

{ Patricia Jones-Turner }

Reverend Patricia Jones-Turner is involved in many aspects of the community, offering her gifts and talents as a minister, with a MA from Union Theological Seminary/Presbyterian School, and in her job as the Domestic and Sexual Violence Coordinator for Chesterfield County. She is also a trainer for the Virginia Institute for Social Services Training Activities at Virginia Commonwealth University where she provides statewide training to social workers in the field of domestic violence and sexual assault. Patricia has been an educator for 15 years and a social worker for 18 years. The International Library of Poetry awarded her a trophy for her poetry in 2001. She published her first book entitled, "A Cry In the Wilderness" in 2000. She received awards for service delivery from the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance in 2007 and most recently in 2010. Reverend Jones-Turner is a leader within the Action Alliance and the Women of Color Caucus, which she helped to establish. She has worked actively with Break the Silence Campaign and other initiatives linking advocacy and faith communities. She was a board member of Virginians Against Domestic Violence for almost 20 years and has just founded a new domestic violence program in the state. As a motivational speaker, Reverend Jones-Turner guides those who participate in her workshops toward self-enlightenment. She believes and teaches that one cannot transcend the "world's" perspective without confronting and accepting one's own inadequacies. When asked to summarize her work, Patricia responded, "In my journey, from daughter to sister to sister-in-law to wife to Aunt to teacher to coach to athletic trainer to social worker to Minister to author to advocate, I learned that in life the most valuable lessons we learn may be the most painful; yet they all should lead us to one place... understanding and appreciating the richness and fulfillment that loving relationships can bring."





{ Claire Kaplan }



From the minute she set foot in Virginia twenty years ago, Claire Kaplan has been fully committed in action as well as word to the mission and goals of the statewide coalition. Bringing her remarkable vision for action and advocacy from Los Angeles, where she held leadership positions in the Commission on Assaults Against Women, to the University of Virginia Women's Center, she became directly involved with the statewide coalition. She represented campus sexual assault programs on the Board of Virginians Aligned Against Sexual Assault, and following that, on the Board of the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance. She is a founding member of the Virginia Coalition on Campus Sexual Assault; has served on the Charlottesville Interim Coordinating Council of the Alliance since 1994; and was an at-large Board Member and Chair of Membership and Ad Hoc Board Restructuring Committees for Virginians Aligned Against Sexual Assault from 1997 to 2004. A born educator, Claire asks us to listen and to honor diverse voices, particularly those of the underserved. She brings to the Action Alliance and Virginia the voices of El Salvador, the language of the deaf, the acknowledgement of race and sexual orientation as important to survivors. Her Handbook for Survivors is so powerful—8500 copies have been distributed across the state and beyond—precisely because she had the humility to know that sections had to be written by survivors of all backgrounds. Because of her we can know directly the experience of survivors who are lesbians, immigrants, African Americans, Latinas, deaf, older women and the very young.



{ Cartie Lominack }

Describing her own contributions to the movement as “a labor of love,” Cartie Lominack has been working on and behind the scene for decades, nurturing the growth and development of Virginians Against Domestic Violence (VADV) and the Action Alliance. It would not be appropriate to think of Cartie’s contributions in terms of her projects or initiatives alone. Rather, it has been her steadfast leadership and guidance in the governance of the state coalition that distinguishes her legacy. From the beginning, Cartie has integrated statewide efforts with her work at the Shelter for Help in Emergency. She joined the Board of VADV in 1989 shortly after being hired as Director of the Shelter and served as its President from 1993-1997. As President, Cartie worked with the Co-Directors and staff during a time of intense growth, which included expanding coalition staff from two part-time to six full-time people, more than doubling state funding for programs, and establishing a 24-hour statewide hotline. Cartie later served as the Finance Chair, providing leadership to the coalition in navigating the fiscal issues related to transformation and building a solid, sustainable fund balance and fiscal plan for the future. She worked with the Commission on Family Violence, which was instrumental in advancing Virginia’s domestic violence policies. In 1992, Cartie received the Peace Award from VADV for her gentle insistence that we remain constantly vigilant for the ways violence takes root in our own thoughts and speech. Currently, Cartie encourages her staffs’ involvement in the coalition’s work, gifting each employee a one-year membership to the Alliance. Her nominators write: “Cartie is admired for her accomplishments locally and statewide, but she is respected for how she goes about the work—inspiring and challenging us to work for social justice beyond our jobs and in all aspects of our lives.”



