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## from mac's executive director

Dear MAC Members and Friends:

Welcome to fall! Autumn is in the air and the leaves are turning bright and brilliant colors. I hope you are able to go for a walk or a drive and take in the beauty of the season.

It was great to connect with so many of you over the past month. While hosting the Annual Meeting and Capacity Building Training online was not the same as being with you all in person, we were glad to have so many of our members participate. Thank you for taking the time to invest in MAC and listen to what we have achieved and the vision for our work over the next year. Together, we will continue to break down barriers for crime victims and provide the support and advocacy they deserve.



I am sure you were all, like me, impacted by the death of Ruth Bader Ginsberg on September 18, 2020. One of my favorite quotes from her is:

*"If you want to be a true professional, you will do something outside yourself. Something to repair tears in your community. Something to make life a little better for people less fortunate than you. That's what I think a meaningful life is – living not for oneself, but for one's community."*

Ruth Bader Ginsburg lived an extraordinary and meaningful life. She fought to ensure equal protection in our laws, fearlessly dissented and defended, and was a powerful role model for us all. My hope is that our individual and collective work will honor her legacy.

I want to take a moment to ask all of you for some help. Due to the pandemic, MAC was unable to hold our silent auction at our Annual Meeting. Each year, the auction helps MAC raise much-needed unrestricted funds so we can continue to provide training and resources for victim advocates statewide. Could you help us today by signing up for RoundUp, an app that rounds up to the dollar your credit/debit purchases and donates those funds to MAC? Please see below for information on how to sign up to support MAC using RoundUp!

Please take care of yourselves and one another.

In Peace,

Bobbi Holtberg



## ROUNDUP APP

Your small change makes **BIG** changes for the Minnesota Alliance on Crime!

### 1 IMPACT

Donating the change from your credit/debit card purchases helps MAC provide training & resources for victim advocates statewide.

### 2 SIMPLE

Once you create an account, you do not need to use the app while making a purchase. Just swipe your card as usual!

### 3 EASY

Download the iPhone/ Android app or from the RoundUp website. Setup takes less than 45 seconds.

### 4 SECURE

RoundUp uses the same safe & secure technology to process payments as Amazon, Facebook & 100,000 more businesses.

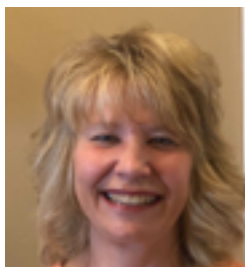
### 5 FLEXIBLE

You get to set your monthly maximum donation from your change. All donations help MAC!

Learn more by going to [www.mnallianceoncrime.org/roundup](http://www.mnallianceoncrime.org/roundup)



At the 2020 Minnesota Alliance on Crime Annual Meeting, held on September 10, 2020, a slate of three new members of the Board of Directors were voted in by the membership. Please welcome our fantastic new members!



**Linda Hagen**  
**Victim Services Specialist**  
***Yellow Medicine County Attorney's Office***

"I'm excited about the possibility to help MAC as a Board Member to enhance victims' rights and work to uphold MAC's mission and goals."



**Barb Hedstrom**  
**Victim & Community Services Coordinator**  
***Shakopee Police Department***

"I am interested in helping MAC advance their mission of making connections for the benefit of all crime victims by bringing my experiences in collaboration and communication."



**Alicia B. Nichols, LSW**  
**Deputy Director**  
***National Resource Center on Domestic Violence and Firearms,***  
***Battered Women's Justice Project***

"I am interested in joining the Board to support MAC's mission, its members, and to improve the responses to crime and violence for ALL Minnesotans."



Congratulations to Isbely McKeen, who received MAC's Spotlight Award at our Annual Meeting held on September 10, 2020. The Spotlight Award is annually awarded to a MAC member who demonstrates outstanding and innovative work on behalf of victims.



Isbely has worked as a paralegal/accredited representative at the Immigrant Law Center in St. Paul for eight years. She was nominated by her colleague, Lenore Millibergity, who said of Isbely: "It's hard for most of us to imagine what it is like to be the victim of violence, and also an immigrant without documents, often unable to speak English, and trying to take care of children. That stress can come out in anger, panic, and depression. Isbely deals with all of that with unfailing compassion. Thanks to Isbely's efforts, virtually all of her clients have been approved and won legal status in the United States."

