

July 2020

Jordan Posamentier, President
Katie Hanna, Vice President

National Coalition to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation

Prevention Coalition Members Stand for Social Justice

A number of Prevention Coalition members have issued statements about their commitment to social justice and calls to action to address racial equality and system responses following the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and many others.

We asked you to submit your statements and letters so that we could include them in the July newsletter. Please take a moment and read about the commitment of our members to a better, more equitable world, **beginning on page 2**.. During the annual meeting we will be discussing the role and actions of our coalition in addressing systemic inequalities.



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The purpose of this eNews is to provide members of the National Coalition to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse & Exploitation monthly updates on trends, issues, studies, and work being done in the field of child sexual exploitation prevention. The material highlighted in the eNews is for information purposes only and does not constitute an endorsement. If you believe you are receiving this email in error or would like to unsubscribe from this service, please email: PreventTogether@gmail.com.

A Commitment to Racial Justice from the ATSA Board of Directors

June 22, 2020



All of us on the Executive Board of Directors and in the Office of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers share the world's outrage and grief over the killings of Sandra Bland, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade, and so many others whose lives were taken due to the effects of systemic racism and our society's reluctance to address it.

We understand that Black, Brown, and Indigenous people are disproportionately represented within the criminal justice system and are more likely to be marginalized and labeled as high-risk to offend or reoffend. Because ATSA's members work with individuals that society constantly marginalizes, we also see on a daily basis how marginalization negatively affects individuals' well-being, hope, resilience, and ability to safely re-integrate into society.

Within ATSA, we recognize that our members and Executive Board of Directors do not reflect the racial, ethnic, cultural, and gender diversity of those we serve. And we know that it is essential that we nourish a broad and inclusive culture that encourages a diversity of perspectives and range of voices within our association.

We know we can do better, and we will do better.

We commit to doing more to diversify our membership and to acknowledge that many of our Black, Brown, and Indigenous colleagues may feel isolated doing this work. In addition, we commit to reaching out to individuals within underrepresented communities to include them in ATSA's membership as well as on the Board of Directors, in standing committees, and as members of other leadership groups.

To mentor, encourage, and welcome diversity within ATSA's membership, leadership, and partnerships, we will continue to host listening sessions regarding race, power, and privilege; reach out to better understand how issues of race, power, and privilege affect our members and clients; foster a commitment from our members to be more reflective of the communities our clients come from; and formalize processes for incorporating awareness of race and privilege into all facets of our association's work.

ATSA members represent treatment providers and researchers, parole, probation, and corrections officers, district attorneys, public defenders, and law enforcement officials, victim advocacy groups, and others. Given our collective expertise, we have the ability and responsibility to help build a more equitable criminal justice system that will benefit everyone. We will stand with our members to work together to guide changes to policy and practice and to increase the diversity of the many professionals in our fields.

It will take all of us together to recognize, understand, and acknowledge our society's systemic racism and to address the harm it causes to the individuals subjected to it. We commit to working with our membership and other organizations to address these barriers to racial justice. The time for discussion has passed. This is a time for action. We invite you to join us in creating an inclusive and safe world for everyone.

The ATSA Board of Directors



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICA

“As a nation we should expect better, and must do the work of dismantling systemic racism, ultimately ensuring the safety and dignity of all people.”

- Jim Clark, President and CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of America

Boys & Girls Clubs are advocating for youth to have the same opportunities and encouraging young people to harness the power of their voice.

Boys & Girls Clubs of America condemns any act of racism or discrimination. We've made it our mission to change the opportunity equation for millions of kids who may not receive the same chance as their peers – sometimes because of their economic status, color of their skin, or other factors that contribute to the cycles of inequity we see in America today.

We advocate for youth to have the same opportunities and encourage young people to harness the power of their voice. We believe it is critical to speak up and take action.

As a nation, we can and must demand change to support Black people and anyone who faces prejudices as a result of systemic racism. Together, we must listen and take action to ensure the future is great for the millions of kids that are counting on us.

Boys & Girls Clubs, as a community-based organization, will be listening, learning, and taking action to support our nation during this critical time of change. Our pledge is to provide more solutions to support work on race, equity, and social justice so that kids, families, and communities can have a better tomorrow. Help get more kids on the road to a greater future.

Our Commitment to Inclusion

We believe every kid has what it takes. The mission and core beliefs of Boys & Girls Clubs fuel our commitment to promoting safe, positive and inclusive environments for all. Boys & Girls Clubs of America supports all youth and teens – of every race, ethnicity, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, ability, socio-economic status, and religion – in reaching their full potential.

A Message to Our Federation from BBBSA President & CEO, Pam Iorio



We can all feel the change, the ground shifting under our feet. Sometimes it takes the luxury of years, of hindsight, and perspective to know when a society has changed. But in the spring of 2020, we can see it happen before our very eyes.

It is change born in 1619 and woven into the history of the United States starting with the atrocities of human rights abuses and slavery.

It is change from the unlawfulness of segregation, racial profiling, wrongful imprisonment, inequitable sentencing practices, and unchecked police brutality that has left millions of Americans living in an unequal and repressive world.

It is change born from the words of civil rights leader Fannie Lou Hamer, who famously said in the 1960s, "I am sick and tired of being sick and tired."