Harriet McCollum

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Harriet McCollum's accomplishments as Executive Director of the Virginia Commission on Family Violence Prevention from 1994-1999 profoundly influenced the direction of sexual and domestic violence policy and programming in Virginia. Designed to provide leadership and guidance on the development of an effective response to family violence in the Commonwealth, the Commission completed its work and made its final report to the 2000 session of the General Assembly of Virginia. It was responsible for the successful introduction of 23 bills, 10 resolutions and 7 budget amendments adopted by the General Assembly. By the time it was completed, the Commission, its committees and subcommittees, had actively involved over 1200 Virginians in its work! Harriet provided amazing orchestration for the Commission: she ensured that issues were thoroughly debated, moved them forward effectively, and followed up on implementation. She assembled and mentored an amazing team of graduate students to assist in staffing the Commission, many of whom continue to contribute to the statewide work today! In addition, Harriet was a founding member of Prevent Child Abuse Virginia, and worked with that organization and Virginians Against Domestic Violence (VADV) for passage of the Family Violence Prevention Fund and Family & Children's Trust Fund legislation. She developed and implemented the Virginia Family Abuse Protective Order I-CAN System, an internet based interactive system that assists citizens in preparing documents for filing at court. She authored guides to family violence prevention for use by schools, businesses, judges, lawyers, magistrates, law enforcement and human service professionals. In 1998, a VADV Award recognized Harriet's commitment, energy and partnership to eliminate domestic violence in Virginia. In her "retirement," Harriet is a consultant to and trainer for national, state and local governmental and non-governmental groups, assisting them in developing policies, programs and services designed to enhance interagency cooperation, prevent family violence, and serve children and families.





{ Ruth Micklem }

Ruth Micklem has led, inspired and mentored a generation of advocates and activists. Beginning work in the field in 1986 after **interning** at a homeless shelter, Ruth recognized many residents were victims of sexual and domestic violence. She persuaded the Director of the shelter to allow her to begin a domestic violence program for the shelter residents. Shortly thereafter, Ruth relocated to Virginia Beach and worked with the YWCA and the Virginia Beach Department of Social Services, later accepting a position as Outreach and Education Coordinator for the Williamsburg Task Force on Battered Women and Sexual Assault (now called Avalon), providing court advocacy services for women and initiating services for women who had been criminally charged and were incarcerated.

Her statewide career started when she accepted the position of Co-Director for Virginians Against Domestic Violence (VADV) in 1990. Ruth was part of a dynamic team that brought the Coalition from a fledgling organization with two staff members to one of the largest and most influential Domestic Violence Coalitions in the nation. Her primary responsibilities included monitoring public policy issues and addressing the needs of battered women and domestic violence programs. During this time she served as a member of Attorney General Mary Sue Terry's Task Force on Domestic Violence, the Virginia Commission on Family Violence Prevention, and the Attorney General Jerry Kilgore's Advisory Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. She also represented VADV on a number of legislative studies and commissions, including the Gender Bias Task Force of the Supreme Court of Virginia and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner's Advisory Council for the development of Model Intimate Partner Violence Fatality Review Protocols.

Ruth was instrumental in opening the statewide hotline, the formation of the Training Institute, and the creation of a statewide, state of the art, data system for sexual and domestic violence service data, in addition to numerous partnerships and collaborations that moved policy and practice forward in positive ways. One individual who worked with her on several of these projects described Ruth best, "She took the time not only with me, but with all that crossed her path to not only teach but also learn."

