

NEWSLETTER - September 2023



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://dcesv.org) today!

A laptop and a smartphone are shown side-by-side, both displaying the DCCESV website. The laptop screen shows the header 'DC COALITION TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE' and a navigation menu. The smartphone screen shows the same website content adapted for a mobile device.

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

Upcoming Conferences in the GBV Field

Get ready for conference season! Check out the upcoming gender-based violence conferences posted on the DCCESV events page. Visit dcesv.org/events to learn more and register.

Promote your events on DCCESV Social Channels!

To our Coalition Members, Stakeholders, and Allies, DCCESV will publicize your events to our website and social media to help reach new intended audiences. Please send your upcoming organizational and related events to ravila@mcsr.org.

STAY CONNECTED:



[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Instagram](#)

NWLC & KYIX: Survivors Speaking Out Toolkit

The National Women’s Law Center and Know Your IX are proud to present [Survivors Speaking Out: A Toolkit About Defamation Lawsuits and Other Retaliation by and for People Speaking Out About Sex-Based Harassment](#). This toolkit was written by students, survivors, and advocates, many of whom have spoken out about sex-based harassment and then faced defamation lawsuits and other retaliation. Our goal in writing this toolkit is to help survivors understand their rights, risks, and options when deciding whether to speak out and, if so, how to do it as safely as possible. To learn more, read this [blog post](#) and [press release](#).

New Safety Measures for Direct Messaging at Meta

After [announcing the test back in June](#), Instagram launched a new feature, designed to help protect our community from unwanted images and videos in DMs. Meta believes it will be particularly meaningful for women – and especially women in the public eye – who have historically been disproportionately affected by these kinds of unwanted messages.

With this new feature, anyone looking to send DM requests to people who don’t follow them will face two new restrictions:

- **Invite model:** Rather than being able to send an unlimited number of DM requests to someone who doesn’t follow you, you will now only be able to send them one message – which will act as an invitation to keep chatting. You will only be able to continue to send them DMs when they’ve accepted your request to chat.
- **Text only:** This one invite message is limited to text only. That means you can only send images, videos or voice notes to someone who doesn’t follow you after they’ve accepted your request to chat.

What this means in practice, is that people will no longer receive unwanted images or videos from people they don’t follow, nor will strangers be able to message them repeatedly.

Promising Legislation for Sexual Assault Survivors’ Rights

DCFNE partnered with DC Councilmember Charles Allen to develop the [Ensuring Safe Forensic Evidence Handling For Sexual Assault Survivors Amendment Act of 2023](#). The newly introduced legislation will require D.C. to preserve all evidence related to a sexual assault, regardless if the

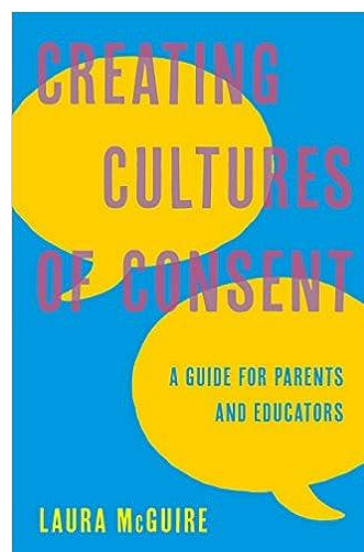
crime is reported to law enforcement. DCFNE has utilized an internal process for storage of non-reported sexual assault kits; this legislation will formalize the process District-wide. We encourage all D.C residents to support this bill, as this is a key step in ensuring survivors' rights are protected. As quoted by the [Washington City Paper](#), DCFNE Executive Director, Erin Pollitt, states "this bill fixes a system-wide issue and tells survivors that their sexual assault kit, and what happens to it, matter." Click [here](#) for the full article.

Book Report: 'Creating Cultures of Consent' by Laura McGuire

With conversations about sexual violence, consent, and bodily autonomy dominating national conversations it can be easy to get lost in the onslaught of well-intended but often poorly executed messages. Through an exploration of research, scholarly expertise, and practical real-world application we can better formulate an understanding of what consent is, how we create consent cultures, and where the path forward lies.

This book is designed with both educators and parents in mind. The tools highlighted throughout help adults unlearn harmful narratives about consent, boundaries, and relationships so that they can begin their work internally through modeling and self-reflection. We then uncover what consent truly is and is not, how culture plays an integral role in interpersonal scripting, and how teaching consent as a life skill can look in and out of the classroom. By integrating the need for consent to be taught in schools and homes we build bridges between the spaces where children learn and create alliances in the often-daunting task of eradicating rape-culture.

This book is perfect for those already comfortable and familiar with this topic as well as those newer to understanding consent as a paradigm. Starting with a strong historical and research-informed foundation the book builds into action-oriented guidelines for conversations, curriculum, and community activism.



Organization Spotlight: The Women's Center

For forty-nine years, The Women's Center has provided mental health counseling, support, and education to the metropolitan area to help people live healthy, stable, and productive lives. Since The Women's Center was founded in 1974, they have grown to include services to clients of all gender identities, families, young adults, and children. Their services include individual, couples, and family counseling, domestic violence and sexual assault services, adolescent and teen therapy sessions, group therapy, education workshops and training, career advice, and mediation, legal, and financial resources. They now serve over 5,000 people annually at our two locations in Virginia and Washington, DC, and in partner locations. Functioning as a teaching institution for mental health professionals.



SAVRAA Sexual Assault Counselor Training

This training is funded by OVSJG and has been designed for all folx seeking to become qualified sexual assault counselors under the [Sexual Assault Victims' Rights Amendment Act of 2019 \(SAVRAA\)](#). The last day of training will be an in-person event held at a location in the heart of DC. Lunch will be provided. More information will be shared with registrants.

Save the dates for the live sexual assault counselor training webinars. **September 2023: 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th.**

[Register here.](#)

If you require any additional information, please email savraa@nvrdc.org

**SAVRAA
SEXUAL
ASSAULT
COUNSELOR
TRAINING**

From 9-5pm | Every Friday of September 2023

- ✓ Training to meet the minimum requirements for a sexual assault counselor under the Sexual Assault Victims' Rights Amendment Act of 2019 in the District of Columbia.
- ✓ These trainings will include a combination of readings, pre-recorded training sessions and live webinars.
- ✓ Register at the link below

bit.ly/SAVRAA-Training

For More Info:
savraa@nvrdc.org

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