It was George Floyd's murder on May 25th, on the heels of the senseless murders of Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and before them many others, that finally unleashed what has been building for so long. Systemic racism came into full view for all to see, a seismic moment of clarity.

Almost overnight, Black Lives Matter evolved from a movement to a simple truth that a Black life must be valued equally to all lives. When a Black person is wrongfully targeted and killed at the hands of the police, it must matter as much as any life and we must stand against this injustice. There cannot be two Americas. We must strive to be one equitable, inclusive and just union.

It is our collective honor at this point in our history to be a part of the Big Brothers Big Sisters mission. We are tasked with defending the potential of all young people we serve, our Littles. In 2019, more than 70% of the children we served across the country were children of color.

There have been so many thoughtful writings over the past weeks. One line from Jeannine Gant, our leader from Detroit illuminates our role: *"Mentoring helps youth deal with trauma brought on by generations of oppression, solely based on the color of their skin, a dehumanizing construct that reverberates through every fiber of our country."*

At this historic moment, when change can be felt, what actions can Big Brothers Big Sisters take to strengthen and elevate our work with youth?

First, we must take every opportunity to denounce racism, bigotry and prejudice. Defending potential means we openly and consistently address the systemic barriers our children of color face. Racism is part of the trauma in many young lives. We must name it and act upon it every single day.

Second, we will create trainings for our volunteer Bigs and our BBBS staff members across the country so they can be best equipped to talk to their Littles about this prevalence of violence and racism. We don't want to compound trauma in our youth by being ill-equipped or misinformed on how to best support our Littles.

Third, this is an opportunity to examine and improve upon our Bigs in Blue/Bigs with Badges program. This program is designed to develop strong one-to-one relationships between police officers and our Littles. The vision of the program is to provide a structure within our mission to help disarm bigotry, racism, and preconceived stereotypes at all levels. It is connecting police officers to the young people they serve, for a better appreciation of communities, families, and the adverse conditions many live with every day. *(continued on page 5)*

A Letter From Pam Iorio, President and CEO Big Brothers Big Sisters of America (page 2)



Many of our agencies report very positive results from the dialogue and greater understanding resulting from these matches. Jeri Swinton, our leader from Louisville shared a staff member's idea that we have a dialogue with our law enforcement partners about policing best practices. There are many ways this important program can be improved and towards that end, we are establishing an agency-led task force to examine and make recommendations on how we can be advocates for change in our local communities and how this program can better serve young people.

Fourth, we must engage in a dialogue with each of our funding partners to ensure that our respective values on racial justice and equity are aligned. We are an inclusive and equitable organization that values everyone from our staff, board members, volunteers, and Littles. Our partners must embrace the differences and the

uniqueness of all people who will help support our organization in building bridges and igniting, empowering and defending the potential of the youth we serve. All of us as human beings are works in progress; learning, evolving, and changing. We must leverage this moment in our nation's history to make progress together.

Finally, the National Office, working with the Nationwide Leadership Council's (NLC) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, (DEI) Committee (which comprises 32 members) will continually produce information you can use for your staff, boards, Bigs, Littles and their families, and funders. Under the title, *Race, Relationships, & Resources*, we will facilitate national conversations to further understanding and actions, and provide quality material and host webinars dedicated to educating our communities about race, as well as provide resources on how to facilitate meaningful reflection, connection, and action to create racial justice. The NLC's DEI Committee, along with our internal DEI Champions Committee will also begin examining our policies and procedures (hiring and staff retention, background checks, job descriptions) and the Standards of Practice.

This is just the beginning of what Big Brothers Big Sisters can accomplish. The list will expand as all of you, individually and collectively, add to the ideas that can be implemented. "Be the change you want to see in the world."

From all of this, I have hope. Perhaps it comes from seeing so many young people organizing and engaging in peaceful protests. Young people have always been at the forefront of change. They personify Martin Luther King's words "*Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.*" Today, thousands are rightfully marching and asking for a more loving and equitable America that must immediately reform its social justice institutions. And we must be a part of this change.

As always, it is an honor to work with all of you. We at the National Office hear you and encourage your engagement and voice. We have all been given this opportunity to lead and defend the potential of all youth, and to stand against racism, bigotry and prejudice to help make our country a place where there truly is liberty and justice for all.

Onward,

Pam Iorio

President and CEO Big Brothers Big Sisters of America

WE STAND TOGETHER WITH COMMUNITIES OF COLOR



PCAR & NSVRC STATEMENT
OF SOLIDARITY

We stand together with all voices affirming Black humanity and dignity. We share the global grief following the murder of George Floyd by Derek Chauvin, as well as the killings of Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Dreasjon Reed, David McAtee and the many acts of racist violence perpetrated against Black people over centuries.

Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR) and National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC) denounce police brutality in all its forms and acknowledge the recurrent problem of racial bias in the criminal justice system that cannot be disentangled from our country's legacy of slavery and the oppression of Black and Brown people.

PCAR and NSVRC affirm racial justice critical to our work and all efforts to address and end sexual violence.

Racism, and all forms of oppression, is among the root causes of sexual violence. Fighting against racism is the only way we can build safe communities for all people. We are committed to dismantling racist policies and institutions. We are also committed to looking critically at our organization's history and ongoing work and the ways we have been consciously and unconsciously complicit in white supremacy.