A strong believer in the benefits of working together to create change, Ruth realized a long-held dream to bring the sexual assault and domestic violence coalitions together in 2004 providing leadership for five years to the newly formed Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance. Currently, Ruth has returned to her local community providing advocacy and policy work on the Northern Neck.



Dilcia Margott Molina Sanchez

Dilcia Molina has been described as “a passionate advocate willing to speak on behalf of the immigrant and refugee community.” This passion has taken Dilcia from her homeland of Honduras where she fled, after death threats and an attack on her son, to Fredericksburg, Virginia. A researcher and community educator, feminist and single mother, she has lived in the United States since 2002 when she was granted political asylum for her human rights activism in Central America. She is founder and director of Madre Tierra (mother earth), a community based organization striving to defend Latino immigrant women’s human rights. Dilcia assists immigrants seeking political asylum and other legal status adjustments under the grounds of sexual and domestic violence, human trafficking and hate crimes. At La Clinica del Pueblo, Dilcia has been successfully coordinating the “Entre Amigas” project for more than ten years, seeking to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS among Latinas while focusing on sexual-reproductive health and women surviving domestic and gender violence. Dilcia coordinates survivor support groups for the Rappahannock Council on Domestic Violence. Tireless in her efforts, Dilcia is coordinator of the “Alianza Latina Contra la Violencia de Genero” (The Alliance of Latina Agencies Against Gender Violence), a tri-state coalition dedicated to awareness, education and prevention of gender violence within the Latino community. Dilcia is a founding mother and member of the Board of Directors of WAYSIDE Center, the first center for community education in Virginia. She is a member of the Virginia Anti-Violence Project (addressing violence in the LGBTQ community). Thanks to her fearless voice and grassroots advocacy in a variety of arenas, programs now exist for Latina immigrants who are victims of domestic violence. Her courage, strength and beauty inspire others to reach far beyond the mainstream anti-violence community to find creative, community driven solutions to violence against women.



Grace Orsini



Grace Orsini's life and work have been intertwined with social justice and anti-violence efforts at local, state, national, and international levels since the early 1970s. She was instrumental in organizing the first NOW Chapter on many US military bases in Europe. While overseas, she assisted in the establishment of a Crisis Center for victims of rape, child abuse, and domestic violence. In fact, her home was used as a shelter for battered women. In addition, Ms. Orsini served as a Commissioner on the DC Commission on Violence Against Women and was past president of the DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Her professional memberships and awards are numerous, including the Women of Influence Award from the University of Maryland, an Outstanding Leadership Award from My Sister's Place, and a Catalyst Award from the Action Alliance. Grace served on the Governing Body for Virginians Against Domestic Violence and the Action Alliance, and the Governor's Commission on Sexual Violence. She is also one of the founding mothers of the Wild Women of Wisdom Task Force of the Alliance, which is dedicated to supporting older women working in the movement and survivors in the second half of life. A consummate trainer, Grace is a gifted educator with an ability to get her audience to grasp feminist concepts without stimulating defensive reactions. People who attend her workshops and seminars come away with a new and improved attitude and a desire to become involved. One nominator wrote: "I think what makes Grace's work unique is that she is able to combine her extensive knowledge and experience of sexual and domestic violence with a deeply spiritual awareness and a whacky sense of humor to disarm resistant criminal justice professionals, reach the devout faithful, and earn the respect of her colleagues."





