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June 2020

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**WE MUST REMEMBER THAT  
PRIDE WAS, AND STILL  
NEEDS TO BE, A PROTEST.  
AND IT WAS STARTED BY  
WOMEN OF COLOR, JUST LIKE  
THE ANTI-SEXUAL-VIOLENCE  
MOVEMENT.**

**THE WORK IS ALL  
CONNECTED.**

**#BLACKLIVESMATTER  
#THETIMEISNOW  
#EMBRACEYOURVOICE**

## **June 2020 Newsletter**

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**ENOUGH!**

*From my heart to yours*

Is our own house in order?

Writing a note from me to you has been a hard task this week, as a woman of color, a minority,

the new kid on the block who is trying to lead a statewide coalition in the midst of two pandemics ( *yes, two: COVID-19 and Racism*). Through the pain, the hurt, the rage, we push through.

Many have been in an uproar to open up their agencies, to be able to do the work, but much work needs to be done behind closed doors.

I choose to do this work with an understanding in every fiber of my being that we cannot end sexual violence or any form of violence without ending racism. I also know that I live in a state and do this work within a context of historical layers of harm perpetrated by individuals and agencies against communities of color. These individuals and agencies continue to advocate and support institutionalized racist practices and systems of oppression. There are silent oppressors as well as those that don't care a hoot about the lives of others. Many are always changing the narratives to "All Lives Matter", "Blue Lives Matter", "We Serve All", "I am a good person", "I am not a racist", "I don't see color", "that's not what I meant," and the list goes on.



Our agencies continue to hide behind the excuse of "I didn't know better", which continues to perpetuate violence. ***Racism is the Pandemic***, and it has been for over 400 years. We are yet to find the vaccine for it.

I know that all oppressions are inextricably linked, and that sexual violence is linked to other forms of violence. We cannot continue to pick sides, to choose which battles to fight, when to stand in solidarity, when to do the right thing, when to code switch, when to embrace the voices of those experiencing violence, when to look the other way. We can't continue to gain profit from the stories of the marginalized and oppressed and never SPEAK UP! We can't continue to sugar coat terminology, just so that people with power and privilege can feel good and comfortable, or so that we have more funders.

Many agencies and community partners have pretended for too long to do the right thing. They write grants with the right buzz words, but they don't practice anything that they committed to. Instead they hire people of color for tokenism and then fire them before projects are completed. This often happens if they have raised an uproar about the things that are being done, or if they've asked about the grant deliverable and about accountability. People with power and privilege in Ohio have been disposing of people of color for years as well as expecting people of color to be the teachers of all things "diversity". People with power and privilege should be taking initiative to educate themselves just to be better humans! The information is out there, and it's not up to your co-workers and colleagues of color to do that work for you.

Racism takes a toll on Black people and on all people of color every day in ways large and small. This includes survivors and those advocating for an end to sexual violence. Long before the events of the last week, OAESV and other community partners have been hard at work creating an anti-oppression curriculum and having profound conversations about race, equity, diversity and inclusion; but many of you have decided not to engage. You are bothered because we continue to center anti-oppression as the core of our work.

We have included anti-oppression practices in the core standards. But once again, it looks great on paper, and the practice and lived experience of survivors and staff narrate a different story.

Social activism and justices should be at the core of what our agencies do, and we should be doing so with a trauma-informed and survivor-centered lens. Racism results in terrible health and healthcare disparities in communities of color, brought into a

harsh light by the pandemic. It took our state 62 days to make any mention of the health disparities, but it is our role to help end these disparities in this nation's health and mental healthcare systems, *including our own organizations.*

Racism is this country's original sin. It is the cancer that eats away at the body of our republic, and it is a threat to the work of the good people who serve survivors in rape crisis centers. Survivors of rape, their families, and our communities cannot get the justice we call for when the justice system was created to oppress. Much less can they receive healing or any sense of safety as they navigate through their traumatic experiences if we are unable to call things as they are and if we refuse to create spaces that are truly culturally sensitive and genuine for people of color to receive what they need.

*That is why we at OAESV stand against racism, racial injustice, and racial violence. We stand with those drawing needed attention to these deep problems and bringing about a reckoning through exercising their constitutionally protected right to peacefully protest and demonstrate.*

OAESV will continue to say the names of George Floyd, Tamir Rice, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaund Arbery, and countless others. OAESV will continue to call you in and out. OAESV will continue to recognize that state-sanctioned violence must end. And OAESV will continue to acknowledge the skeletons in our closets, to show the good, bad, and ugly of our own organizational transformation in order for there to be true cultural change in our partner organizations. *Vulnerability and transparency create trust, and that, my colleagues, is missing.*

It is time for us to review our employee handbooks, our practice of care, our advocacy trainings, and our mission and vision statements. #TheTimeIsNow to call out racism and oppression when you see it, and to check the foundations of our own houses.

Ohio needs to go back to its roots. OAESV will continue to offer our collective support of the uprising to dismantle oppression and denounce anti-Black racism. I hope you, your boards, and your organizations do the same! Silence is complicity! **You are uncomfortable, but we are dying!!**

In Peace and Community,



Rosa Beltré

*Executive Director, OAESV*

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](#)

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**Upcoming Trainings, Events, & Meetings**



There's still time to register for our annual conference, which we are offering as a gift to all with no registration fee . Part of addressing violence and #RestoringOurRoots is an intentional commitment to #ListenToBlackWomen . We're thankful to be able to amplify the voices of Black women from Ohio and around the country with our platform and resources.

