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# from mac's executive director

Dear Members and Friends:

I have been struggling to find words that can adequately describe all the feelings I have experienced about what has transpired in our state and communities over the past years, months, weeks, and days.

MAC has taken on the work of self-reflection so we may identify areas of our organizational policies, work, and relationships that do and do not align with [our core values](#).



We have begun to have conversations with our member programs about how crime victims benefit when we develop and apply an anti-racist lens to our work. As we have been facilitating these conversations, I have been reading, [Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent](#) by Isabel Wilkerson. As I was reading the books, I realized that what we're talking about with members is the need to have *radical empathy*

As Ms. Wilkerson writes in *Caste*:

*"Radical empathy means putting in the work to educate oneself and to listen with a humble heart to understand another's experience from their perspective, not as we imagine we would feel. Radical empathy is not about you and what you think you would do in a situation you have never been in and perhaps never will. It is the kindred connection from a place of deep knowing that opens your spirit to the pain of another as they perceive it.*

*"Empathy is no substitute for the experience itself. We don't get to tell a person with a broken leg or a bullet wound that they are not in pain. And people who have hit the caste lottery are not in a position to tell a person who has suffered under the tyranny of caste what is offensive or hurtful or demeaning to those at the bottom. **The price of privilege is the moral duty to act when one sees another person treated unfairly. And the least that a person in the dominant caste can do is not make the pain any worse.**"*

I have so much to learn and so much more growing to do as I commit to radical empathy being at the center of my life and work. I appreciate all of you who are committed to having radical empathy at the center of your work with crime victims. It truly is the least we can do.

In Peace,

Bobbi Holtberg



Join the Minnesota Alliance on Crime for a weekly free gathering on Zoom to share, network, vent, laugh, and **connect** with your fellow members and MAC staff.

**All [MAC members](#) are welcome to join us! First-timer? We'd love to see you!**

**Innovating the Response to Victims of Residential Burglary with RTI**  
Featuring Lynn Langton, Brian Aagaard, and Kirsty Weitzel, Research  
Triangle Institute (RTI)

Wednesday, May 12, 2021  
12:00 – 1:00 PM

In 2019, the Minnesota Alliance on Crime began a partnership with the **Research Triangle Institute** (RTI) to advance the systems response for victims of residential burglary. The project has evolved significantly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the team is now working to develop a chatbot. EVVA (Enhanced Virtual Victim Assistant) is designed to be connected to police department websites to improve access to information, resources, and referrals for victims of residential burglary.

Join us for this special MemberConnect in which the team from RTI will share information about the project and the process of developing a chatbot, demo the chatbot for participants, and talk about how you can help us bring this exciting new resource to Minnesota victims.

Questions? Contact **Danielle**.

**Register now!**

**Have you worked with someone recently who has experienced a break-in?**

MAC and RTI International are seeking participants for short victim interviews. Those participating will be compensated.

The Minnesota Alliance on Crime is partnering with the **Research Triangle Institute** (RTI) to develop a chatbot to help connect victims of burglary to information and resources through their local police departments. Over the last year, we have collaborated on the development of a toolkit for victims, which we have used to inform the chatbot development. Now, we are seeking victims of burglary to participate in interviews to further inform our work. Victims will be compensated for their time.

**Download this flyer with info to distribute to your clients.**



news from the field

## **The Atlantic: Vaccine Refusal Will Come at a Cost—For All of Us**

If the 30 percent of Americans who are telling pollsters they won't get vaccinated follow through, the costs of their decisions will pile up. The economy could take longer to get back to full speed, and once it does, it could get shut down again by outbreaks. Variants will continue to spread, and more people will die. Each COVID-19 case requires weeks of costly rehabilitation. Even after the pandemic fades, millions of vaccine refusers could turn into hundreds of thousands of patients who need extra care, should they come down with the disease. [Read more.](#)

