

Volume 1, Issue 1
December 2020



Introduction to your new Executive Director



Inside this issue

Introduction of Executive Director

Allstate Grant Awarded

January Human Trafficking Month

Dear Partners, Friends and Supporters,

The Virgin Islands Domestic Violence and Sexual [Assault Council](#) (VIDVSAC) is kicking off this month with some exciting news. We are pleased to announce that we have hired a new Executive Director.

We know many of you have been following our leadership search over the last past months. Please know that we deeply appreciate your support, and patience as we have been diligently searching and interviewing perspective candidates. We finally found someone. I hope you will join us in giving Sheila a warm welcome to be a part of our Team.

Ms. Sheila Osterhuber, M.A. is a health professional who is a strategically driven individual with over 25 years of experience providing performance excellence. Sheila completed her undergraduate work in psychology at the University of Maryland in College Park, Maryland and a Masters in Counseling from the University of the District of Columbia. She has worked in a variety of clinical settings including crisis intervention centers, drug and alcohol rehab centers and private psychiatric hospital on the East and West coasts. She has expertise in clinical evaluations to determined level of care for psychiatric patients, advocacy and liaison services for patients and families, executive administration and operations management. She continued to educate herself and advance in areas of general

health by opening urgent care primary care centers. After transitioning back to the East coast, she worked at a Maryland Level 5 alcohol for adjudicated youth with a psychiatric diagnosis. She returned to her primary career in behavioral health by managing psychiatric service units.

Ms. Osterhuber has many years of experience in education, leadership and business yet finds time for philanthropic support of medical, human service and various causes. Her fundraising efforts have led to multiple scholarships for nursing students, funds for the Salvation Army, Crohns and Colitis foundation, Childhood Cancer and others.

We look forward to continuing our Partnerships with you! As always, we welcome any questions you might have for us. And please stay in touch with us about the exciting work we will be kicking off under Sheila's leadership. Together we are strengthening our communities with diverse and talented leaders like Sheila!

[You can reach Sheila at 340-719-0144,](tel:340-719-0144)
[email sheila@vidvsac.net](mailto:sheila@vidvsac.net)

Sincerely,

Executive Board of Directors

Virgin Islands Domestic Violence Sexual
Assault Council

United Nations News

The headlines read like horror stories!

“Human trafficking cases hit a 13-year record high, new UN report shows.”

“Rising human trafficking takes on ‘horrific dimensions’: almost a third of victims are children.”

“Rising human trafficking takes on ‘horrific dimensions’: almost a third of victims are children.”

“COVID-19 crisis putting human trafficking victims at risk of further exploitation, experts warn.”

The UN News published their journal with many human trafficking stories that show a growing number of cases around the globe. Their annual report issue describes the scope of the problem; we are looking at upwards of 25,000 cases. The report describes where the crimes are occurring, who the perpetrators are and who the victims are. This gives them the launching point to confronting the issues in a qualitative method.

Clearly, this is a growing and crucial global crime that needs addressing. Here in the USVI we have recent experience in these crimes; In December 2020 headlines read... “Underground Nightclub operator pleads guilty to exploiting women for profit”. We are not immune from this crime.

VI DVSAAC is talking to all entities, educating anyone who will listen to the issues, signs to look out for and recourse of this crime.

According to the US Department of Homeland Security: “Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act. “

If you suspect something, say something....

Does the person appear disconnected from family, friends, community organizations, or houses of worship?

Has a child stopped attending school?

Has the person had a sudden or dramatic change in behavior?

Is a juvenile engaged in commercial sex acts?

Is the person disoriented or confused, or showing signs of mental or physical abuse?

Does the person have bruises in various stages of healing?

Is the person fearful, timid, or submissive?

Does the person show signs of having been denied food, water, sleep, or medical care?

Is the person often in the company of someone to whom he or she defers? Or someone who seems to be in control of the situation, e.g., where they go or who they talk to?

Does the person appear to be coached on what to say?

Is the person living in unsuitable conditions?

Does the person lack personal possessions and appear not to have a stable living situation?

Does the person have freedom of movement? Can the person freely leave where they live? Are there unreasonable security measures?

Training topics

Domestic Violence

Sexual Assault

Rape

Sensitivity Training

Faith-Based

Economic Abuse

Issues

DV and Disability

DVSAAC Volunteer

Training

Allstate’s Moving

Ahead with Money

Management

Economic Justice

For Survivors

DV Head start

Training for staff

Sexual Harassment

Workplace

College Campus

Technical Assistance

Teen Dating

Violence and

Sexual Assault

Human Trafficking

Cyberbullying

Many More...

VI DVSAC Grant Award Recipient

We recently received an emergency grant from The Allstate Foundation to help us continue to serve survivors of domestic violence during the pandemic. These funds have helped us to continue our outreach and prevention education. Our grant was awarded as part of \$1,000,000+ in emergency grants provided by The Allstate Foundation to help provide necessary relief as the need for domestic violence services continues to rise.



MORE EXCITING NEWS TO COME