

### Miss the last DCCESV Meeting?

Minutes from every coalition meeting are available on our website under the "What We Do" section.

Visit [DCCESV.ORG](https://www.dccesv.org) today!



Visit "What We Do" to see the latest meeting minutes, special projects, and newsletter archive.

## National and Local Legislation: Stay Updated

DCCESV maintains charts tracking proposed and passed legislation of concern to members and stakeholders, including issue areas affecting women, children, sexual assault, and more. For the most recent version of our local and national legislation tracking charts, visit [dccesv.org](https://www.dccesv.org)

## Mark Your Calendars for Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Sexual Assault Awareness Month is just around the corner! As with last year, SAAM will be virtual, with a digital SAAM Proclamation event to take on **Monday, April 5th at 12pm**. Stay tuned for a full calendar of events, as well as our annual Action Guide, which includes ready-to-use social media posts. To have your SAAM events featured on our website, SAAM calendar, and social media, share event details with [hgoldstein@mencanstoprape.org](mailto:hgoldstein@mencanstoprape.org).



## ASK DC COVID: You Can Still Help!

As the pandemic wears on, many still lack access to essential services. In response to closures and changes in services during COVID-19, [ASK DC](#) launched a section of the website and app, along with a social media and print campaign, dedicated to providing current information around available resources. **[ORDER YOUR FREE POSTCARDS TODAY!](#)** Available in English, Amharic, Chinese, French, and Spanish, these FREE postcards include 10 DC-specific hotlines on the back and can be dropped off at your local grocery and convenience stores, pharmacies, gas stations, liquor stores, and community centers.

Whether you're feeling unsafe or need to find a meal, we can help

Available in 8 languages. Confidential. Safe. FREE.

Visit [www.askdc.org](http://www.askdc.org) or download the app  
The only city-wide app with resources and emergency notification capabilities.

askDC  
assault services knowledge [COVID-19]

DC Victim Hotline:	1.844.443.5732
DC Rape Crisis Center:	202.232.0789
Children's National Medical Centers:	202.476.4100 (press 0)
Ayuda (multilingual):	202.387.4848
Deaf DAWN:	202.559.5366 / info@deafdown.org
Courtney's House (trafficking):	202.423.0480
FAIR Girls (trafficking):	1.855.900.3247
Asian/Pacific Islander DVRRP:	202.833.2233
DC 24 Hour Shelter Hotline:	202.399.7093
DC 24 Hour Crisis Hotline:	888.793.4357
Additional Resources:	<a href="http://coronavirus.dc.gov/">coronavirus.dc.gov/</a>

These live-saving resources have continued to serve as a source for up-to-date information about programs that serve survivors in Washington, DC, including **victim service** information and resources addressing **daily needs** such as food, shelter, and childcare support. To date, over 2,500 postcards have been disseminated!

---

## We're Hiring!

The DC Coalition to End Sexual Violence (DCCESV) is seeking an Executive Director with visionary leadership, a deep passion for social change, the capacity to influence systems' response to sexual violence, a sustained commitment to engaging community-based organizations in coalition work, and an in-depth knowledge of non-profit financial management and fund development. Read more about the job posting [here!](#)

---

## #FairShot Budget: 2021 Budget Engagements

Mayor Bowser has announced FY2022 #FairShot Budget Engagement Forums as a part of the District's annual budget process. Budget engagements will be virtual and take place on the dates below. [Register and read on here.](#)

- Senior Budget Engagement Forum on Wednesday, February 10, 2021, 12pm
- Budget Engagement Forum #1 on Tuesday, February 16, 2021, 6pm
- Budget Engagement Forum #2 on Thursday, February 18, 2021, 6pm
- Budget Engagement Forum #3 on Saturday, February 20, 2021, 11am