## **Baltimore Sun: Racism Is a Serious Threat to Public Health, CDC Says. Look at Police Killings to See Why**

Racism is a serious threat to public health, the head of the Centers for Disease Control declared last week. But the endorsement of the country's top public health agency is significant in what it can mean for the direction of research dollars and the focus on health strategies in this country — and in whose life experiences matter. [Read more.](#)

## **Code Currents: How Tech Perpetrates Domestic Violence**

Abusers are using Stalkerware and smart homes to abuse domestic violence survivors. Coda reporter Erica Hellerstein looks at how technology opens up new avenues for harassment, intimidation and surveillance. Featuring Erica Olson of the National Network to End Domestic Violence Safety Net Project. [Listen now.](#)

## **FORGE and the National Resource Center for Reaching Victims: Resources on LGBTQ+ Youth**

In partnership with the National Resource Center for Reaching Victims, FORGE created a set of resources for victim service providers on trans/LGBTQ+ youth and violence prevention. This white paper explains how and why LGBTQ children and youth are experiencing more violence and trauma, and how those experiences tend to lead to even more violence and trauma down the road. Most importantly, it explains how this trajectory can be disrupted, even by neighbors and other bystanders. [Download this resource.](#)

## **Health: How to Cope with the Emotional Distress of a Mass Shooting – Even If It Didn't Directly Affect You**

Gun violence doesn't just kill and injure people—it also takes a heavy emotional toll, leading to everything from anxiety to PTSD. [Read now.](#)

## **Minnesota Public Radio News and Sahan Journal: Asian American History Is Rarely Taught in Schools. Educators Say That Fuels Anti-Asian Violence**

Most of Erika Lee's undergraduate students at the University of Minnesota have never learned any Asian American history before they set foot in her classroom. "It's almost a complete absence of any knowledge. It is that bad," said Lee, a professor of history and Asian American studies who also serves as director of the university's Immigration History Research Center. "That's what it's like to be invisible, to feel like your history doesn't matter or count." [Read more.](#)

## **Minnesota Public Radio News: How We're Processing the Killing of Another Black Man by Police in Minnesota**

Lisa Clemons was one of the first people to the scene of the killing of 20-year-old Daunte Wright. She's the founder and director of [A Mothers Love Initiative](#), an organization of Black parents that supports families impacted by gun violence. "We get called out on a lot of traumatic incidents that happened in our community," Clemons said in an interview with MPR News host Angela Davis. "We get called out to be there for the family. ... I don't really care who pulls the trigger or who takes the life. I'm really out there for the family" of the victim. [Read more.](#)