Thank you, Isbely, for your tireless work on behalf of immigrant victims!



### Khanh Lam

Hi, my name is Khanh. I am currently in my last year of my undergrad at Augsburg University. I'm majoring in psychology with a concentration in law. My plan right now is to go to graduate school for forensic psychology or criminal justice, possibly in Canada because I hope to one day live there. Growing up I loved shows like *Criminal Minds* and *NCIS: Los Angeles*. But my all-time favorite show is *Psych*.

This year I had a lot of free time, so my summer consisted of K-dramas and jigsaw puzzles. I enjoy listening to music from artists like Post Malone, Amy Winehouse, and BTS. I also have an interest in learning languages. I am by no means fluent, but I'm a beginner student in French, Spanish, Portuguese, Korean, and Vietnamese. After the pandemic, I hope to travel all over the world!

Fun facts about me: I used to play the tuba, I love the smell of citrus fruits, I am the godmother of 2 adorable cats, and my favorite place to travel to is Seattle.

### Emily Rekow

Hello, my name is Emily and I am a graduate student at Metropolitan State University pursuing my Master's in Advocacy and Political Leadership. I work as a domestic violence advocate at Tubman, helping victims navigate the court process and assisting them with protective orders. In my downtime, I also coach Speech at Chaska High School!

When I'm not working, you can typically find me with a logic problem book (or a canvas and paintbrush) in my hand, a cat on my lap, and an episode of *Saturday Night Live* from past decades (in their prime). If it's not SNL, I'm watching *Brooklyn 99*, *New Girl*, or a random yet interesting documentary on Netflix.

Fun facts about me: I am the granddaughter of two former State Representatives in the Iowa legislature, I have a 108-day streak on Duolingo working on my Spanish, and I can





whistle while smiling. Also, I have two of the best coworkers out there during this pandemic: Marcie and Frank, our two "spirited" and cuddly cats.

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MAC will not hold weekly MemberConnect sessions in October due to the Regional Membership Meetings all month. Our next MemberConnect will take place on **Wednesday, November 3, 2020**. Stay tuned for more information. And don't forget to join us for your region's meeting!

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The Minnesota Alliance on Crime (MAC) is convening a second set of online regional meetings in 2020 for our members throughout the state. These FREE meetings are an excellent opportunity for you to discuss emerging issues in your community, network with fellow members for enhanced collaboration, and to learn more about what's happening in other regions of the state and at MAC.

We will also hold a special mini-training with Julia Tindell, MAC's training and special projects program director!

#### **Focused Conversations 101 Mini-Training**

A skillfully designed Focused Conversation is an invaluable tool for leaders of all kinds. Whether you're hosting a staff meeting, facilitating a project debrief, or trying to decide what to order in for lunch, a Focused Conversation can be an effective vehicle for productive discussions with broad group participation. In this workshop, participants will learn the basics of how to design and facilitate Focused Conversations using the ORID method developed and popularized by the Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA). The workshop will consist of a brief presentation followed by extensive opportunities for participants to practice designing Focused Conversations that are practical, engaging, and meaningful.

**The regional meetings will be held ONLINE so that that you can participate in the meeting without even leaving your desk!**

**[Click to Register for Online Regional Meetings](#)**

**[Northern Region:](#)** Tuesday, October 6

**[Central Region:](#)** Tuesday, October 13

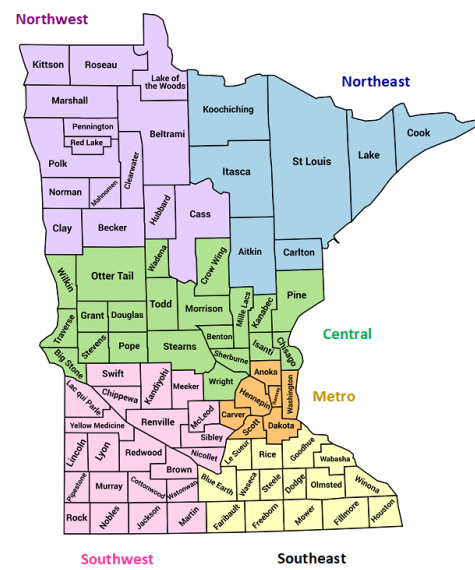
**Metro Region:** Tuesday, October 20

**Southern Region:** Tuesday, October 27

**All meetings will be held from 9:00 to 11:00 am.**

If you have any questions, please contact  
**Danielle**.