---

## Using Crisis as a Springboard for Action

The insurrection at the Capitol on January 6, 2021, was a potent demonstration of the pervasiveness of white supremacy both locally and nationally. ProInspire's "Crises as a Catalyst: A Call for Race Equity and Inclusive Leadership" is a tool for individuals and organizations to use to consider how they are advancing race equity and inclusion during crises, and how racism and white supremacy can be addressed in power dynamics, people, and practice. [Access this resource here.](#)

## Organization Spotlight: Ayuda



This quarter, DCCESV is proud to feature the work of Ayuda, a nonprofit that provides legal, social, and language services to help low-income immigrants in the DMV access justice and transform their lives. With a vision of enabling immigrants to succeed and thrive in the United States, Ayuda's values of excellence, integrity, collaboration, inclusion, client-centeredness and wellbeing guide every facet of their wide-ranging work.

Ayuda's work touches sexual assault across the legal, social, and language services offered. For DC residents who are survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking, the organization offers free consultation with a specialized legal team. Their walk-in clinic, currently offering call-in services during the pandemic, provides support to survivors at no cost, including help in seeking family law and protection orders, and legal assistance or advice.

Ayuda also offers an array of social services that unite trauma-informed, holistic case management with culturally specific services. Aware that victim-survivors may need access to resources but may not want a legal case, the organization offers social services and programs without requiring legal action. These services include safety planning and crisis intervention; emotional support and therapy; community referrals; access to basic needs; and social services are provided in multiple languages. The Social Services team specializes in working with immigrants who may be survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking.

Ayuda brings experts together across fields to serve immigrants in our community. Partnering with a wide array of organizations and service providers, the language access aspect of their work includes a Victim Services Interpreter Bank that provides assistance with in-person interpretation, translations, telephonic interpretation, and translation of written materials that may be used to communicate with or provide services to survivors. All in-person interpreters receive special training on working in the victim-services setting and are available on both a scheduled and emergency basis. Interpreters offer services in languages such as Spanish, Amharic, French, Vietnamese, American Sign Language, and more.

Beyond their programs and services, Ayuda leverages their mission and passion to serve immigrants by offering a number of ways for volunteers to get involved. With a pro bono program aimed at creating space for attorneys to give time and counsel to immigrants in their community, Ayuda's pro bono pipeline is crucial to bringing free legal services to those they serve, especially during the COVID public health crisis.

To learn more about Ayuda, how you can support their work, and available resources, visit [www.ayuda.com](http://www.ayuda.com).

## Confronting the Misogyny in White Supremacy

By: Hannah Goldstein

In a recent Instagram Live of Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, where she identified herself as a survivor of sexual assault, the violent insurrection at the Capitol on January 6, 2021, and the response that followed replicated an experience many victim-survivors would be familiar with: violence is perpetrated by people who feel institutions are designed to protect them, and little is done to hold them accountable. As virulent racists and white supremacists have continued to gain traction in recent years online, in politics, and in the real world, it merits examining the ways that rising white supremacy and misogyny are connected. Without addressing both, it will be difficult to effectively quell either.



For one, sexism and misogyny are ample recruiting spaces for the alt-right to draw disgruntled people into their ranks. Where misogyny decries feminism for deconstructing social order and depriving men of their natural alpha status, white nationalism regards not only women, but non-whites, as tampering with a sacred social order and cultural legacy. Misogyny may be seen as somehow more palatable or less objectionable than outright white supremacy—take, for example, even the reluctance of many women to identify as feminist. In this way, misogyny can be a kind of “gateway” introduction to white supremacy; if men are relegated to roles that don’t gibe with their male birthright, the leap to earnestly asserting a white birthright is not much of a leap at all.

Central to white nationalism is the idea of fraternity and solidarity in outcast status. Many of those who take up their white supremacy in a political fashion—by joining the alt-right—see themselves as crusaders against an increasingly oppressive (and politically correct) status quo. According to researchers of alt-right radicalization, “most white men who become radicalized into the alt-right start out in search of some like-minded friends.” Lamenting the transgressions of women online—as false accusers, as usurpers of the natural order—can be an accessible way to identify such friends. This kind of mutated male bonding conceives of equality as zero-sum: if women gain equality, it’s at the expense of men. Similarly, white supremacy sees the advancement of civil rights for non-white people as an unacceptable lessening of white people’s rights. White supremacy and misogyny assume the primacy of men, and specifically see white men as “victims who are falling prey to [the consequences of] feminism, changing social norms, progressive thought and politics” (ADL).