**“I just want to get caught  
up with my rent.”**

**GET RENTHELP MN TODAY**

Visit [renthelpmn.org](https://renthelpmn.org) or call 211

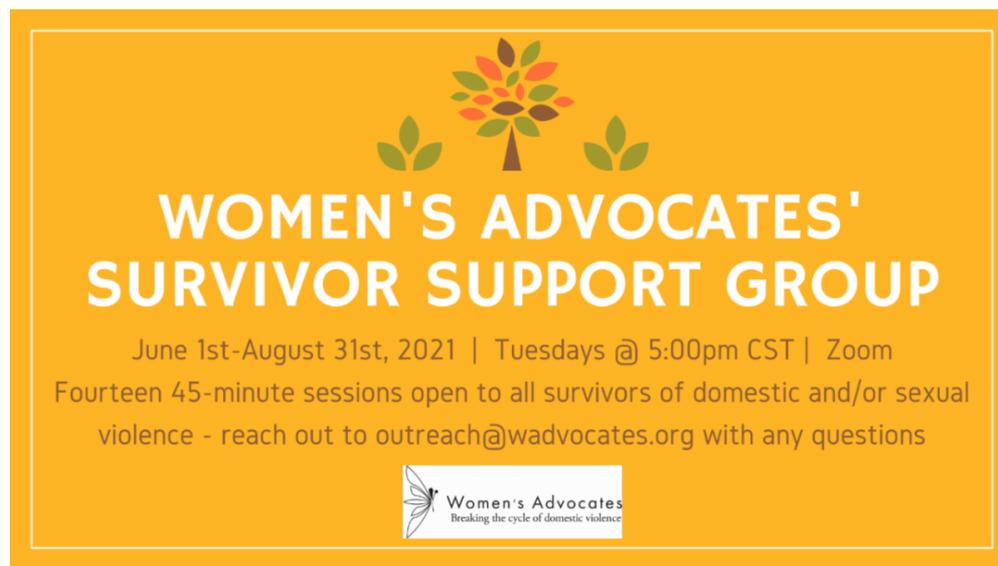
## RentHelpMN Now Open for Applications

Minnesota Housing is pleased to announce that [RentHelpMN](#) is now open and accepting applications. RentHelpMN makes it possible for eligible renters to get caught up on overdue rent and utilities dating back to March 13, 2020. It also makes provisions for those at risk of falling behind on rent payments due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please note that RentHelpMN is in Phase One, in which people with past due rent who meet eligibility requirements are invited to apply.

To apply for RentHelpMN, please visit [renthelpmn.org](#) or call 211. The 211 helpline has dedicated multilingual staff available to answer questions about RentHelpMN, 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Visit [renthelpmn.org](#) to learn more about the program and eligibility requirements and to apply.



### About the group

Women's Advocates is a domestic violence shelter located in St. Paul, Minnesota. We are excited to offer our very first Online Survivor Support Group. This group will be facilitated by Women's Advocates' Education and Outreach Coordinator, Brenisen Wheeler and Crisis Resource and Outreach Navigator, Mary Beth Becker-Lauth, who both identify as survivors. This group may be for you if you have experienced sexual and/or domestic violence and if you are looking for a collective, welcoming space to connect with yourself and with others as you continue on your healing journey. This is not a therapy group, it is a peer support group where the facilitators will bring various topics (boundaries, healthy communication, trust, safety) to the group and create a space for all group members to learn from each other.

### Logistics

This Online Survivor Support Group is a series of thirteen 45-minute sessions from June 1st to August 31st, 2021. The support group will take place from 5:00-5:45pm CST every Tuesday for the duration of the group. Our intention is for group members to attend all fourteen sessions if possible.

### Interest Form

If this sounds like a group that would be beneficial for you, we encourage you to fill out this interest form: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ihZo0lySwWR7IYCAul0JUBuFkD8b0oXnk5BEBvFZkaQ/edit?usp=sharing>

The first section of the form includes 3 short documents for interested participants to review before moving forward with expressing their interest in the group. We encourage all interested participants to read through the 3 documents to help them determine if this group will be a good fit for them.

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## Article: When the Eviction Moratorium Ends

### Standpoint

Now is an important time to talk with victim/survivors about housing. While the current Minnesota moratorium on evictions and lease terminations extends

through May 14, 2021, and the CDC moratorium on evictions for nonpayment of rent extends through June 30, 2021, the end of both is inevitable. When the moratoria are lifted, landlords will again be able to terminate leases and file evictions for nonpayment of rent. Since, prior to the COVID 19 pandemic, approximately 95% of evictions filed in Minnesota were for nonpayment of rent, there are concerns about an influx of tenants being evicted and facing homelessness. Advocates can play a crucial role in supporting victim/survivors in avoiding an eviction, navigating the eviction process, or preparing victim/survivors for a move:



- Ask questions about the victim/survivor's housing situation: Are they current on rent? Do they have any unpaid utilities? How is their relationship with their landlord? Do they anticipate their landlord will want them to move once the eviction moratorium is lifted? Have they ever had a landlord file anything with the court against them? Have they ever been forced to move out of a rental property?
- Get caught up on rent and utilities. The COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance might be a resource for tenants who have fallen behind on rent payments or utility bills since March 2020, check out the link [here](#).
- Be proactive to clear up negative rental history items. Check for previous evictions on the [Minnesota Courts website](#). Look for both eviction (UD) cases and conciliation court cases that may have been filed by a previous landlord. Refer to Standpoint for eviction expungement!
- Check out our Housing Program website for [more resources](#).
- [Contact us](#) to discuss training opportunities.