**All MAC members are welcome to join us!**



## news from the field

### **Bobby Brown's Beyond the Court, Hennepin Healthcare Next Step Program, Shiloh Temple International Ministries, Wellspring Second Chance Program: Unburden Yourself - Gun Buy Back and Community Forum**

Please join us in Minneapolis on October 3, 2020 for an opportunity to safely dispose of firearms, access counseling, register to vote and participate in a community form. [More info here](#).

### **Dream Corps: Survey on Fines, Fees, and Restitution**

The average person leaving prison returns home with \$13,000 owed in either fines, fees, or restitution. It is a huge financial burden, which can make reentry even more challenging than it already is. More often than not, low-income communities of color are the ones who are paying these expenses, and many of them struggle to do so. [Do you or a loved one currently owe any fines, fees, or restitution as a result of incarceration?](#) Dream Corps #cut50 is partnering with the [Fines and Fees Justice Center](#) to tackle how COVID has impacted people who owe any type of fines, fees, or restitution. We've put together a survey with questions surrounding how the pandemic has impacted a person's inability to pay their state owed debt. The responses will help both #cut50 and our partner, Fines and Fees Justice Center, identify the challenges COVID has had on those who owe fines and fees and what long-term changes we can advocate to make this system work for everyone. Please share this survey!

### **National Center for Victims of Crime: Promising Practices - Multidisciplinary Responses to Complex Homicide Cases Report**

The Promising Practices report includes information provided by demonstration sites and subject matter experts on improving responses to homicide cases. It also provides guidance on building a multidisciplinary team, and offers solutions to common challenges that sites encountered throughout their work on the project. [Read the report](#).

### **National Latin@ Network: Join Us for ¡Adelante!**

We are proud to host ¡Adelante! A virtual celebration of Latin@-led advocacy September 28-October 9, 2020 in recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month and Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Tune in daily at 11:00 am to be the first to catch our pre-recorded sessions and register for week two's live sessions. You don't want to miss amazing Latinas in government, journalism, advocacy, and the arts. Together, we're advancing the movement to end gender-based violence through Latin@ leadership. [Click here to see the agenda and register!](#)

### **National Network to End Domestic Violence: Voting & Survivor Privacy**

The Supreme Court has emphasized the importance of voting, saying it is the key to preserving all other rights. NNEDV works hard to lift up the voices of survivors in policymaking so that their concerns are on the national agenda. And it's important for survivors to be fully aware of how their voter information is collected, used, shared, or sold, so they can make informed decisions about their privacy and safety when registering to vote or casting a ballot. [Read more](#).

### **National Resource Center for Reaching Victims: Language Access - Keeping Systems Accountable During Emergencies**

COVID-19 has forced victim service providers to adapt and change to new ways of creating access for



their clients. Advocates play an important role in creating greater access for survivors who are limited English proficient or Deaf and Hard of Hearing to other community systems and resources. This work is critical in order to decrease barriers for survivors, makes approaching the same resource easier the next time, and decreases barriers for others in similar situations. Check out our latest webinar - [Language Access: Keeping Systems Accountable During Emergencies](#). This prerecorded session provides practical information on how to prepare advocates to facilitate change by intervening when systems are not complying with laws and guidelines regarding language access provision.

### **Propel Nonprofits: Seeking Proposals for COVID-19 Recovery Grants**

Propel Nonprofits is seeking proposals for COVID-19 recovery grants for nonprofits. Nonprofits and fiscally sponsored organizations invited to apply are those led by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and serving BIPOC communities, with an organizational budget size between \$100,000 and \$2 million, and that has been in operation a minimum of one year. Grants awarded will be general operating funds. These grants are intended to support nonprofits in their response to and recovery from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, including resulting financial impacts on operations and effects on communities served. [More information here.](#)

### **Women's Foundation of Minnesota: 2020 Status of Women & Girls in Minnesota**

WFMN has long invested in research to understand the realities facing women and girls across Minnesota so that we may target community-centered solutions for gender and racial equity. This week, we launched our newest report, the [2020 Status of Women and Girls in Minnesota](#), produced with the Center on Women, Gender, and Public Policy of the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. Yesterday, we hosted a conversation to discuss the findings.