Mary Beth Pulsifer

Described as innovative in thought, action, and advocacy, Mary Beth Pulsifer has been a long time leader and trainer in the sexual and domestic violence field. She served on the leadership team of Virginians Against Domestic Violence from 1993-2004, working to implement standards for certification and to develop the statewide data collection system (VADATA) for domestic violence programs. She served as the first Governing Body Facilitator of the newly transformed Action Alliance, providing the much needed patience, guidance and maturity to lead this newly formed organization through its transition. She has continued to provide leadership to the Action Alliance in various capacities since Transformation, such as the Training Institute and the Public Policy Committees. For the last 18 years, Mary Beth has worked for the Women's Resource Center in Radford providing direct services and community coordination. Using her extensive knowledge and community education experience Mary Beth was instrumental in the development of the Virginia Training Institute and continues to serve on the training faculty. Locally, across the state and nationally, she has trained professionals in law enforcement, the judicial system, medical personnel, and other related fields on issues related to domestic violence. Mary Beth is considered one of the strongest and most seasoned trainers in the state. Her solid community connections and innovative training initiatives have also lead her to statewide public policy efforts and the promotion of effective community coordination. One nominator commented: "Mary Beth was an innovator in trauma informed advocacy before we even coined that term in the field. When she was in charge of domestic violence direct services at the Women's Resource Center, she figured out how to help everyone with a need. This is a strong value and legacy at the Women's Resource Center, one that has continued under Mary Beth's leadership."



{ Peggy Sullivan }

Peggy Sullivan has been a pioneer in the field of sexual and domestic violence in Virginia for more than 20 years. Her work has improved the lives of thousands of survivors and led to policy changes and practices that will move us towards the ultimate goal of eliminating domestic violence in our communities. She helped start the Virginia Training Institute, assisting with design of the institute and its core curriculum. As an advocate and leader in the domestic violence field Peggy served on many boards and statewide committees over the years; the Virginia Primary Prevention Team, the Attorney General's Virginia Commission on Family Violence Prevention from 1996-1998 and as a board member of Virginians Against Domestic Violence. As part of her statewide leadership, Peggy has also worked on legislative issues, using her effective training style to help move politicians forward on important issues. She spent 21 years at the local level in Prince William County helping bring a community together to work on this issue with her gracious listening, gifted insights and strong leadership style. Peggy co-presented an 8-hour Supreme Court of Virginia-certified Domestic Violence Training for Mediators and presented domestic violence training for the Attorney General's Office in 2010. Peggy's work across the state led to the formation of the Wild Women of Wisdom task force and other partnerships of women working to end sexual and domestic violence in Virginia. In the end, probably one of the most important things we have all learned from Peggy Sullivan is that even the most serious topic can be presented with grace, humor, great sensitivity, and of course a prop or two!





A long-time advocate, trainer, survivor, and activist in the sexual and domestic violence movement, Alice Twining's legacy with Virginias Against Domestic Violence (VADV) and the Action Alliance is among its most indelible. Alice served 14 years on the Board of Directors of VADV, five of those as president. She was one of the first trainers for its Training Institute and helped recruit, hire, and support the Co-Directors of VADV. She received training to become an expert witness on domestic violence, sexual assault and child custody cases, bringing an existing expertise on trauma that continued to develop and benefit many survivors. She has worked on countless advisory boards, committees and state wide task forces, including the Retreat, Women with Disabilities, and Art of Surviving Committees. She represented the statewide coalition on Virginia's Maternal Mortality Review Team, advocating for victims while urging her colleagues to think broadly and carefully about primary prevention strategies. She spent considerable time and energy working to transform VADV and VAASA and creating the Action Alliance, providing wisdom and encouragement to both staff and volunteers throughout the process. Today Alice works part time in Hampton Roads doing clinical supervision, training and expert testimony. Recognized for her achievements with the North Star Peace Award and VADV Volunteer of the Year Award, Alice's contributions to the statewide coalition resound in countless ways. She has been a champion and cheerleader for the Action Alliance by making significant financial contributions and offering her expertise as a trainer, a psychologist and a survivor whenever and wherever it was needed.