It is time to make way for new systems that bend decisively toward justice for all people. We support the Movement for Black Lives and the ACLU in its call to reimagine the role that police play in our society and invest in community-led solutions to improve healthcare, housing, and education in minority communities. We hold law enforcement officials accountable to not use their power to harm people and to treat all persons with respect regardless of race.

As we all deal with multiple stresses at this time, we clearly see that people of color are disproportionately impacted in negative ways by the health risks that make people more vulnerable to COVID-19. (*continued on page 7*)

A Letter from PCAR & NSVRC (page 2)

And people of color are disproportionately impacted by the financial impacts of social distancing. And people of color are experiencing more violence and police brutality and murders.

It's time for us to take action.

Join us in caring for those that have been hurt by overt and subtle forms of racism. Add your voice to those that have experienced or fear the sustained injustice in our society and by taking action against inequality.

- [Talk to your family members and to your family friends.](#)
- [Teach your children to respect and stand up for racial justice.](#)
- [Learn about white privilege, inequality, and racism.](#)
- Work each day to improve your understanding, make changes in your daily life and help those around you do the same.
- Speak out on social media and help to amplify messages from people of color. Defend people's right to participate in non-violent demonstrations.
- Urge your legislators to support reforms that will promote equality and stop police brutality.
- Support Black-owned businesses and Black artists.
- Donate to Black organizations working for racial justice and equity.
- Keep your cameras ready.

Together, we can remove the hate.

Together, peace and justice will triumph over violence.



BSA's Commitment to Act Against Racial Injustice



BOY SCOUTS
OF AMERICA®

Dear Scouting family,

As our country reckons with racial injustice, we all must consider our role and our failures and commit to meaningful action. The twelve points of the Scout Law that define a Scout are all important, but at this moment, we are called on to be brave. Brave means taking action because it is the right thing to do and being an upstander even when it may prompt criticism from some. We realize we have not been as brave as we should have been because, as Scouts, we must always stand for what is right and take action when the situation demands it. There is no place for racism – not in Scouting and not in our communities. Racism will not be tolerated. We condemn the murders of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and all those who are not named but are equally important. We hear the anguish, feel the heartbreak and join the country's resolve to do better. The Boy Scouts of America stands with Black families and the Black community because we believe that Black Lives Matter. This is not a political issue; it is a human rights issue and one we all have a duty to address. That is why, as an organization, we commit to:

1. Introducing a specific diversity and inclusion merit badge that will be required for the rank of Eagle Scout. It will build on components within existing merit badges, including the American Cultures and Citizenship in the Community merit badges, which require Scouts to learn about and engage with other groups and cultures to increase understanding and spur positive action.
2. Reviewing every element of our programs to ensure diversity and inclusion are engrained at every level for participants and volunteers by applying a standard that promotes racial equality and denounces racism, discrimination, inequality and injustice.
3. Requiring diversity and inclusion training for all BSA employees starting July 1 and taking immediate action toward introducing a version for volunteers in the coming months.
4. Conducting a review of property names, events and insignia, in partnership with local councils, to build on and enhance the organization's nearly 30-year ban on use of the Confederate flag and to ensure that symbols of oppression are not in use today or in the future.

These are our next steps but certainly not our last. We will also continue to listen more, learn more and do more to promote a culture in which every person feels that they belong, are respected, and are valued in Scouting, in their community, and across America. As a movement, we are committed to working together with our employees, volunteers, youth members, and communities so we can all become a better version of ourselves and continue to prepare young men and women to become the leaders of character our communities and our country need to heal and grow.

Yours in Scouting,

The Boy Scouts of America National Executive Committee



Feelings of anger, hurt, fear are all real and present throughout the community – among our Georgia Center for Child Advocacy (GCCA) staff, clients and the greater community. The senseless death of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and the immeasurable Black men and women before them have left us shaken and outraged. Systemic racism and injustices have taken too many lives- not only in the form of violence, but in the experience of deeply rooted discrimination that many of our families face daily.

At the Georgia Center for Child Advocacy, our vision is to build a better world- one where ALL children and families are safe, healthy and protected. The families that we serve experience all different forms of trauma; and the sad truth is that racism is often a trauma that toxically affects their Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). Thankfully, just like child sexual abuse and other ACEs, racism is can be stopped and prevented through education, awareness, and ACTION!

We cannot stand silent while our Black communities continue to suffer. Because we understand the importance of our role in the fight for change, GCCA is committed to applying the following to our work:

- Openly recognizing and outwardly calling out the existence of racism, brutality, systemic inequities and the tremendous impact on the well-being of all children and families when these are not addressed
- Ensuring we have more education and open dialogue amongst our GCCA staff, clients, partners and community members around race, unconscious bias and injustice
- Creating a safe space of inclusion and diversity, while also using diverse staff, partners, and community perspectives in every aspect of our work
- Recognizing and addressing this layer of oppression and its effect on the daily lives of so many children and families we serve who are also impacted by abuse and violence
- Embedding discussions of the adverse effects of systemic inequities and elements of inclusion and equality into our trainings and community outreach in an effort to address the shared experiences of adverse community environments
- Providing anti-racism training and ongoing resources to our GCCA staff to educate ourselves and better serve our families in the community

We hope you join us in taking action together. We must continue to speak up and speak out whenever we witness hatred, racism or injustice. I hope that as a country we can come together to understand all of the work that is still ahead to create change in our community.

