https://bit.ly/May21WCD> to learn how to participate in this free event.
Agency: Give an Hour
Registration: <https://bit.ly/May21WCD>
Contact: changedirection@givean-hour.org
ONGOING
Prayer Helpline for Survivors
Daily Seven Days a Week | 7 AM – 10 PM
DCAEHS, Inc., is very thankful for the opportunities to help our Communities! We are a Community Pastor, so if the community needs to have a Virtual Service for the loss of a loved one, we are available with no charge and we can assist them through the process.
Agency: DC Alliance Empowering Homicide Survivors, Inc.
(240) 988-3483 (Must leave your Prayer Request ALL calls will be returned)
Contact: **Pastor P. Saunders**, CEO at (240) 899-4669 or email **Minister Mathis** at lorry5420@gmail.com
PSA 702 Monthly Meeting
2nd Tuesday of Every Month | 2 PM
Where: Zoom
Contact: **Brenda Richardson**
(202) 678-1978
brendarichardson724@gmail.com
—Sharon Daugherty

History of Sexual Assault Awareness Month

April 2021 marks the official 20th anniversary of Sexual Assault Awareness Month — but did you know we can trace its history even longer?

Roots of the Movement

As long as there have been people who care about making the world a better place, there have been individuals advocating for sexual assault prevention. In the United States, movements for social change and equality began to gain traction in the 1940s and 50s with the civil rights era. Although open discussion of the realities of sexual assault and domestic violence were limited at these times, activists for equal rights began to challenge the status quo.

Efforts during this time were championed by Black women and women of color. Advocates like Rosa Parks worked at the intersections of race-based and gender-based violence (a framework that years later in 1989, advocate and Professor Kimberlé Cren-

History of Sexual Assault Awareness Month

shaw would call “intersectionality”).

Wide social activism around the issue of sexual assault continued into the 1970s, bringing with it support for survivors and heightened awareness. The first rape crisis center was founded in San Francisco in 1971, the same city where the first U.S. Take Back the Night event was held seven years later. Additionally, the DC Rape Crisis Center (DCRCC) was founded in 1972 as one of the first rape crisis centers in the country. No legislation existed that protected the needs of survivors or defended bodily autonomy as a basic right. DCRCC pioneered the way—using street theater, lobbying for legislation and government funding, peer-to-peer support, community partnerships, and a home run hotline manned by volunteer

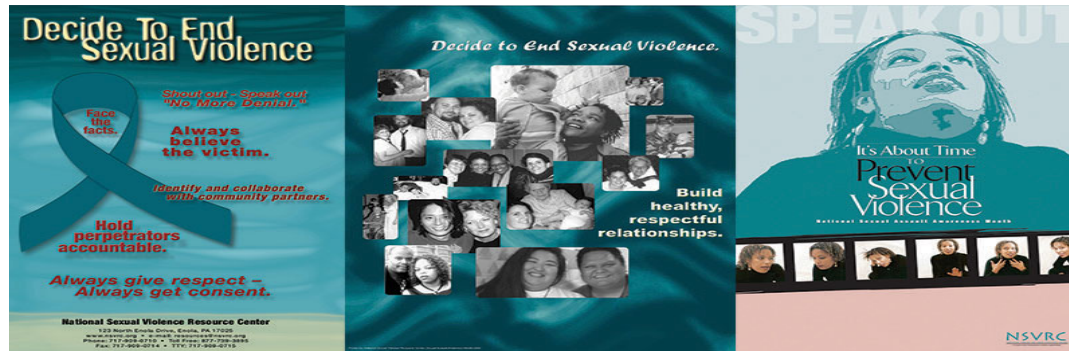
community members.

The following decades mobilized survivors and advocates to call for legislation and funding that would support survivors, such as the Violence Against Women Act of 1993 (VAWA).

Monumental changes like VAWA demonstrated that national efforts promoting sexual violence prevention were needed. Even before SAAM was first nationally observed in 2001, advocates had been holding events, marches, and observances related to sexual violence during the month of April, sometimes during a week-long “Sexual Assault Awareness Week.”

In an effort to further coordinate awareness and prevention efforts, in 2000, the newly launched National Sexual Violence Resource Center and the Resource Sharing Project polled sexual violence coalitions. They asked organizations about their preferred color, symbol, and month for sexual assault awareness activities. The results showed that those in the movement preferred a teal ribbon as a symbol for sexual assault awareness, and SAAM as we know it was born.

—*Beyshinah Woods*



Virtual Support Groups: How Can Therapy Help?