{ Alice Twining }



{ Susheela Varky }

Susheela Varky has been involved in the public interest arena for 22 years, with a strong interest in working to end violence and discrimination against women. In DC, she gained national and local experience in housing and women's issues at organizations such as McAuley Institute, The National Housing Trust and Women Empowered Against Violence. In 1998, she joined the national drafting committee of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and helped write VAWA's original housing provisions. Since moving to Richmond, Ms. Varky has worked for the Legal Information Network for Cancer, and the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia. At the Court, Ms. Varky worked with other state agencies to improve domestic violence protective order policies and procedures in six diverse localities in Virginia. Since September 2007, Ms. Varky has continued her work in the domestic and sexual violence arena as a staff attorney for the Virginia Poverty Law Center, a statewide support organization for legal aid offices across the state. Her duties include training, advocacy, providing legal consultations and, on occasion, taking compelling domestic violence- or sexual violence-related cases that local legal aid attorneys are not able to take. In her current role as Facilitator for the Governing Body of the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Action Alliance, she has worked with staff and fellow governing body members to complete the transition from two coalitions to one strong, unified coalition. Susheela also leads her talent as an active member of the Women of Color Caucus. In 2009 Ms. Varky helped start a free, pilot legal clinic with the Challa Law Offices for undocumented immigrant domestic and sexual violence victims. Susheela is a fierce public policy advocate for survivors of violence, helping to work on legislation that expanded the definition of who may receive a protective order and the speed at which these orders are entered into the statewide database. She has spent literally hundreds of hours working on behalf of violence against women initiatives with determination and boundless energy that continues to move our work forward in Virginia and inspire all who come in contact with her.





{ Marcy Wright }

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hen you think of someone with staying power in the domestic violence movement, you think of Marcy Wright. Her steady, wise voice has been a constant support in Virginia. She has spent almost a quarter of a century working for Transitions Family Violence Services in the Hampton Roads Community, with 11 of those years as Executive Director. In her role as Director of Transitions, Marcy has shared her expertise on managing tiered shelter facilities, while engaging in community prevention work with colleagues in her region and throughout the state. Her leadership in her local community DELTA project has been instrumental in strengthening primary prevention programming. She has taken the prevention lessons learned in her community, and actively participated in the DELTA statewide prevention team. Marcy has also contributed her talents statewide participating in the VSTOP (Violence Against Women Act) team that assists in providing feedback to the Department of Criminal Justice Services, ensuring the funding stream is used to promote activities that increase apprehension, prosecution and adjudication of persons committing violent crimes against women. Marcy also assisted the leadership team of the Action Alliance during its recent hiring process of the new Co-Director Alba Jaramillo. Finally Marcy has been a long term member of the Women of Color Caucus. Her constant presence and quiet, thoughtful work are what make her unique. As one advocate simply stated "When you ask Marcy Wright to do something to benefit domestic violence survivors, you know the answer is always yes!"



{ Women of Color Caucus }



The Women of Color Caucus is a group of women who impacted first Virginians Against Domestic Violence and now continue their efforts with the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance. They provided training to the organizations' members and to others in the early 1990s, promoting understanding and sensitivity for the plight of Women of Color. One of the original caucuses and still strong after more than twenty years, its members spoke up when the anti-racism movement was not popular or acceptable, when it was not alright to challenge the status quo or to expose racism within shelter organizations. The Women of Color Caucus is still supporting the efforts of this coalition to become an anti-racist organization, promoting not simply equality among its staff, shelter programs, and members, but also human rights for all people regardless of nationality, sex, race, religion, language or status. A long time member of the caucus writes: "We stand united as women who have been enraged yet encouraged, as living testimonies to those who are with us and for those who follow, demonstrating that if we remain with the struggle, there will be a time when violence in our communities will be eradicated. To nominate one would be an injustice to all, because we stand on the shoulders of so many who have long since passed their mantles to those who heeded the call to stay with the struggle. It is because of you that I can be strong. It is because of you that I have survived the horrors of abuse. Stay in the struggle for me and for others who have no voice." The Action Alliance recognizes the Women of Color Caucus for its tenacity, courage, sincerity, support, and for having the heart to shine when it is cloudy and laugh when tears yearn to pour forth.