## upcoming trainings & webinars



### **About This Webinar**

COVID-19 has greatly affected domestic and sexual violence survivors—causing job loss, further isolation, an increase in emotional stress and violence, and difficulty in accessing legal services and other protections. These barriers are further exacerbated when immigration status, unfamiliarity with the legal system, and language access requirements are also present. Ikram and Rachel will confront the barriers immigrant survivors encounter and will provide options and strategies for achieving safety.

**MAC has applied for CLEs.**

### **Presenter Bios**

**Rachel Kohler** (she/her) joined Standpoint as a staff attorney in 2016. She has been working primarily in immigration law since 2009. Her experience working at a non-profit immigration clinic in Boston, providing immigration assistance to victims of various crimes, including domestic assault and trafficking, provided her with a desire to attend law school and become an attorney. As an attorney, Rachel worked at Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, providing assistance to those going through the citizenship and naturalization process, and has clerked at the immigration court and at several private immigration firms. She is bilingual in English and Spanish.

**Ikram Osman** (she/her) joined Standpoint in August 2020. Ikram has been working in domestic and sexual violence advocacy since 2016. Ikram has worked in crisis intervention, court advocacy, safety planning and volunteer trainings. Ikram is passionate about violence prevention and resource accessibility specifically in immigrant and refugee communities. She received her bachelors in

**Register Now**



## Minnesota Victim Assistance Academy

**The Minnesota Office of Justice Programs has extended the deadline for registration for the 2020 Minnesota Victim Assistance Academy to Friday, October 9, 2020.**

The Minnesota Victim Assistance Academy (MNVA) is a foundational-level educational opportunity for victim service providers and criminal justice professionals offered by the Minnesota Office of Justice Programs (OJP). MNVA is an intensive course of study designed to improve the quality and consistency of victim services in Minnesota. It uses a multi-disciplinary educational approach to convey the knowledge, skills, and attitudes practitioners will need as they seek to restore victims and help them regain control of their lives. The comprehensive curriculum has been created specifically for Minnesota by a multidisciplinary committee assembled by the Minnesota Office of Justice Programs (OJP) and its partners.

Sessions will be held online on Tuesdays and Thursdays in October and November.

**[Click for more information and to register.](#)**

## Other Trainings and Webinars

### **Honoring Experience: Advocacy with Older Victims/Survivors**

**Sponsored by the Minnesota Elder Justice Center**

**Webinar | October 1, 2020 | 1:00 to 2:30 pm**

In the midst of uncertain times the Minnesota Elder Justice Center advocacy program continues to offer services to older participants and their supporters including those experiencing interpersonal violence. Advocates are available to listen and support victims and loved ones and can help make sense of complicated systems, provide safety planning, and locate needed resources. Join us to learn about MEJC's advocacy services, and to hear about some special considerations we make when working with older victim/survivors: advocacy strategies that may be fruitful in your own work. [Learn more.](#)

### **Should They Stay or Should They Go: Helping Domestic Violence Survivors with Interstate Cases**

**Sponsored by the Battered Women's Justice Project**

**Webinar | October 7, 2020 | 11:00 am to 12:30 pm**

This webinar will provide participants with an overview of the various federal and state laws that govern interstate custody cases. It is designed for attorneys, victim advocates, and other community partners who wish to understand the basic framework of how these laws fit together. Case scenarios will be used to demonstrate how practitioners can help survivors address the economic, safety and legal issues involved when they cross state or tribal lines to flee abuse. [Learn more.](#)

### **Power and Control of Financial Exploitation as a Form of Elder Abuse**

**Sponsored by the Minnesota Elder Justice Center**

**Webinar | October 15, 2020 | 1:00 to 2:30 pm**

This presentation looks specifically at financial harm and financial exploitation as an exercise of power and control. We will discuss warning signs of financial exploitation and what a person can do if she or he suspects someone is being victimized. We'll take a look at some definitions and statistics related to financial exploitation, explore some case studies that illustrate the challenges we face in responding to these crimes, and talk about resources available to all of us in the fight against financial exploitation. [Learn more.](#)



## **Assisting Victims of Human Trafficking in the Protection Order Process: Challenges and Options**

**Sponsored by the Battered Women's Justice Project**

**Webinar | October 20, 2020 | 1:00 to 2:30 pm**

Human trafficking victims often experience several forms of abuse, such as domestic violence and sexual assault. These survivors may be afraid to disclose information to obtain relevant legal assistance, thereby remaining vulnerable to traffickers. To address this issue, attorneys must have the knowledge and tools to understand human trafficking, identify victims, and recognize the legal needs of these survivors. This webinar will examine the complexities of human trafficking and the challenges survivors face when deciding whether or not to obtain a protection order. Participants will receive information on how to obtain tools, training, and technical assistance on understanding human trafficking and assisting survivors.

