Today, we’re expected to celebrate America’s "birthday". Amidst a devastating pandemic, a controversial presidential campaign, and nationwide protests on racism and police brutality, what does it mean to be American in 2020? It’s hard to feel proud of a country that doles out freedom conditionally. Who qualifies? Who is guaranteed freedom? This isn’t just a fight over who has freedom; it’s about one version of United States history versus another, one that is ugly and has been repressed.

The Declaration of Independence bears the harms of its era, harms that continue today; and is a reminder of the silenced voices, the oppressed, and the enslaved.

The Fourth of July is far more complicated than burgers and fireworks. For us, it’s another chance to reflect on white supremacy; state-sanctioned violence against Black, Indigenous, and other people of color; and the losses of freedom still faced. For us, it isn’t a day to "celebrate" our country’s founding principals; it’s a day to face the ways in which we’ve fallen grossly short of those ideals and what we really mean when we say “with liberty and justice for all.”

We hope that through a re-learning of our history and acknowledgement of our privilege and oppression, we can pave a future that is worth celebrating. We hope you will join us as we commit to learning from the past and making each day a little bit better.

If you didn’t see our recently released public statement, you can find it here:
- Statement in Solidarity with Community Members Peacefully Protesting the Recent Deaths of Black Individuals and Police Violence
And we encourage white people to read this statement from the Ohio Aspiring White Allies Committee, which includes action items:

- For White People: Direct Asks Centering on #BlackLivesMatter

2020 Virtual Conference Reflection

We're still feeling inspired and hopeful after our first ever virtual conference last month! This was just part one, and it was a success in our books — and many of you agree! Check out some amazing comments shared with us.

“The focus on oppression and racial injustice is always prevalent in OAESV’s training but this conference really hit the nail on the head. The speakers were amazing, and the focus was exactly what we needed to hear right now.”
"This conference inspired imagination and re-lit the fire in my soul to do this work, and do it in the name of justice."
This conference was an amazing experience. I have referenced the speakers and talked more in the last week about what I learned from this conference than from any other conference I've participated in. The OAESV staff did an amazing job hosting the conference, and the speakers were phenomenal.”
If you enjoyed part one, be sure to save the date and join us for the second part of our annual conference!

“Each speaker left positive reinforcements as I continue working with survivors. I’m on fire with weapons of conversation for those uneducated in the area of WOC and discrimination held against us.”
Upcoming Trainings, Events, & Meetings

Each summer, OAESV hosts regional meetings to connect staff at local rape crisis programs in each area of the state to provide an opportunity for training and discussion about the challenges and concerns specific to each region. This year's regional meetings will be held Tuesday, July 14 through Thursday, July 16.
2020 OAESV Regional Meetings | Ohio Alliance to End...

This year we will meet virtually, but the purpose remains the same.

Read more
www.oaesv.org

Join OAESV and guest presenter, Sheena Barnes, Executive Director of Equality Toledo, as we discuss the role of rape crisis advocates and preventionists in the fight to end racial injustice, homophobia, and transphobia in our society.

2020 OAESV Regional Meetings | Ohio Alliance to End...

Read more
www.oaesv.org

Expanding the Intersections of Racial Justice, LGBTQ+ Rights, and Victim Advocacy

OAESV MONTHLY WEBINAR

Thursday, July 9th, 2020
12:00 - 1:00PM EST

Facilitated by:
Sheena Barnes
Executive Director
Equality Toledo

Registration at: www.oaesv.org/trainings

Monthly OAESV Member Webinar | Ohio Alliance to End...

This webinar will explore the intersections of anti-sexual violence work and racial justice, particularly as it relates to serving LGBTQ+ Black, Indigenous, and Survivors of Color.

Read more
www.oaesv.org
Representative Erica Crawley and Representative Juanita O. Brent, sponsor and co-sponsor of H.C.R. 31, will discuss the House and Senate Resolutions seeking to Declare Racism a Public Health Crisis. Registrants will receive instructions for submitting questions in advance, and will also be welcome to ask questions during the program.

Click below to read a blog post about Title IX advocacy by OAESV Legal Advocate Becca Getson.

Advocacy Within and Without Title IX | Ohio Alliance to...

Title IX regulations have been released. Like proverbial hounds released after a long wait. On May 6, 2020, the U.S. Department of Education released codified rules, altering and amending the ways institutions respond to cases of sex...

Read more
www.oaesv.org
People who are or have experienced sexual violence may be experiencing increased isolation and danger caused by social distancing measures during the Coronavirus pandemic. Survivors often have specific needs around safety, health, and confidentiality. We also realize that communities most-impacted by sexual violence are facing additional challenges during this unprecedented time.

**COVID19 Emerging Response Resources**

We have compiled resources and tools for sexual violence service providers, who are working tirelessly to respond in ways that are safe and supportive for all.

Read more

www.oaesv.org

Below, you can click to read our report, "The State of Sexual Violence in Ohio: The Effects of COVID-19." The 22-page report describes the challenges that anti-sexual-violence programs have faced as they attempt to provide remote services and support to survivors in Ohio, and it identifies various ways that we, as a state, can work to meet those needs.

"The State of Sexual Violence in Ohio: The Effects of COVID-19" is based on comments and responses from the OAESV Campus, Prevention, People of Color, & Advocate 'Cultivating Conversations in Crisis' webinars from March 23 to April 28 and anecdotal information shared with the OAESV teams during individual technical assistance conversations. Data was also collected from ABC7, the American Bar Association, the Domestic Violence Network, and the NAESV Ohio Rape Crisis Center COVID-19 Survey.
SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN OHIO:
The Effects of COVID-19

A Toolkit for Policy Makers in Addressing the Impact of COVID-19 on Sexual Violence Survivors through Legislation and Operating Budget Allocations for FY 2020 and FY 2021

SPECIAL REPORT

Become a 2020 OAESV Member
2020 is almost here! That means it’s time to renew (or start!) your OAESV membership. Remember that all of our trainings and webinars are for OAESV members, so you will need your member portal password in order to register for these offerings.

Read more
www.oaesv.org

Help support our work. At OAESV we provide many services, including training for advocates and preventionists, technical assistance for local programs, systems advocacy, public policy work, and much more.

Thanks for reading! Feel free to forward to a friend.

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