***Standpoint**, formerly known as the Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project (BWLAP), exists to serve domestic and sexual violence survivors, advocates, attorneys, and other professionals working within the justice system in the state of Minnesota. Since 1996, our organization has established a statewide reputation as a premier legal resource.*

## upcoming trainings & webinars

### **The 2021 Office of Justice Programs "Unconference": May 18-20 & May 25-27, 2021**

We invite you to join us for a training experience organized in an “un-conventional” way. What is an “un-conference?” It is a like a regular conference, but we’ve lifted all the pressure and expectation to attend each session. More than 20 sessions will be offered for your education and learning development. Find the sessions and schedule below by clicking in the blue box.

Our six day "Unconference" is designed to provide a forum of compelling topics, informed practice and emerging responses by subject matter experts in crime victim services and allied disciplines. Engage with your colleagues while learning and broadening your skillset on a virtual platform. We are committed to providing an inclusive, accessible space for professionals to share space and encouragement while navigating these changing times. Sessions are free for everyone to attend.

Registration will be available very soon, when attendees can view the session descriptions, read about the presenters and sign up for the training presentations they want to attend. Available event information is updated to the [OJP Training and Communications page](#), found on the DPS/OJP website.

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### **2021 Minnesota World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Conference**

**The 2021 Minnesota World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Conference** will be held virtually June 14-16th, from 9 am-noon each day. The WEAAD conference elevates issues of elder abuse, neglect and financial exploitation and provides education on best practices for prevention and response.

We are thrilled to announce [Ai-jen Poo](#), best-selling author and an award-winning organizer, as this year's keynote speaker.

The conference registration cost is \$65 and provides access to all three days. CEU, CLE, POST credits and a general certificate of attendance are included. A link to join will be made available to all registrants

prior to the conference start and will be valid for the duration of the conference.

For the full conference schedule and details, [please visit our website](#). Please direct questions to [katie.behrens@elderjusticemn.org](mailto:katie.behrens@elderjusticemn.org).



Join Victor Vieth, Rita Farrell, and other national investigative child protection experts as the 2021 Zero Abuse Project Summit explores emerging issues in forensic interviewing, investigation, and prosecution.

CLE credits now available.

[Click here for registration and more information.](#)

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## Other Trainings and Webinars

### **Healthy Communication + Modeling Boundaries with Kids** Sponsored by Women's Advocates with the Domestic Abuse Project Webinar | May 11, 2021 | 1:00 to 2:30 pm

Learn to define boundaries for children and adults, learn how they can be used and invalidated in abusive behavior, and discuss how children's boundaries are a fundamental part of the developmental process. Discuss how parents, caregivers, and other supportive professionals (advocates, school counselors, teachers) can maintain boundaries and use honest and open communication to support children when struggling with boundaries. And consider children's emotional health and regulation and how this can be affected as well as supported by boundaries, and discuss strategies and frameworks for understanding children who regularly challenge boundaries. [Learn more.](#)

### **Holding Court: The Importance of Professional Diversity on the Bench** Sponsored by Alliance for Justice Webinar | May 12, 2021 | 5:00 pm

Public defenders, trial attorneys, and advocates for workers, civil rights, and environmental protections have been severely underrepresented within our federal judiciary while individuals from corporate and prosecutorial legal backgrounds have been fast-tracked to the bench. Our federal judiciary must reflect the depth of experience across all corners of the legal profession and the country. By ensuring that a variety of backgrounds and life experiences are brought to bear when judges consider the cases that affect our daily lives, we not only improve the accuracy and legitimacy of judicial decisions, but ultimately strengthen the very foundation of our democracy. Please join us for a Holding Court conversation featuring comments by Senator Elizabeth Warren and a panel discussion featuring Chris Geidner, Editorial Director at The Appeal, Elie Mystal, Justice Correspondent at The Nation, and Kate Shaw, Professor of Law and the Co-Director of the Floersheimer Center for Constitutional Democracy at Cardozo Law School, for a discussion on the importance, necessity, and positive impacts of professional diversity on the federal bench. [Learn more.](#)