With Solidarity,

Georgia Center for Child Advocacy



National Children's Advocacy Center

Statement from the National Children's Advocacy Center:

The National Children's Advocacy Center has a foundational belief that all children should be protected from abuse, and those who experience child abuse should have access to quality services to help them heal from this experience no matter the color of their skin, the language they speak, their religious beliefs, or any other means of categorizing them. They are children who have experienced harm and deserve these services. It is from this same foundational perspective that the NCAC strongly condemns any form of racism.

Our world is in a sad and emotionally charged space. Racial inequity and disparities remain in society. It is important to recognize that silence is no longer acceptable. It is time to act, starting with educating ourselves about all forms of racism locally and nationally. We are calling for change. True change. A growing chorus of people of all colors who stand together with united voices to demand fairness and equality for all peoples including the children we serve. Together we will, can and must do better.



DARKNESS TO LIGHT®
TWO DECADES OF PREVENTING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

A STATEMENT FROM THE CEO: JUSTICE & HUMAN RIGHTS

June 2, 2020

George Floyd and countless others in the black community have died unjust and heartbreaking deaths.

For days I've tried to thoughtfully process how I wanted to address the Darkness to Light community at large – processing my grief, individually calling my team members to check in on their mental health and well-being, and gathering together as a team to discuss our course of action moving forward.

For me, it is clear—society's collective lack of commitment to the anti-racist movement impairs our ability to achieve our mission and contradicts our values as an organization. If my individual conversations with the Darkness to Light team made anything apparent, it is that we collectively see the inherent connection between the prevention of child sexual abuse and social justice work in the black community. Child rights are human rights. The right to a healthy and happy childhood does not stop at the prevention of child sexual abuse, exclude black children, nor end at the age of 18. *(continued on page 11)*

A Statement from the CEO (page 2)

Yesterday we posted to social media, “*If we’ve never outright said it, let us be clear: we are committed to social justice and human rights. We stand with our diverse partners, allies, and black communities – we are with you and commit to do our part in promoting anti-racism and equal rights. #blacklivesmatter #justiceforgeorgefloyd*” Today, I want to expand on what we mean.

Darkness to Light will not just stand in solidarity with diverse partners, allies, and black communities but we will act in solidarity, demonstrating our commitment to improving access and amplifying black voices and experiences. We will champion justice and human rights.

We will be unafraid to take up space on this topic. There may be those who are uncomfortable with our insistence on social justice, but we will remain unapologetic. Darkness to Light’s team has created a Diversity and Inclusion working group, emphasizing inclusion. We will report back, publicly, on the commitments we have made to each other as team members, and to you, our partners and supporters.

We will continue to diversify both our team and leadership. We have made strides in cultivating a diverse and inclusive team, but we’re not done. We continue to be committed to representing diverse communities at all levels of our organization.

We will continue innovating by developing new content. We recognize that our content has been broadly directed at all audiences, and we seek to dig into our organizational value of growth mindset and get specific. The team is establishing a plan on how to improve our resources for black and other vulnerable communities, such as migrant and LGBTQIA+.

We will amplify the voices of those in the prevention community who are already doing this work. Allies are only as good as their ability to amplify the voices of those who came before them. We commit to strengthening our partnerships with the leaders of prevention in the black community.

The Darkness to Light [Board of Directors](#) is committed to holding me accountable. I am committed to holding the Darkness to Light team accountable, and they are ready to move.

For those with whom we partner, who I know are as committed to preventing child sexual abuse as we are, I say to you: ambiguity on racial equity is our collective enemy. We must use our platforms more effectively. Because at the end of the day, to fight for one right, the right to a childhood free of abuse, while ignoring other rights, such as equity and justice for black lives, is not acceptable.

I therefore ask our facilitators, partners, and supporters to join our efforts and to hold each other accountable.

Finally, I want to express my deepest sympathy to the families, friends, and communities that are grieving. I personally commit to you – violence will not distract Darkness to Light from supporting peaceful protests and doing our part to change the stark day-to-day reality of so many of our fellow Americans.

Together, we can commit to make the world a safer and more equitable place.

Yours in Courage and Solidarity,



Katelyn N. Brewer,
President & CEO

A Statement on Racism from Prevent Child Abuse America



3 JUNE 2020

For the last several days, emotions that have run high for generations have clearly reached a boiling point, here in Chicago and throughout the country. The understandable outrage, profound sadness, and deafening demands for change stemming from the death of George Floyd and countless others before him are feelings that we at Prevent Child Abuse America share. For those who grieve, we grieve with you.

We remain steadfast in our mission—to prevent the abuse and neglect of our nation's children—and we continue to envision a world where all children grow up happy, healthy, and prepared to succeed in supportive families and communities. To do this effectively, we focus on a comprehensive approach, proactively creating the conditions for thriving children and families. To be truly successful, we must actively dismantle the root causes of stress and anxiety that can lead to child abuse, including systemic, structural racism and discrimination. Research consistently highlights the disproportionate exposure and effects of trauma and adversity within communities of color, but too many of our policies and systems produce, rather than eliminate, such disparities. We know that we can do better, and that most Americans want every child to grow up feeling secure.

We cannot tackle these issues single-handedly—no one can—but neither can we sit idly by and allow our children, families, and communities to suffer. At moments like this, it is more important than ever for us to stand together to advocate for racial justice and equity. To do so, we rely on strong partnerships—with our nationwide network of state chapters and Healthy Families America affiliates, with external collaborators at the local, state, and federal levels, and with leaders in the business and civic communities. We all have a role to play in creating a better future for every child, regardless of the color of their skin.

We call upon everyone in our network to take action and support those affected by this time of unrest—in whatever ways you can—to continue to educate and spread awareness in your communities, and to work together to protect children from the effects of systemic racism. At Prevent Child Abuse America, we are deeply committed to reforming the systems that have jeopardized the safety of our children as a byproduct of the persistent racial inequities they produce and exacerbate.

Together, we CAN prevent child abuse, America—because childhood lasts a lifetime.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa Merrick".

Dr. Melissa Merrick
President & CEO

Racial Violence Needs to Stop Now!



A statement from Stop It Now Director, Jenny Coleman

Our vision at Stop It Now! reads: *"Adults engage in respectful, caring behavior with children and other adults to create safe, stable and nurturing relationships for all children. Children grow up free of trauma from any form of violence including sexual abuse and exploitation."*

Today, we believe in this more than ever. As we witness and experience racist violence, we see the same adults we rely on to protect children – each and every child, without exception – act in ways that, in a gross understatement, are not respectful and caring. These attitudes and behaviors kill, and they send shock-waves of trauma through our communities.

At Stop It Now!, we prevent child sexual abuse. We know that we can only truly address prevention when we're willing to look at the intersectionality of systemic racism.

Disproportionate numbers of black and brown people experience all types of violence at greater rates. Poverty and inequitable living environments foster vulnerability that increase risks of violence – including sexual abuse and exploitation.

People of color underreport crimes committed against them because of a history of unjust treatment in criminal and legal matters. When communities of color do report, the systems that are there to protect them have been slower to respond to families of color. Research demonstrates public attitudes and beliefs that girls of color are complicit in their own abuse, blamed for their own abuse. And boys of color are deemed incorrigible, seen as criminals at young ages, and not offered the same resources and hope as their white counterparts. People of color do not receive the same benefits as white people in a system that is supposed to support and protect every single person – every single beautiful, valuable, worthy person.

Stop It Now! is committed to equality, equity and justice. We cannot truly have prevention until we have these. We cannot give our children a world free of violence until we address the wrongs in all of our systems – legal and criminal, medical, educational and all others – that allow racism not only to exist, but to flourish.

We believe deeply in every human's right to safety, dignity and respect. We believe black lives matter.

Enough Abuse Speaks Out

enough silence.
enough denial.
enough shame.
enough hurt.

enough racism.



We declare our solidarity with the Black community to end racism.

We recommit to ensuring the right of **every** child to a safe and healthy childhood, free from the devastating and life-long consequences of child abuse, neglect, and sexual abuse and exploitation.

CALCASA Stands in Solidarity with Racial Justice Advocates: Criminalization will NOT end Sexual Violence



The fight to end sexual violence in the United States has always also required a concurrent fight against racism. Prejudice and discrimination on the basis of both sex and race are woven together in the issue of sexual violence, and so we cannot effectively combat one without combatting the other. As the nation grapples with renewed attention on police brutality, and vulnerable communities continue to endure violence and oppression that has been with this country since its founding, we are reminded of our critical commitment to center anti-racism in our work, and to truly assert the fundamental dignity of all people. Black Lives Matter.

We have been in the throes of a racism pandemic for decades and have seen the way racism has affected our approach and our ability to advocate for justice.

For a generation, our movement has over-relied on law enforcement as a primary response to sexual assault, rather than focusing on solutions that will prevent violence in the first place. We have successfully drawn the nation's attention to issues of crime and punishment, at the expense of rectifying the social conditions and systemic inequities that allow sexual violence to subsist in our communities. CALCASA no longer supports that as a primary approach; we acknowledge that criminalization does not and will not end sexual violence. Law enforcement must continue to respond to sexual violence when called, but we must reaffirm our commitment to go beyond a paradigm that focuses too narrowly on perpetration and offenders. We must embrace a larger view of what a world free from violence in all its forms can look like. This includes law enforcement accountability.

George Floyd's tragic murder at the hands of law enforcement in Minneapolis brings to mind the killing of Ahmaud Arbery in Georgia, which did not lead to criminal charges for nearly two months later, and only after a recording had been made public. It comes several months after Louisville police killed a 27-year-old emergency medical technician, Breonna Taylor, after bursting into her own apartment, and less than a year after a Fort Worth police officer killed Atatiana Jefferson as she played video games in her home. It comes just a few weeks after the five-year anniversary of the death of Freddie Gray in the custody of Baltimore police. The fact that these lives and countless others ended prematurely by those sworn to protect them, reminds us of our ongoing commitment to our racial justice work.

This is a time for us as a movement, experts who are positioned to understand the many intersecting forms of trauma and violence inflicted on our communities, to continue stepping up and speaking out. "As leaders in the anti-sexual violence movement, we are committed to advocating on behalf of survivors everywhere, and will not back down from being a voice for our field and for our broader movement," stated CALCASA CEO, Sandra Henriquez, "In light of COVID-19, these are especially difficult times for survivors of all forms of violence, who will need our continued support. Our response to these compounding crises – a 'racism pandemic' – must be driven by our values." Accordingly, we will continue to fearlessly engage the difficult issues and oppressive structures that plague our society, and advocate on behalf of the rape crisis centers that will always be a place of support for every survivor, in California and beyond.

What Allyship Means to Us

**Words are not enough.
Take action.**



As an organization that is deeply committed to the social and emotional well-being of children and their families, I feel we must address the turmoil that is being felt across our country. At Committee for Children, we resolutely stand with every Black person in this country who has experienced police brutality, racial violence, and oppression.

The murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and so many others that we never

hear about, dramatically underscore the persistent institutional racism and violence that consistently targets the Black community and other people of color. We must stand collectively and support those who are using their voices to affect systemic change, making their communities better places to live, and investing in the children who will be the leaders of tomorrow.

We understand our responsibility to address racial injustice. While we continue to learn the best ways to support the Black community, our focus on using our resources, knowledge, and collective passion to help young people in their journey toward respecting differences, showing empathy, and solving problems constructively is stronger than ever.

And while expressing our solidarity with the Black community through this statement is important, what is most important is what we do as an organization in the weeks and years ahead to demonstrate our commitment and dedication to becoming better and more active allies.

That is why we will continue to advance diversity, inclusion, and equity work inside and outside of our organization. We commit to providing Black students with equitable access to our programs and other culturally responsive social-emotional learning experiences. We will advocate for the integration of anti-racist and Black studies curricula in schools. And we will work to ensure that our products and programs are representative and impactful for all racial and ethnic communities.

Again, we know that words are not enough. We will move forward with humility and vulnerability. So, please do not stay silent. Tell us how we can best support you. Demand that we hold ourselves accountable. Help us drive real change. We are in this for the long haul and will not rest until our vision of safe children thriving in a peaceful world is a reality for every child.

In pursuit of a better future,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Colleen Oliver'.

Colleen A. Oliver, CEO
Committee for Children



Grow Kinder

APSAC Statement



The American
Professional Society
on the Abuse of Children®

Strengthening Practice Through Knowledge

In partnership with



A

APSAC Commitment to Eliminate Systemic Racism and Implicit Bias in the Child Maltreatment Field

APSAC joins with people around the world in expressing our deepest sympathy and condolences to the families who have lost loved ones to senseless violence rooted in racism and implicit bias. We stand in solidarity with all who have pledged to end this scourge. This killing, injury, and abuse must stop.

APSAC believes it is essential to the future of our society that we eliminate racism and implicit bias. Teresa Huziar, Executive Director of the National Children's Alliance, reminds us that slavery is America's original sin. We are struggling with the wounds and ongoing harms of 400 years of systemic racism, its insidious companion implicit bias, and the violence it has spawned.

Racism kills. The deaths noted above and health research shows that racism kills directly and indirectly. When directed at youth, racism is child abuse. It is a form of psychological maltreatment and toxic like physical and sexual abuse.

Our efforts to address racism and implicit bias, including cultural sensitivity and diversity training are a start but they are not enough. There are many layers and much complexity to this deeply ingrained injustice. It will take decades of sustained effort on many fronts to eradicate. Despite the huge task before us, there is a guiding principle. Do the right thing. Regardless of the consequences to one's career, comfort, or material well-being, do the right thing.

At this pivotal moment in our nation's history, APSAC commits to an enduring effort to develop, monitor and regularly update an "APSAC Action Plan to Eliminate Systemic Racism and Implicit Bias in the Child Maltreatment Field." This action plan is central to APSAC's mission. It requires all of our participation, listening closely to others, learning, changing ourselves, and changing our practices. It requires resources. The Princeton Theological Seminary (PTS) plan to address the injustice of slavery along with racism and implicit bias provides one example. The objective of the PTS plan is also APSAC's objective to "commit to tangible action to shape [our] community's future in meaningful, lasting ways."

Signed,

The Board of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children

Statement from NCMEC



06-03-2020

As I reflect on all that is happening across America in the wake of George Floyd's death and the outrage that resulted from it, I have a heavy heart. After a 30-year career in law enforcement, I can tell you with certainty that it is a difficult profession but respect for the life and dignity of all people is paramount and the hallmark of a civil society. We appreciate the men and women of law enforcement but we cannot associate with those who abuse authority and have reckless disregard for the citizens they are sworn to protect and serve.

I am hopeful that this tragedy will bring, somehow, a better day of racial harmony in our nation. Here at the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, we remain committed to serving families in all communities and we celebrate our differences and diversity.

John Clark
President & CEO
National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

Coalition Annual Meeting Scheduled for September 14 & 15



The virtual Prevention Coalition Annual Meeting is scheduled for September 14 & 15, 2020. Meetings and presentations will take place from noon—4:00 pm ET (9:00 am—1:00 pm PT) on the 14th and noon—5:00 pm ET (9:00 am—2:00 pm PT) on the 15th. We will use a Zoom meeting format.

The meeting on September 14th will include presentations by members and others. Topics will include new research, systemic inequalities, new programs and internship projects. There will also be an opportunity to learn more about our new members.

The meeting on September 15th will cover the revamp of the Coalition website and the National Plan. It will also focus on the CDC project to update guidance to youth-serving organizations and legislation/advocacy work by individual members and the Coalition. The meeting will end with a discussion of strategic implications for 2021.

While we will all miss an in-person opportunity to get together in 2020, the meeting will afford lots of opportunity to share progress and network with others.

Mark your calendars now!



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Expanded Tax Break for Charitable Gifts Gains Support in Congress



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There is currently a bipartisan effort to expand tax breaks for charitable donations in Congress. This comes as non-profit organizations struggle during the pandemic.

James Lankford (R., Okla.) and Jeanne Shaheen (D., N.H.), are proposing that taxpayers be allowed to deduct charitable donations, even if they don't itemize their deductions. This plan increases a small tax break created in March that allowed extra charitable deductions. This plan would limit the break to one-third of the standard deduction. In 2020, that will be \$4,133 for individuals and \$8,267 for married couples.

To learn more, click [here](#) to see the Wall Street Journal article by Richard Rubin from 6/15/2020.

An Update From the CDC



The CDC recently released its inaugural Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) Prevention Partner update! The CDC plans to release these partner updates each quarter throughout the project.

The goal of the initiative is to update the 2007 publication [Preventing Child Sexual Abuse Within Youth Serving Organizations: Getting Started on Policies and Procedures](#). This complements the [CDC Division of Violence Prevention's](#) efforts to provide safe, stable, and nurturing relationships and environments for all children and youth.

The project is in the process of launching several activities to rigorously inform the update from both a research and practice perspective. Key project activities include a literature review, environmental scan, focus groups/interviews, implementation guidance, and trainings. The project is still in the very early stages. The CDC looks forward to engaging with a wide range of partners throughout the course of the project.

RECENT HAPPENINGS

Below are the key updates on the CDC's activities.

Conducted kickoff meeting with key project leaders and donors

Completed detailed project workplan to cover the 2.5-year span of the project

Began an intensive systematic literature review covering the past 15 years of new research related to CSA prevention within youth-serving organizations (YSOs)

Established a scope of work for environmental scan of a diverse array of youth serving organizations

Onboarded new team members and engaged with new partners

NEW CONNECTIONS

The CDC is seeking to make new connections to ensure that all voices have a seat at the table. They are engaging in extensive outreach efforts to connect with new partners representing YSOs of diverse backgrounds such as tribal/Native American, LGBTQ+, different abilities/special needs, homeless or at risk for homelessness, and immigrant/migrant/refugee youth. If you have recommendations or suggestions for exceptional YSOs that serve these populations, please contact Project Manager, Amber McKeen, at: amckeen@cdc.gov.

ATSA Conference Goes Online



39TH ANNUAL RESEARCH AND TREATMENT CONFERENCE

**ATSA 2020
IS GOING VIRTUAL!**

**Blending Voices.
Strengthening Lives.**

OCTOBER 21-23, 2020 | ONLINE

ATSA is pleased to announce that they will present the 39th Annual ATSA Research and Treatment Conference through an online platform October 21 – 23, 2020!

After surveying speakers and stakeholders, holding conversations with representatives in San Antonio, and recognizing the ever-changing data and urgency of Covid-19 prevention efforts, it became clear that #ATSA2020 needed to move online.

There are many benefits to a virtual platform, and ATSA is most excited about the ability to increase ATSA's reach by enabling more participants access to ATSA. Moving to an online format has the potential to truly strengthen the work and lives of members (and members to be!) through enhanced opportunities for education and collaboration.

Information for #ATSA2020 regarding registration launch, pricing, continuing education credits, and the program itself will be forthcoming. More information about the restructuring of the conference will be available soon. In the meantime, you are encouraged to stay connected to ATSA via website updates, Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn.

The opportunity to restructure the conference and increase accessibility is truly exciting. ATSA is committed to bringing three days of high-quality content and engaging classes. ATSA is looking forward to experiencing this fresh way to convene with you and all of the ATSA family.

The show must go on and so it will!

ATSA
MAKING SOCIETY SAFER®

Free Evidence-based School Staff Child Protection Training



Schools need to strengthen their staff skills in preventing, detecting, and responding to child sexual abuse, especially given the pandemic's impact. Committee for Children has made their Child Protection Unit (CPU) All Staff Training freely available, which you can access [here](#). The CPU has been rigorously evaluated. [Research from 2019](#) demonstrates that the CPU increases knowledge and attitudes around child sexual abuse and improves relationships with students.

National Coalition to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation

www.preventtogether.org | email: preventtogether@gmail.com

Prevent Child Abuse Vermont Offers Training

**Training of Trainers:
Overcoming Barriers to Protecting Children from Sexual Abuse©
August 25th, 26th, 27th, 2020 from 10AM to 12PM**

This 6-hour training provided via Zoom interactive real time platform will equip attendees with the knowledge and skills to facilitate Overcoming Barriers to Protecting Children from Sexual Abuse. Click [HERE](#) to register!

**A Virtual Training of Trainers for Child Sexual Abuse Prevention for Adult Audiences
TECHNICOOL: Keeping Kids Safe on the Internet©
September 22nd, 23rd, 24th from 4PM to 6PM Daily**

This 6-hour training provided via Zoom interactive real time platform will equip attendees with the knowledge and skills to facilitate TECHNICOOL: Keeping Kids Safe on the Internet. Click [HERE](#) to register!



NSVRC Shares Resources

Our friends at NSVRC shared these resources this month.

Blogs: [PCAR & NSVRC Stand Together with Communities of Color](#): Read the statement of solidarity with the Black community.

Partner Resources: [Enough Abuse: Preventing Child Sexual Abuse in Schools](#) – PreventConnect's podcast with Jetta Bernier and Lindsay Hawthorne of the Enough Abuse Campaign to discuss their [online training course](#) for teachers and school administrators to prevent child sexual abuse in schools.



APSAC Zoom Chat

APSAC presented a Zoom Chat featuring coalition member Dr. Janet Rosenzweig sharing ideas on how families might take advantage of their new-found closeness to promote sexual health and safety; see the recording here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2JSqNOrR1eY> and access the resources offered here: https://2a566822-8004-431f-b136-8b004d74bfc2.filesusr.com/ugd/4700a8_62f5c58614c74fa9a809fe2d05d7778d.pdf



Janet Rosenzweig, Ph.D.

Monique Burr Foundation's Online Learning Series: Let's Talk About Prevention

Let's Talk About Prevention is a free online learning series related to child abuse, bullying, exploitation, and other types of victimization. With in-person conferences being canceled or postponed due to the current global pandemic, the Monique Burr Foundation for Children wanted to help its Facilitators and other youth-serving organization staff continue their professional development. The result is a series of nine one-hour webinars throughout the summer on important child protection and prevention topics, to include: Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), Prevention and Research, Digital Safety, Exploitation, and more.

Upcoming Presentations:

Social Media & Emerging Tech: Motivating Mindful, Empathetic & Responsible Use to Prevent Digital Abuse.

Thursday, July 16th – 12:30 pm ET

Speaker: Richard Guerry
Founder and Executive Director
Institute for Responsible Online and Cell Phone Communication (IROC2)



Emerging Trends in Child Sexual Exploitation: Protecting Children Online!

Thursday, July 23rd – 12:30 pm ET

Speaker: Susan Kennedy, Ed.M.
Prevention Program Manager
Outreach, Training & Prevention
National Center for Missing & Exploited Children



Prevention and Early Recognition of Child Sex and Labor Trafficking.

Thursday, July 30th – 12:30 pm ET

Speaker: Jordan Greenbaum, MD
Medical Director, Global Child Health and Well Being Initiative
International Center for Missing and Exploited Children
Medical Director, Institute on Healthcare and Human Trafficking at
Stephanie V. Blank Center for Safe and Healthy Children,
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta



The Science of Preventing Child Maltreatment.

Thursday, August 6th – 12:30 pm ET

Speaker: Melissa A. Bright, PhD
Assistant Research Scientist
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Department of Pediatrics
University of Florida



Prevent 360° – A Better Way to Protect Children from Abuse and Victimization.

Thursday, August 13th – 12:30 pm ET

Co-Speaker: Katelyn Brewer
President/CEO
Darkness to Light
Co-Speaker: Stacy Pendarvis, MSW, MA
Vice President of Programs
Monique Burr Foundation for Children



Click [here](#) for more information.

Chicago Children's Advocacy Center Releases Revised Resources

Chicago Children's Advocacy Center is announcing a revision of its *Keeping My Family Safe* workbook – which is a primary prevention tool for parents and caregivers (in English and Spanish). Thanks to support from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, the *Keeping My Family Safe* and *Manteniendo La Seguridad De Mi Familia* workbooks contain the latest research and best practices for families regarding the primary prevention of child sexual abuse. These workbooks are free to download and distribute: www.ChicagoCAC.org/kmf



July/August/September Events

Many trainings and conferences are being cancelled or postponed due to the coronavirus. Check with event sponsors.

Let's Talk About Prevention: Online Learning Series: June 11– August 13, sponsored by the Monique Burr Foundation, <https://www.mbfpreventioneducation.org/lets-talk-prevention/>.

Prevent Child Abuse Vermont Train-the-Trainer Online Sessions: Overcoming Barriers to Protecting Children from Sexual Abuse© August 25th, 26th, 27th, 2020 from 10AM to 12PM. Register at pcavt@pcavt.org or 1-800-975-7147.

Prevention Coalition Annual Meeting September 14 & 15, Noon—5 pm ET. For more information contact catherinetownsend@yahoo.com.

Prevent Child Abuse Vermont Train-the-Trainer Online Session for TECHNICOOL: Keeping Kids Safe on the Internet ©; September 22-24, 4 pm to 6 pm ET. Register at pcavt@pcavt.org or 1-800-975-7147.

Submit your events for inclusion in next month's Events Calendar to drive awareness of your organization! Please email information to catherinetownsend@yahoo.com.

Communications Committee Co-Chairs: Susan Kennedy & Matt Hartvigsen