If you have experienced gun violence then you already know that one bullet has so much power to cause damage in many ways. I want to share a few ways of how individuals, families and communities are negatively impacted by gun violence. I also want to share how specific forms of therapy can be useful in addressing the harmful effects of gun violence. Family, friends, relationships, dreams and one's potential die when a person is killed. For those who survive, as well as their families, friends and the community the following areas of harm are often ignored:

- » Mentally-flashbacks of the incident, nightmares, inability to concentrate, think straight, jumpy, worried
- » Emotionally-anger, fear, depression, suicidality
- » Socially-inability to trust

others, inability get close
to others, withdrawn, stop
engaging in pleasurable ac-
tivities

- › Physically-pain, medical appointments, medical procedures, change in body functioning
- › Financially-loss of second income, loss of home due to relocation, loss of job due to inability to return to work
- › Spiritually-inability to trust a higher power, disconnect from a higher power, blames self or higher power for what happened

So how can therapy help? Therapy cannot change the past and it cannot change what happened. But it can change what is happening inside of you and it can allow you to grieve. After 10 years of facilitating groups, I have

seen evidence that hurting people really can heal in the community. I'm not talking about forming trauma bonds, which sometimes happens when we share our pain without healthy solutions. I'm also not talking about sharing the details of what happened or what's happening with your case.

I'm talking about a group that will help you move through your grief, discover how to manage very difficult feelings, and develop a way to live in your new normal.

For more information regarding the virtual support group, please contact **Dr. Renetta D. Weaver**, LICSW, LC-SW-C (Metaphysics is Eastern Medicine Practice) and founder of Total Transitions Ministry, LLC, at **(240) 416-9650** or <https://renettaweaver.com/contact>.

—Renetta D. Weaver

NCVRW 2021 Focuses on Building Trust and Engaging Communities

National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) will be observed April 18–24. This year's theme, "Support Victims-Build Trust-Engage Communities" emphasizes the importance of leveraging community support to help victims of crime. Since 1981, NCVRW is a time to renew our commitment to serving all victims of crime, to acknowledge the achievements in victim services and allied professions, to honor those who have gone above and beyond in their service to others, and to remember crime victims and survivors.

The MPD Victim Services Branch is recognizing NCVRW in our April "Now

You Know” Round Table. Our featured guest is **Assistant Chief Leslie Parsons**, Investigative Services Bureau, who addresses how we honor each of those tenets in service to our community. In discussing “Support Victims and Build Trust,” Chief Parsons relates that “Every dispatched call and every citizen contact is an opportunity to build trust with individuals of the community.”

To further “Engage Communities,” the Baller Brigade will kick off during National Crime Victims’ Right Week. Baller Brigade, a socially distance unexpected engagement with the youth provides a relationship building experience for the community with our MPD officers who patrol

their neighborhoods through sports. For any questions, please contact Sharon Daugherty, Community Outreach Coordinator, Victim Services Branch, MPD at sharon.daugherty@dc.gov

For any questions please
contact **Sharon Daugherty**,
Community Outreach Coordi-
nator, Victim Services Branch,
MPD at sharon.daugherty@dc.gov.

—Sharon Daugherty

MPD's Victim Services Branch: Support Victims, Build Trust, Engage Communities

Resources

For more information call the Victim Services Branch at **(202) 645-6363** or email victim.services@dc.gov.

For information on the Latino Liaison Unit, visit <https://mpdc.dc.gov/page/latino-liason-unit>.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW), 2021's theme is "Support Victims. Build Trust. Engage Communities." The weeklong initiative promotes victims' rights and honors crime victims and those who advocate on their behalf.

The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) recognizes the importance of forging strong relationships with underserved and marginalized communities. These communities face many barriers when communicating with law enforcement. Many in these communities may lack trust in law enforcement due to past negative experiences in their country of origin. Language barriers and immigration status can also play a role. MPD is committed to working with these communities by breaking

the language barriers and ensuring that the Department is equipped with Spanish-speaking officers and staff to assist citizens in their native language. The Department's Latino Liaison Unit focuses on the public safety needs of the Latino Community. The officers assigned to this Unit conduct community outreach to solidify police relations.

The Latino Liaison Unit participates in events that target the District's Latino community. They take part in events hosted by community-based organizations and churches. During Pandemic, the Department collaborated with other community agencies and held numerous outdoor outreach activities. The Department gathered at different locations throughout the city to provide food and hot meals distribution, pop-up

coats drives, toy distribution, drive-by birthday celebrations, pop-up coffee shops, as well as information on how to stay safe during the pandemic.