### **Self-Care for Advocates Conference** Sponsored by Self-Care for Advocates Virtual conference | May 12-14, 2021 Registration fee: \$25

Self-Care For Advocates is hosting its second annual conference. Join us this May to learn from experts on topics of burnout, vicarious trauma, trauma-informed supervision, community care, mental health, and more. [Learn more.](#)

## Advocacy through Language Access Plans

### **Sponsored by Standpoint**

**Webinar | May 21, 2021 | 2:00 pm**

This webinar will provide advocates with ideas on how to create or update their existing Language Access Plans (LAPs). We will cover the following topics: why advocacy agencies need an LAP, components to consider including in an LAP, state and federal laws, agency accessibility to underserved communities, questions and precautions to take in creating or updating an LAP, sample LAP templates, and resources to learn more. [Learn more.](#)

### **A Conversation About Supporting the Mental Health of Black Women**

**Sponsored by Women's Advocates and Face2Face**

**Webinar | May 21, 2021 | 4:00 pm**

Join Dorothee Tshiela, a clinical therapist at Face2Face and Saran Cryer, a mental health wellness counselor at Women's Advocates in a conversation about supporting the mental health of Black women. In this 90 minute conversation, the featured speakers will engage in a conversation about why mental health support matters for Black women and how to offer it; the stigma surrounding mental health in Black communities and how to mitigate its impact; and tools for how Black women can prioritize their mental health and actually ask for help. [Learn more.](#)

### **Serving Survivors with Mental Health Disabilities**

**Sponsored by The National Center on Ending Abuse of People with Disabilities**

**Webinar | May 25, 2021 | 10:00 to 11:30 am**

Survivors of domestic and sexual violence with mental health disabilities still face significant barriers in seeking and receiving healing services, including more significant or unfamiliar responses to trauma and lingering stigma around their disabilities. Service providers must continue the work in ensuring survivors' services are safe, welcoming, and accessible and that their experiences are centered. [Learn more.](#)

### **Extended Forensic Interviews: Practical Skills for Multiple Sessions**

**Sponsored by the Minnesota Children's Alliance**

**Webinar | July 14, 2021 | 9:00 am to 4:00 pm**

**\$30**

Based on the nationally recognized ChildFirst® Forensic Interview and CornerHouse Forensic Interview Protocol™ models, this one-day training will give an overview of conducting multiple-session forensic interviews when a child may not succeed in a standard, single-session interview due to trauma, development, special needs, or other complicating factors, including poly-victimization. [Learn more.](#)

## upcoming events

**Honoring Victor Vieth**  
Recipient of the 2021 U.S. Dept of Justice  
Victim Rights Legend Award

“Is it good for kids?”

Please join us online  
**May 25, 2021**  
**8:00 ET / 7:00 CT**

To celebrate the  
extraordinary  
accomplishments of this  
champion for children

zero abuse PROJECT

Join us on May 25, 2021 8:00 pm ET / 7:00 pm CT.

Held every year since 1983, the National Crime Victims' Service Awards Ceremony recognizes individuals and organizations that demonstrate outstanding service in supporting victims. Award recipients are selected from many nominations submitted by the public. This year, our very own Victor Vieth was awarded the Victim Rights Legend Award.

Zero Abuse Project invites colleagues, friends, and family of Victor's to join us virtually on Tuesday, May 25th to celebrate his extraordinary accomplishments combating child abuse and neglect.

[Click to purchase tickets.](#)

## contact us

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

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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](#).