



New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Working for a World Without Violence.

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How Do We End Violence Without Violence? Centering Anti-Racism in the Work to End Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

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New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault
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1. Introduction: New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault

NYSCASA is a private, non-profit coalition of community-based rape crisis programs located throughout New York State.

NYSCASA provides training, consultation, and resources; engages in legislative advocacy and policy analysis; supports rape crisis programs with some pass-through funding; and collaborates with survivors, advocates, related professionals, and many other stakeholders.

Learn more: www.nyscasa.org

2. Grounding Exercise

Acknowledging the challenges of the work we all do to end violence, let's settle for two minutes and get ourselves fully present.

Settling ourselves comfortably in our chairs, and feeling the ground beneath our feet, allow Earth energy to support you.

Breathe easily and as deeply as is comfortable, filling your belly, the area surrounding your solar plexus and gently allowing your chest to expand and relaxing your shoulders. Exhale slowly and allow any tension to leave your body. Repeat as you deepen your relaxation.

3. Small Group Discussion and Debrief

In small groups, participants will discuss the following terms/ideas: violence, safety, community, accountability, survivorship

Guiding questions:

- How do you define ___?
- Who defines what is ___?
- Who is impacted by ___?
- What factors contribute to ___?
- How do we address ___ in our work?

4. A “Moment of Truth”? A Short History

- 1977: letter to the anti-rape movement by robin mc'duff, deanne pernell and karen saunders - issuu.com/projectnia/docs/letter-to-the-antirape-movement
- 2001: INCITE! and Critical Resistance Statement on Gender Violence and the Prison Industrial Complex - incite-national.org/incite-critical-resistance-statement
- 2020: State Coalitions Sign “Moment of Truth” Statement - <http://www.nyscasa.org/moment-of-truth>
- 2021: Where are we now? What are we doing? What challenges do we face?

5. Anti-Racism Work at NYSCASA and Opportunities for Coalition Members to Learn More and Get Involved

- NYSCASA’s long-time focus on anti-racism and anti-oppression
- Community collaborations, including:
 - Rape crisis programs: nyscasa.coalitionmanager.org/contactmanager/contact/publicdirectory
 - Women of Color Network: wocninc.org
 - Black Women’s Blueprint: blackwomensblueprint.org
 - Seven Dancer’s Coalition: sevendancerscoalition.com
 - Visioning B.E.A.R Circle Intertribal Coalition: visioningbear.org
 - Interrupting Criminalization: Research in Action: interruptingcriminalization.com
 - Survived & Punished NY: survivedandpunishedny.org
- Revised training for new advocates incorporates developing knowledge and skills around cultural humility, anti-racism, and anti-oppression throughout the curriculum.

- d. Ongoing policy work and legislative advocacy. Recent examples include:
 - i. Comprehensive sex education in K-12 curricula to empower youth.
 - ii. Repealing the “Walking While Trans” law that targeted sex workers and disproportionately harmed transgender women of color and other gender non-conforming BIPOC.
 - iii. Passing “Protect Our Courts” legislation to ensure that New Yorkers can freely access the justice system without fear of being targeted by federal immigration authorities.
 - iv. Passing paid sick leave that can be used to address wellness and safety needs for survivors of violence.
 - v. Expanding access to civil legal remedies for survivors of violence, including the Child Victims Act and accompanying “look-back window” and, hopefully, the Adult Survivors Act.
 - vi. Passing the Domestic Violence Survivors’ Justice Act to codify meaningful sentence reductions for survivors of violence.
 - vii. Ending solitary confinement in New York State (ongoing)
 - viii. Expanding parole eligibility for incarcerated New Yorkers (ongoing)
 - ix. Collaborating with the NYS Office of the Attorney General and PowHer NY to identify community-driven strategies to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence.

- e. In 2020, NYSCASA began offering peer support spaces for advocates.
 - i. Solidarity PLACE (Peer Learning, Accountability, and Community Education) for Aspiring Allies in NYS Victim Services: Contact Chel Miller (cmiller@nyscasa.org) for meeting dates/times.
 - 1. Goals and community agreements:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/19CGf0hsb5CQUzxleh_u8rzJ-jDQR94W0JEYHo-cApkPc/edit
 - ii. Peer Support for BIPOC in NYS Victim Services: Contact Articia Hill (ahill@nyscasa.org) for meeting dates/times.

- f. Ending Violence Without Violence Virtual Training Series
 - i. “Ending Violence Without Violence” is the organizing theme for NYSCASA’s 2020 conference and 2020–2021 virtual training series.
 - ii. Core ideas: Our movement’s reliance on the criminal legal system has pushed out and re-traumatized many survivor communities, especially BIPOC, disabled, and transgender survivors and their loved ones. We all must develop the knowledge, skills, and courage to ensure that we can most effectively support all survivors and end sexual violence without perpetuating state violence.
 - iii. Schedule and recordings from past events available at www.endviolence2020.com

- g. NYSCASA Sexual Assault Demonstration Initiative (SADI):
 - www.nyscasa.org/sadi
 - i. Lessons learned from other SADI projects around the US:
 - 1. We don't know what we don't know.
 - 2. We must acknowledge the ways that we are not meeting the needs of our communities.
 - 3. We must be willing to engage in individual and organizational self-reflection.
 - ii. Core values to ground our work:
 - 1. Sexual violence survivors have varied needs and deserve to have those needs met.
 - 2. We can't end sexual violence without ending other forms of oppression because oppression is a root cause of sexual violence.
 - 3. Because oppression is a root cause of sexual violence, anti-oppression work is fundamentally violence prevention and community-building work.
 - 4. Effectively addressing vicarious trauma requires care and support at multiple levels: individual, organizational, and community.

6. Contact Us!

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