Action Alliance Task Forces and Caucuses 2011

WHAT IS A TASK FORCE?

A collective of members sharing a particular area of concern who gather within The Action Alliance to accomplish identified tasks relevant to addressing that area of concern and reflective of the mission and goals of the Action Alliance.

Child Advocacy Task Force

This Task Force was formed in 2007, describing their work as a statewide collaboration to promote a healthy environment free of sexual and domestic violence for all children. Members include child and youth advocates who work in a variety of settings, including SDVAs, Child Advocacy Centers, schools, community centers, faith communities and others. The Task Force provides a space for education and networking, and together members are working to develop tools to strengthen services to children and youth.

Latin@ Justice Task Force

The Latin@ Justice Task force was recently formed in 2011 to create a network of allies of the Latin@ and non-Latino communities to promote access to services for Latin@ survivors of sexual and domestic violence in addition to raising awareness among SDVAs about social issues affecting Latina survivors. The task force also: advocates for just immigration policies that affect survivors, raises awareness about the Action Alliance in the Latino community and fundraises for services, develops curriculum, is a resource to local programs, works with allied professionals, and provides workshops and trainings to serve the Latino population.

Northern Virginia Task Force

The Northern Virginia Task Force formed in 2004 and is comprised of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Dual Programs that self-define as serving residents of Northern Virginia. The group meets quarterly to discuss individual program updates, current legal and policy trends in the Northern Virginia area, and is a space which provides support for the advocacy community in the region. Due to the region's urban environment and jurisdictional closeness, the Task Force meetings are a time to collaborate, problem solve, and improve responses to victims of domestic and sexual violence.

Southwest Virginia Task Force

In 2004 programs from across Southwestern Virginia met to form a Task Force identifying the following objectives: to provide a voice for historically oppressed and marginalized people of Southwest Virginia within the Alliance and society; to provide a means for Southwest Virginia Domestic and Sexual Violence advocates to meet and share information and provide support while working towards a violence-free society; to advocate for the equality of every programs' ability to participate in Alliance work and training events reducing the obstacles of prohibitive and excessive travel costs and staff time invested thereby eliminating the need for some programs to choose between participation in Alliance work and direct client services; to address the challenges distinct to sexual and domestic violence victims/survivors in Southwest Virginia; and to be a catalyst for challenging and changing the disempowering influences of dominant culture on citizens in Southwest Virginia.

Wild Women of Wisdom Task Force

The goals of the Wild Women of Wisdom Task Force, formed in 2005, are to celebrate aging in a positive way, support each other, share strategies about how they are able to do this work and thrive—mentor women in the movement, and advocate for older homeless, battered and sexual assault survivors, and practice laughter and support our senses of humor.

WHAT IS A CAUCUS?

A collective of members who share a traditionally oppressed and/or marginalized status in The Action Alliance and/or in society.

Latin@ Caucus

Formed in 2011 the Latin@ Caucus is designed to provide a support system and safe space for advocates and Alliance members who identify as being Latin@. The caucus provides support around the following issues: Latin@ cultural identity; those who prefer to communicate in Spanish; advocates who are a minority within their sexual and domestic violence programs; mentorship for Latin@ advocates; assisting the Action Alliance achieving its strategic goals of inclusiveness of diverse populations and the immigrant community; providing Basic Advocacy Training on cultural competency.

Queer Caucus

The Queer Caucus grew out of the work of the LGBTQ² Task Force and the Action Alliance partnership with the Virginia Anti-Violence Project. Formed in 2009, the Caucus provides a forum for those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning to come together to explore issues and put forward a voice on behalf of queer advocates and survivors. This caucus provides feedback to the Action Alliance regarding brochure language, curricula development, anti-racism mission, and resources, in addition to providing workshops at the Annual Retreat, and offering on-site trainings related to the needs of LGBTQ survivors.