Additionally, MPD's Victim Services Branch supports victims of crime by providing information about their rights, resources, and available services to help victims and survivors cope with the aftermath of a crime. Victim Specialists work one on one with victims of crime and serve as a liaison with the detectives and other agencies. Furthermore, VSB engages communities to help build trust through our outreach program. As we transition into this new normal, the Victim Services Branch continues to provide victims and survivors with supportive services.

—Marlene Castro

Community support can make a difference for survivors of human trafficking.

El apoyo de la comunidad puede marcar una diferencia para los sobrevivientes del tráfico de personas.

STRONGER TOGETHER.

Unite to uplift victims.

JUNTOS SOMOS MÁS FUERTES.

Unámonos para ayudar a las víctimas.



Left to right: Jacqueline Baerwald; Matilde Simas; Daira Adriana Year; Andrew Johnstone, Nancy O'Malley, and Regina Evans



De izquierda a derecha: Jacqueline Baerwald; Matilde Simas; Daira Adriana Year; Andrew Johnstone, Nancy O'Malley y Regina Evans



If you suspect someone is in need of help, call or text the National Human Trafficking Hotline at **888-373-7888; text 233733**. For more information, visit humantraffickinghotline.org and ovc.ojp.gov/program/human-trafficking.

The Office for Victims of Crime selected these art pieces—with the assistance of a survivor-led review team—to appear in the Represent Resilience Virtual Gallery that commemorates the 20th anniversary of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.



Si sospecha que alguien necesita ayuda, llame o envíe un mensaje de texto a la Línea Directa Nacional sobre Tráfico de Personas al **888-373-7888; escriba 233733**. Para obtener más información, visite humantraffickinghotline.org y ovc.ojp.gov/program/human-trafficking.

La Oficina para Víctimas de Delitos seleccionó estas obras de arte, con la asistencia de un equipo de evaluación dirigido por un sobreviviente, para aparecer en la Galería Virtual de Representación de la Resiliencia que conmemora el vigésimo aniversario de la Ley de Protección de las Víctimas de la Trata de Personas.

Letters & Kudos

Share your story

Send a letter detailing your experiences — positive or negative — to victim.services@dc.gov or send via US Mail to:

Family Liaison Specialists Unit

101 M Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024

Agencies Align to Bring Joy

Dear Ms. Daugherty,
Community Family Life Services (CFLS) is so grateful for your help in getting the word out to the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) about our Adopt-a-Family Holiday Program. It was a hard year for many, and the MPD's generosity helped CFLS provide gifts to 150 needy women and families in Washington, DC to make their holiday seasons brighter and happier.

CFLS' mission is to support

women returning home following a period of incarceration with targeted, continuous services. The MPD's generosity provided more than gifts to open when there would have been little else — it provided grateful families the opportunity to be momentarily free of worry in this joyous season.

The MPD's donations also helped CFLS continue to provide the resources and tools our clients need to rebuild their lives—to regain stability, self-sufficiency and move towards self-actualization. Our

work would not be possible without the generous support of partners like you and the MPD. Together, we are empowering justice-involved women in the District of Columbia.

Please share our thanks with the employees of the MPD for being a part of the CFLS family!

Sincerely,

—Ashley McSwain, LGSW,
MSOD

Executive Director

RISE Project Provides Free Support for Families of Homicide, Victims of Hate Crime

Under the RISE Project, Network for Victim Recovery of DC (NVRDC) provides no cost rights enforcement legal services to all crime victims in the District of Columbia with a focus on surviving family members of homicide, victims of hate crimes, and

survivors of gender-based violence. In support of National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW), Next of Kin were provided information on how to access the RISE project through our MPD Victim Services Branch's Family Liaison Specialists Unit.

As the next of kin, you may have rights during the criminal justice process, including the investigation of your loved one's case. If you have questions about your rights as next of kin, or want to learn more about these rights, Network for Victim Recovery of DC

may be able to help! NVRDC can provide a free legal consultation, during which an attorney can speak with you about the questions you have.

To access NVRDC's attorneys for brief advice services please email RISE@nvrdc.org or call NVRDC at (202) 742-1727. Choose option 7 for "Brief Advice Clinic." All of NVRDC's services are completely free. You can also contact NVRDC by going to our website: <https://www.nvrdc.org/get-help>

—Sharon Daugherty



RIGHTS IN SYSTEMS ENFORCED