



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2022 Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence Annual Conference: Three Keynote Speakers, 10 Workshop Presentations, and Several Ohioan Awardees

Staff, volunteers, and community members who work to prevent sexual violence and support those who experience it will be trained on newest best practices at the “Growing Our Collective Future” Conference

Speakers from around Ohio and the country to be highlighted

Independence, Ohio – June 24, 2022 – Anti-sexual violence advocates and preventionists from [Ohio’s 34 rape crisis centers](#) will have the opportunity to learn best practices and newest research at an annual conference taking place online on June 28-30th, and many Ohioans will receive awards that honor the work they’ve done to support survivors of sexual violence. The [Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence](#), Ohio’s federally designated anti-sexual violence training and technical assistance provider, hosts this conference each year as a way to keep the state up-to-date and providing the most effective services to those in need. Keynote speakers include Habeebah Grimes, CEO of the Positive Education Program; Mira Yusef, Executive Director of Monsoon Asians & Pacific Islanders in Solidarity; and multiple representatives from Indiana Disability Justice. Those who work in the anti-sexual violence field and others who are interested are welcome to register to attend by going to www.oaesv.org/Conference

OAESV’s annual conference also features 10 workshops covering a range of innovative topics, presented by speakers from Ohio and around the US:

- Survivor-Driven Advocacy: Working with Adult Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse, Leah Green
- Growing our Community Responses, Nicole Kass Colvin
- Ensuring Language Access and Advancing Racial Justice: The Interconnectedness of Race and Language, Leo Martinez
- Self-Care: Dropping the (Bath) Bomb, Kacee Ferrell Snyder
- Language Justice in Action: Supporting Bilingual and Bicultural Advocates, Maya Pilgrim
- People with Disabilities and Human Trafficking: A Deeper Look at Best Practices, Katherine Yoder
- Connecting the Parts: Promoting Embodied Practices for Dissociation, Leah Stone
- Should I Stay or Should I Go: Burnout as Advocates, Jackie Strohm

- Incest Abuse Prevention: Strategies for Stopping the Cycle of Family Sexual Abuse and Centering Survivor Voices, Suzanne Isaza
- Pause, Breathe, Rest; Tecca L. Thompson

Not only is the conference a space for learning, it's a space for community building. In fact, the theme of the 2022 conference is all about community. The event website says, "Growing our collective future means making space for what has existed, what currently exists, what's forming, and what's possible. It means cultivating radical imaginations to shape another kind of future – one free from the terrible cataclysm of violence. Let us look up to the sky and begin to imagine the world we would like to inhabit, and rise toward a collective constellation of change."

As another focus on community, OAESV will be honoring several awardees from around the state for their work in anti-sexual violence:

- Excellence in Advocacy - Kate Abruzzino, Advocate at OneEighty of Wayne County, Ohio
- Excellence in Community Response – Survivor Advocacy Outreach Program of Nelsonville, Ohio
- Excellence in Legal Services - Jeanne Charles, Managing Attorney of LAV Team at Community Legal Aid Services of Akron, Ohio
- Progressive Prevention - COMPASS: Sexual Assault Education, Prevention & Support of New Philadelphia, Ohio
- Unsung Hero – Mary Culver, Sexual Assault Response Network of Central Ohio of Columbus, Ohio
- Visionary Voice Award – Ryn Farmer, Crime Victim Services of Lima, Ohio

On day three of the conference, attendees will hear from the colleagues of each awardee, in heartfelt videos speaking to their compassion, innovation, and service to survivors. Here's what OAESV Coordinator of Community Responses, Nicole Kass Colvin, had to say about one of the awardees:

"The Survivor Advocacy Outreach Program is an innovative and promising practice of truly holistic community response to sexual violence. At the core, the program has created response to sexual violence as a community on all levels, preventative and intervening. SAOP has combined research, imagination, and collaboration to literally build a community that resists sexual violence through protective factors, anti-oppressive practices, and building infrastructure by changing the conditions that allow sexual violence to thrive. I'm seeing how they are not only caring for the whole person that each survivor is through empowering them economically, therapeutically, emotionally, socially, but also how they are creating shifts in the community through their program. Thank you for the work that you do – your cutting edge community response to sexual violence is growing our collective future in action."

OAESV has also created space during the conference for those with shared social identities to have safe, conversational space together in what are called "affinity groups". These groups will be held for attendees who identify as "Masc People of Color", "Aspiring White Allies", "Femme People of Color", "LGBTQI+ People of Color", "LGBTQI+ White People", "People with Disabilities/Disabled

People”, and “Masc People in the Field”. Each session is also accompanied by a “learning session”, in which people who don’t identify in a given community can learn more about it and how to serve survivors who might identify in that community.

To learn more about the conference, including reading descriptions of each workshop or to register, please visit www.oaesev.org/Conference. Upon registration, attendees will receive an email containing a link to join the online event. Registration closes at 5pm on June 28th.



OAESV's 2022 Annual Conference

**REGISTRATION
OPEN NOW**

learn more at www.oaesev.org/conference

JUNE 28-30, 2022 | VIRTUAL EVENT

About OAESV

As Ohio's statewide coalition, OAESV uses an anti-oppression lens to advocate for comprehensive responses and rape crisis services for survivors and to empower communities to prevent sexual violence. We offer training and technical assistance to those who provide direct services to survivors of sexual violence and the community at-large, and we provide many direct services ourselves.

Contact: Taylr Ucker-Lauderman

Chief Officer of Communications & Engagement

Phone: (216) 317-2339

Email: tucker-lauderman@oaesev.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/oaesev/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/OhioAllianceESV>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/oaesev/>

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