Not only will we get to hear from our amazing keynotes, but during days 1 and 3 of the conference, we'll also have the opportunity to listen, learn, and commit to action with CeCe Norwood and Dr. Tyffani Dent. Learn more about each of them, and register to join us, at [www.oaesv.org/AnnualConference](http://www.oaesv.org/AnnualConference)

The last day to register is Monday, June 8th, 2020.

We would also like to take this opportunity to highlight a bit of joy. Aishah Shahidah Simmons's recently published book, *love WITH accountability : Digging Up the Roots of Child Sexual Abuse* , is the co-recipient, with *A Rainbow Thread* , of the 2020

Lambda Literary Award in the Anthology category! Learn more about the [award here](#).



### First Friday Legislative Update | Ohio Alliance to End...

Join OAESV for a call to action webinar highlighting the Legislative Black Caucus's resolution declaring racism a public health crisis, and action steps recommended by its sponsors. We will also recap healthcare legislation voted on in the last...

[Read more](#)  
[www.oaesv.org](http://www.oaesv.org)



Facilitated by:  
April Wehrle, Senior Elder Services Coordinator  
Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost; The Elder Justice Unit – Consumer Protection Section

Rising numbers of older adults have fallen victim to abuse. Nevertheless, older adult victims are often under-identified and under-served. This presentation will address the complexities of elder abuse cases, and participants will gain an increased knowledge of how to protect and support older adult victims.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with information to join the webinar.  
Questions? Email [training@oaesv.org](mailto:training@oaesv.org)

Register at: [www.oaesv.org/trainings-events/](http://www.oaesv.org/trainings-events/)

## June 2020 Member Webinar | Ohio Alliance to End Sexual...

Rising numbers of older adults have fallen victim to abuse. Nevertheless, older adult victims are often under-identified and under-served.

[Read more](#)  
[www.oaesv.org](http://www.oaesv.org)

OHIO ALLIANCE TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE

# COVID-19 RESOURCES

## 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](http://www.oaesv.org)

**Below, you'll see an infographic summarizing some of our forthcoming report, *"The State of Sexual Violence in Ohio: The Effects of COVID-19."***

**The full report, which will be released later this week, 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.



# STATE OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN OHIO

## THE EFFECTS OF COVID-19

### SOME DEMAND IS **DECREASING**

(BUT NOT IN A GOOD WAY--RESEARCH SHOWS THAT THIS DECREASE IN DEMAND DOES NOT NECESSARILY CORRELATE WITH A DECREASE IN INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE)



REPORTS  
TO LAW  
ENFORCEMENT



EMERGENCY  
DEPARTMENT  
VISITS



HOSPITAL AND  
COURT  
ADVOCACY

### MOST REQUESTS ARE **INCREASING**

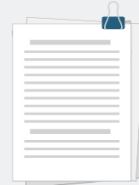
(& HIGHER THAN THEY WERE PRIOR TO QUARANTINE)



LENGTH OF  
HOTLINE  
CALLS

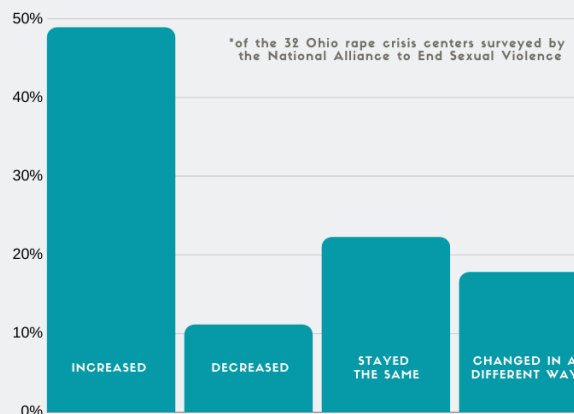


SAFETY PLANNING  
& SHELTER REQUESTS



CIVIL  
PROTECTION  
ORDERS

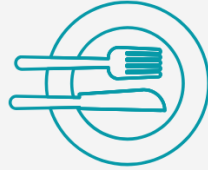
## DEMAND FOR SERVICE



REQUESTS FOR BASIC NEEDS, SUCH AS RENT AND FOOD, HAVE SKYROCKETED.

## PRIMARY NEEDS

FOR RAPE CRISIS PROGRAM STAFF TO  
SUPPORT SURVIVORS REMOTELY DURING  
COVID-19



**EMERGENCY NEEDS**  
(FOOD, RENT, ETC)

**RESPONDING TO  
AT-RISK COMMUNITIES**  
(IMMIGRANTS, HOMELESS,  
CULTURALLY-SPECIFIC)



**PURCHASING  
LAPTOPS  
AND TABLETS**

**PURCHASING  
CELL PHONES AND  
DATA PLANS**



**PURCHASING  
WIFI AND  
BROADBAND**

**REPLACING SERVICES  
FORMERLY PROVIDED  
BY VOLUNTEERS WITH  
PAID ADVOCATES**



**GIFT CARDS FOR  
GROCERIES, GAS,  
AND CLEANING  
SUPPLIES**

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# Become a 2020 OAESV Member

## Become a Member | Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence

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](http://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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