*Where misogyny decries feminism for deconstructing social order and depriving men of their natural alpha status, white nationalism regards not only women, but non-whites, as tampering with a sacred social order and cultural legacy.*

Misogyny and white supremacy occupy related logical territory, often pandering to pseudo-scientific schools of thought that conceive of oppressive social roles as somehow evolutionarily justified. Essentialism pervades both racism and sexism, lending justification to white male ascendancy: just as women ought to be home-makers and mothers, non-white people ought to fall in-line according to the “limitations” of their race. White supremacy requires misogyny in its relegation of women to a role oft-referred to in the alt-right as “hausfrau,” or “housewife”: as white nationalists call on allies to “perpetuate the race,” they consider women only as reproductive vessels. This kind of thinking is reductive and dehumanizing, seeing women “as sex objects without agency and humanity, as faithful but lesser helpmeets, or as harpies coming to steal their power” (ADL). Such dehumanization is an important practice in both misogyny and white supremacy.

At the heart of much white supremacy is entitlement: white people’s entitlement to jobs, to status, to sex, “simply because they exist” (ADL). Entitlement exists, too, in deeply misogynistic spaces. Incels, or involuntary celibates, are (typically) “young men who consider themselves unable to attract women sexually” and rage against women who are sexually active for denying them sex. As one incel, [quoted by the Anti-Defamation League](#), railed on an online message board: “I’m the perfect guy and yet you throw yourselves at these obnoxious men instead of me, the supreme gentleman.”



A loaded phrase, “supreme gentleman” implies deservingness that is surface-level. This kind of entitlement was painfully present in the #MeToo era, which saw reactions from people concerned that giving credence to claims of sexual assault was unfair for people—mostly white men in positions of power—who stood to lose their careers, reputation, or livelihood. Entitlement is pervasive in misogyny and white supremacy, and is a tool used to tell victims that their calls for justice mean nothing in the face of established power.

While misogyny is key to white supremacy, one matter is not to be misunderstood: white women absolutely play a role in perpetuating, growing, and contributing to white supremacy. Identifying as a woman does not insulate oneself from being a white supremacist. As a report by the Anti-Defamation League on “The Intersection of Misogyny and White Supremacy” helpfully points out, “bigots of all stripes view justice as a zero-sum game.” Take, for example, the manner in which Black Lives Matter has been positioned by “All Lives Matter” as an attack, rather than a demand for justice and accountability in the face of anti-Black violence. White women, too, can be active participants in white supremacy, working to ascend to their rung on the social ladder just beneath white men.

The logical symmetry and, indeed, symbiosis between white supremacy and misogyny is one that must be named. With the internet emboldening overt displays of white supremacist and misogynistic

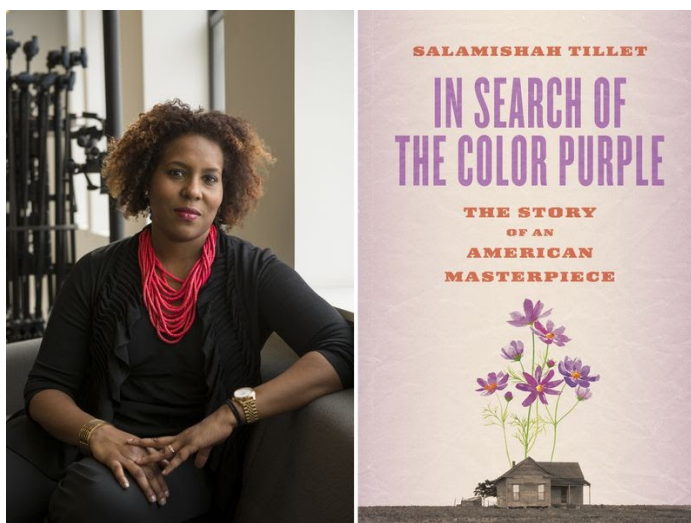
violence—building on a legacy of racism and white supremacy in the United States of over 400 years—it remains ever-important to continue identifying the ways that all civil rights are bound up together. There can be no movement for women’s equality without a movement for racial equality. White supremacy cannot be addressed without acknowledging the misogyny that draws so many into its ranks. It is the task of white people who do not accept white supremacy or misogyny to evaluate the ways they are complicit in and benefit from both, and divest their privilege. It is the task of the sexual assault field, both locally and nationally, to advocate for victims and survivors whose intersectional identities may leave them particularly vulnerable to the harm of institutions and groups that perpetuate such hate.