[Learn more.](#)

## **A Conversation for Building Resiliency as a Foundation for Perseverance**

**Sponsored by Women's Advocates**

**Webinar | October 21, 2020 | 6:30 to 8:00 pm**

In this virtual discussion, a mental health professional will discuss the following: 1. How has COVID-19 impacted people who are currently or have previously experienced relationship abuse or abuse within their household? 2. What is resiliency? How can it set the foundation for perseverance? What does resiliency look like, feel like, sound like? 3. What are the barriers to perseverance? How do we address them? How do we tend to our emotional, physical, spiritual, bodily, psychological needs? We invite you to be apart of this conversation that aims to provide more information on building resiliency as a foundation for perseverance as it pertains to COVID-19 implications and the experience of relationship/domestic abuse. [Learn more.](#)

## **Expert Q&A: Reimagining Our Community Responses to Intimate Partner Violence**

**Sponsored by the Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center**

**Webinar | October 28, 2020 | 1:00 to 2:15 pm**

As issues around race are being discussed more openly in the current environment, many victim advocates are grappling with the reality of the complex, and often harmful, impacts of collaborative system responses to intimate partner violence on Black and Brown victims of intimate partner violence. This session, featuring Zoë Flowers, will provide an opportunity to explore the intersections of experiences of racism in the Black community and offer a reimagining of how our communities respond to intimate partner violence. [Learn more.](#)

## **upcoming events**

### **Breaking Free: Annual Candlelight Vigil**

Join us as we walk down University Avenue and hold our annual Candlelight Vigil remembrance ceremony to honor the life and beauty of those survivors of sex trafficking who have passed away.

We are pleased to have special guests Vednita Carter, founder of Breaking Free, John Harrington, Commissioner of the Minnesota of Public Safety, and KG Wilson, community activist.

**Tuesday, October 6, 2020 from 5:30 - 7:30 pm**  
**770 University Ave W, St. Paul, MN 55104**

Please park on side streets: Avon, Grotto or Aurora.

### **Women's Advocates: Emergency Response Virtual Benefit**

This year, we are going virtual with our annual fundraising event to recognize domestic violence awareness month and the movement to end domestic violence. In the midst of a global pandemic, we've been called on by the community to help more. To do this, we need support and invite you to join us.

**Our virtual event will take place on Thursday, October 15 at noon on YouTube.**

The event is free to attend and donations will be requested. A challenge grant has been issued – a dollar

for dollar match up to \$75,000. This fund will equip Women's Advocates to continue supporting victims of domestic violence with 24/7 crisis intervention, emergency shelter, housing advocacy, and the mobilization of safety resources throughout the community and beyond.

**[Register now!](#)**

## employment opportunities

Resources for job seekers:

**[Association of Minnesota Counties Jobs](#)**

**[Indeed](#)**

**[Legal Services State Support Positions Available](#)**

**[Minnesota Council of Nonprofits Job Board](#)**

**[Minnesota County Attorney's Association Job Bank](#)**

## contact us

**As always, if you have any suggestions for MAC, we welcome your input!**

**Bobbi Holtberg, Executive Director**  
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**Danielle Kluz, Program Director - Communications and Engagement**  
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**[amee@mnallianceoncrime.org](mailto:amee@mnallianceoncrime.org)**

**Julia Tindell, Program Director - Training and Special Projects**  
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**[www.mnallianceoncrime.org](http://www.mnallianceoncrime.org)**

## about the minnesota alliance on crime

The Minnesota Alliance on Crime connects systems, service providers, and victims to advance the response for victims of all crime. MAC is a membership coalition of more than 90 crime victim service providers in Minnesota, including prosecution-based victim/witness programs, community programs, law enforcement agencies, and individuals committed to supporting crime victims. We support our membership through training, technical assistance, resources, public policy and legislative initiatives, and networking opportunities.

**For more information about MAC, go to [www.mnallianceoncrime.org](http://www.mnallianceoncrime.org).**

**To join our coalition of crime victim service programs, [click here](#).**