Survivor Caucus

The Survivor Caucus includes survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse; the goal of this caucus is to provide a safe place for survivors to have their voices heard while working within the Action Alliance to help implement governing rules. Members offer an annual Camp Mabon experience for survivors of sexual assault. The caucus also provides a workshop and/or roundtable discussion at the Annual Retreat addressing survivor interests, and created a speaker's bureau of survivors with diverse experiences trained in public speaking, media relations, and activism to testify at government hearings.

Women of Color Caucus

The purpose of the Women of Color Caucus is to create a source of peer/professional support and information, to develop Women of Color leadership within the coalition, and provide a voice for Women of Color who might not otherwise be heard. History has shown that Women of Color must be responsible for doing our own work because no one else will do it for us. Meetings are open to all individuals who self-identify as Women of Color, particularly those who work in Virginia's domestic violence programs and sexual assault crisis centers. Why the term "Women of Color"? The term Women of Color is a political statement because it represents women as an oppressed class who have claimed the power to name and define themselves and their experiences. Women of Color (WOC) include but are not limited to Native American, Africans, Hispanic, African-American, Chinese, Filipinos, Japanese, Koreans, Thai, Indo-Chinese, Vietnamese, and Pakistanis.

30th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

The Action Alliance would like to thank the 30th Anniversary Celebration Committee for their hard work and dedication to honoring and celebrating three decades of work in the sexual and domestic violence movement.

Angela Bridgeforth
Judy Castele
Kay Congdon
Gay Cutchin

Deb Downing
Marva Dunn
Annette Grimm
Shannon Freeman

Ruth Micklem
Virginia Powell
Arlene Vassel-Richards
Conni St. John

Carmen Williams
Megan Wood

Looking Forward

By Alba Jaramillo, J.D.
Action Alliance Co-Director

I am honored to have been selected as a new Co-Director for the Action Alliance. I look forward to working with Kristi VanAudenhove, and our dynamic staff and coalition members in continuing the legacy of this great organization.

In April, I moved to Virginia from Arizona with nothing but a suitcase and a whole lot of dreams for the movement. Here in Virginia, I met numerous leaders who had been dreaming and working towards a Virginia free of sexual and domestic violence for decades. In Virginia, I found a sexual and domestic violence movement that is powerful and vibrant.

People always ask me, "What do you envision for the future of the Action Alliance?" My response is that I aim to keep the legacy of our mothers of the movement in Virginia alive. I want to lead by example so that the daughters and son's of the movement like me, continue to create social change with the same rigor and passion as our predecessors.

In terms of new initiatives for the Action Alliance, as an attorney, I have a particular interest in developing a legal advocacy programs for victims of sexual and domestic violence. Furthermore, having worked in women's rights in Africa, I plan to incorporate human rights strategies and frameworks into work. Also, as an ethnic minority and community activist, I believe that the Action Alliance should ensure that ALL victims of sexual and domestic violence can exercise their right to live free of violence. This means ensuring that in our work we continue to analyze issues of oppression and works towards improving service delivery for underrepresented populations, including but not limited to communities of color, immigrants, victims of human trafficking, and the LGBTQ community. Additionally, as a former prevention educator, I believe that the Action Alliance has a responsibility to ensure that it is not only responding to sexual and domestic violence, but that it is actively and intentionally working towards preventing such violence. Lastly, because the Action Alliance and Virginia is fortunate to have great leaders who carry with them years of wisdom and experience in the movement, I would like to work towards creating a mentorship program to ensure that this wisdom is passed on and that new leaders and youth continue the legacy of the Action Alliance.

Thank you all for your revolutionary work!



30th ANNIVERSARY HONOR SELECTION COMMITTEE

The Action Alliance also thanks the 30th Anniversary Honor Committee for their outstanding job of selecting the honorees of "30 Voices for 30 Years- People Who Influenced Our Work".

Jennifer Bourne
Judy Castele
Marva Dunn

Sherrie Goggans
Tishaun Harris-Ugworji
Alba Jaramillo

Connie Kirkland
Darlene Ward
Linda Winston

Ellen Yackel