Within the sexual assault field, there are many organizations committed to entwining racial justice with gender-based violence prevention and response. An emphasis on trauma-informed praxis, a recognition of the vulnerabilities of intersecting identities, and culturally-specific resources are just a few tools at the disposal of this community. And yet, as is often the case in sexual assault, people who are on the receiving end of violence are often the ones called upon to take preventative or defensive measures. As Ocasio-Cortez put it, “these folks who tell us to move on, that it’s not a big deal, that we should forget what’s happened, or even telling us to apologize; these are the same tactics of abusers.” With this in mind, it is imperative for the sexual assault field to tackle, too, how victimization and trauma are perpetuated daily for survivors of sexual violence as white supremacy and misogyny continue to permeate our culture.

---

## In Search of the Color Purple

Feminist activist, scholar, and cultural critic Salamishah Tillet's new book, *In Search of the Color Purple: The Story of An American Masterpiece*, explores the relationship of the author to Alice Walker's timeless novel *The Color Purple*. Tillet was compelled to start the project in part because of the way that, in her teen years, the novel informed her "vocabulary of racial pride and Black feminism," and in later years as she healed from and processed two sexual assaults. "At every stage of my healing," she says, "I've found something new in the novel, unseen themes or turns of phrase, that I ignored in my previous visits."



[Read an interview with the author here.](#)

---

## Addressing Intergenerational Trauma

In an article on LifeCare Wellness, Stephanie Caballero Novak (LCSW, CRSS) unpacks how trauma can be carried across generations if it is not addressed in family systems. Trauma may produce learned responses and behaviors that are passed down, even generations after the trauma has occurred. Learn how trauma is inherited, how epigenetics plays a role, and how families can address trauma to prevent passing transgenerational trauma down. [Read more about intergenerational trauma and the importance of addressing it.](#)

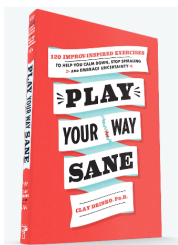
---

## Healthy Masculinity Training Institute: Register Now!

Step into the spring season with a commitment to further developing your ability to positively engage men and boys in the prevention of gender-based violence. Men Can Stop Rape is excited to offer our highly praised and effective online Healthy Masculinity Training Institute (HMTI) this March 2021. As a three-part online series, the training institute offers 7 Continuing Education Credits, and is an opportunity to engage in remote primary prevention training at an affordable rate. To read more and register for the March 17-19 Institute, [click here](#). *This program is Approved by the National Association of Social Workers (Approval # 886513194-6269) for 7 continuing education contact hours.*

---

## Play Your Way Sane



Looking for fun ways to de-stress and stay focused? Play Your Way Sane is a book that offers 120 low-key activities and games that draw on principles of improv comedy to help you tackle stress, reconnect with people around you, and embrace uncertainty. [Get your copy here.](#)

---

This newsletter was produced by Men Can Stop Rape under 2021-DCCESV-01, awarded by the Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants, Executive Office of the Mayor, District of Columbia. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the Executive Office of the Mayor.

STAY CONNECTED:

