



April is Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention Month



DATE: April 7, 2021

Photo Opportunity – Together, Sheila Osterhuber, Executive Director of VI DVSAC and Qiyamah A. Rahman, Sexual Assault Response Team Coordinator for the Territory met with Governor Albert Bryant, Jr. on Wednesday, April 7, 2021 to witness his signing of a proclamation officially proclaiming April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Sexual Assault Awareness Month calls attention to the widespread impact that rape, sexual assault and sexual harassment has on residents of the VI. The campaign calls on everyone to help expand sexual assault prevention efforts to ensure that the next generation fosters attitudes that promote healthy relationships, equality, respect and non-violent relationships.

Inside this issue

- Ride Out STX
- SART Reconvenes
- Governor's Proclamation
- Membership Drive
- Art Contest Winners Announced
- Street Harassment
- Find us in the park STJ

Contact us:

- 340-719-0144
- 340-774-0144
- 340-473-5277
- info@VIDVSAC.net
- Www.VIDVSAC.org
- Follow us on FB, IN, Twitter

VIRGIN ISLANDS CYCLING FEDERATION

PRESENTS ITS 7th ANNUAL:

'RIDE OUT' AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT & FAMILY VIOLENCE

'In Honor of Mental Health Awareness Month!'

Date : 8 April 2021

Time : 7 PM

Location: Starting and finishing at the Virgin Islands Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Council (DVSAC) - Sion Farm Shopping Center, Suite #1 (Next to the Frame-Up)

All are invited to come out and support the event

Wheel lights will be provided (while supplies last)

It will be a slow group ride

All bikes and all fitness levels are welcome to participate

\$10 entrance fee

The proceeds from the event will go to the V.I. Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Council (DVSAC) The

For more information please call 340-643-5050





**Virgin Islands Domestic Violence
and Sexual Assault Council and
Family Resource Center
Sexual Assault and Child Abuse
Awareness Ride Out**

**ST. THOMAS
SUNDAY**

APRIL 18, 2021

1:00 PM

STARTS AT

FORT CHRISTIAN

**FOR INFO 340-774-0144
OR INFO@VIDVSAC.NET**

**APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AND CHILD ABUSE
AWARENESS MONTH**



**ST. CROIX
SEXUAL ASSAULT
AWARENESS FAIR**

SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2021

10:00 AM

**VI DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SEXUAL
ASSAULT COUNCIL'S OFFICE
SION FARM SHOPPING CENTER
PARKING LOT**

Community Resources

Give-a-ways

Social Distancing Observed

**CONTACT DVSAC FOR INFO
340-719-0144 - INFO@DVSAC.NET**

WWW.VIDVSAC.ORG

Training topics

Domestic Violence

Sexual Assault

Rape

Sensitivity Training

Faith-Based

*Healthy
Relationships*

Economic Abuse

Issues

DV and Disability

Economic Justice

For Survivors

Sexual Harassment

Workplace

College Campus

Teen Dating

Violence and

Sexual Assault

Human Trafficking

Cyberbullying

Many More...



April is Sexual Assault Prevention Month

We Support Virgin Islands Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Council's (DVSAC) Sexual Assault Awareness Month Campaign

Free Coffee Cup Awareness Sleeves with Purchase
While Supplies Last




VIRGIN ISLANDS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT COUNCIL
www.VIDVSAC.org - 340-719-0144

April 19 – On April 19, 10AM to noon, the Sexual Assault Response Teams from St. Croix and St. Thomas/St. John will virtually convene for their first 2021 joint gathering with their new Sexual Assault Response Team Coordinator, Qiyamah A. Rahman. The Meet & Greet allows new members and senior members to meet and get acquainted as they pursue this important work of building a multi-disciplinary approach to sexual assault.

When victims believe that reporting their sexual assaults and therefore participating in the criminal justice system is a safe and viable option, then they will be more willing to come forward to report a crime and participate effectively in the prosecution process. Equally important, when treated with respect and care by all disciplines, they are less likely to be re-traumatized and everyone benefits.

History – SART has its origins state side in the anti-rape movement of the 1970s when advocates, and law enforcement officers, medical personnel, prosecutors, and forensic scientists began to intervene effectively on behalf of sexual assault victims. Today the V.I. Territory's SART's exist as a result of a few dedicated individuals working together to seek justice, to protect the community, and to work on behalf of sexual assault victims to restore their dignity, to prevent sexual assault from becoming a life-defining event, and to counter their sexual assault with a response of goodness, caring and justice.



April is Sexual Assault Prevention Month

We Support Virgin Islands Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Council's (DVSAC) Sexual Assault Awareness Month Campaign

Ask how you can receive a free Awareness Cup with Purchase
While Supplies Last




VIRGIN ISLANDS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT COUNCIL
www.VIDVSAC.org - 340-719-0144

Hollaback!

Tuesday, March 9 I attended a virtual training on “Street Harassment” and ways to intervene and combat it. The training was sponsored by Hollaback, a “global, people-powered movement to end street harassment”. Hollaback was started in 2005 by a group of individuals after sharing their personal experiences of street harassment. They became concerned upon hearing their collective stories and recognizing the prevalence of street harassment.

Hollabacks’ mission is to “end harassment in all its forms by transforming the culture that perpetuates hate and harassment.” They empower everyday people like you and I to create safe and welcoming environments. Some of their accomplishments include:

Trainings – They have trained more than 38,000 individuals. 99% report after training that they would be willing to intervene the next time they witnessed harassment. Our trainer discussed safe ways to do this and to trust ones instincts.

Global Movement – Their efforts have launched a global movement. They have trained over 550 young people outside of the USA.

Digital Storytelling – They have collected over 16,634 plus stories of harassment and posted them. (you can go to their website to read them)

Partnerships with Elected Officials – They meet with over 100 legislators each year to discuss street harassment, safety audits, trainings, and workshop projects and series. Scotland passed resolutions against street harassment.

Research – They have used research to demonstrate the prevalence of street harassment and its effects to engage community solutions.

So what does this have to do with my role as the Sexual Assault Response Team Coordinator for the Territory? Like sexual assault, street harassment is simply another form of violence experienced on a continuum of violence. Sexual assault can take many different forms. When we begin to address the continuum of violence, we may recognize that the rapist that started out harassing individuals on the street escalated their behavior to more aggressive behavior like domestic violence, child abuse, elder abuse, and escalated to sexual assault. For instance, a scenario that motivated Hollaback in its early days was a young woman that was subjected to a man masturbating across from her on the subway in New York. She took a picture and attempted to seek resolution from the police. They ignored it. She posted the picture on social media and it was eventually picked up by the NY Times, one of the largest newspapers in the country.

Cont on page 6

Training topics

Domestic Violence

Sexual Assault

Rape

Sensitivity Training

Faith-Based

Healthy Relationships

Economic Abuse

Issues

DV and Disability

Economic Justice

For Survivors

Sexual Harassment

Workplace

College Campus

Teen Dating

Violence and

Sexual Assault

Human Trafficking

Cyberbullying

Many More...

Charges were successfully brought against the perpetrator because of the use of documentation from the victims cell phone and flooding social media with pictures and a call to action. This incident prompted Hollaback to begin to use social media as an intervention while encouraging bystanders to make good choices about safety. Sometimes even pretending to take pictures of the surroundings so the perpetrator does not target them. Calling 911 is another intervention that is always available.

Here at VI DVSAC we are currently using many of the interventions that has made Hollaback so successful: trainings, social media, and research. Because we are a 501c3 we are prohibited from lobbying our legislators. However, that does not eliminate our working with lobbyists who in turn do the actual lobbying. Another intervention that Hollaback uses is street audits or safety audits. While sexual assault can occur anytime, dark secluded streets encourage stranger rapes. Home audits that include well lit entryways, landscaping that afford hiding places, poor or no

locks are basic precautions to think about in ones personal space.

Thank you Vanessa Miller, Senior Trainer at Hollaback for an informative and thought provoking training!

Qiyamah A. Rahman



SPONSORED BY UVI COUNSELING SERVICES, STUDENT HOUSING & VI DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT COUNCIL

REP THE RIBBON

APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

TEAL THURSDAY

THURSDAY, APRIL 1
Rock Your Best Teal Outfit!
 Stop by the Cafeteria between 12-2 PM for cupcakes & a quick picture. Post your pic with the hashtag #UVITealThursday

TALK DEH TINGZ PART 3

THURSDAY, APRIL 8 • 7 PM • REC CENTER
On-Campus Students Only!
 Must RSVP to Attend: tinyurl.com/talkdehtingz3

DENIM DAY

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28
Rock Your Best Jeans!
 Take a pic, post on it on your socials & use the hashtag #UVIDenimDay

STAND UP. STAND OUT.
 JOIN THE GLOBAL MOVEMENT
 Scan the Code to Learn More about Denim Day!

Training topics

Domestic Violence

Sexual Assault

Rape

Sensitivity Training

Faith-Based

Healthy Relationships

Economic Abuse

Issues

DV and Disability

Economic Justice

For Survivors

Sexual Harassment

Workplace

College Campus

Teen Dating

Violence and

Sexual Assault

Human Trafficking

Cyberbullying

Many More...

DVSAC Faith Based Committee supports initiatives to end domestic and sexual violence within faith based communities.

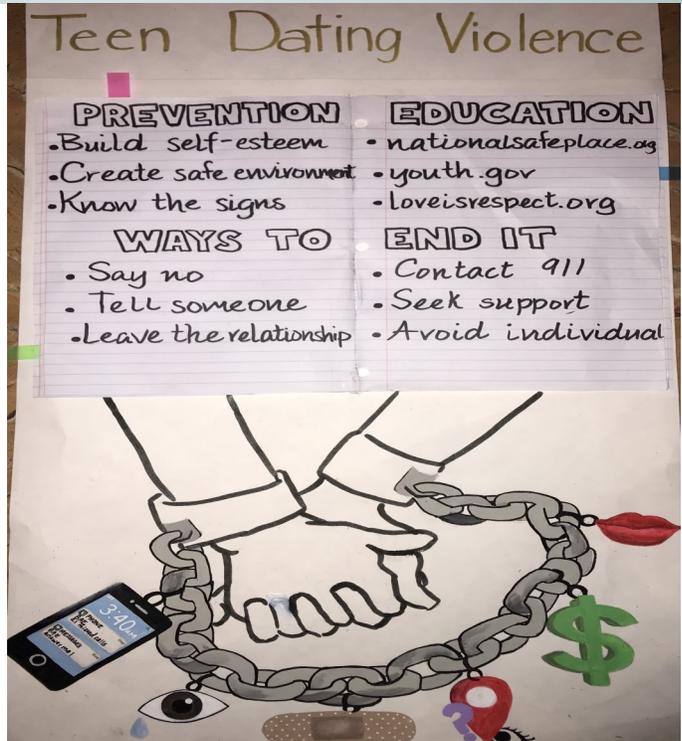
The purpose of DVSAC's Faith Based Committee is to collaborate with the Faith Based community to create awareness, initiatives and events to support the goal of ending domestic and sexual violence in the territory.

We are currently seeking Faith Based Leaders, Faith Based Department heads, Auxiliary leaders and other members of the Faith Based Community to participate in one monthly meeting which will be held for one hour each third Tuesday of each month at either 10:00 am or 6:00 pm.

AND THE CASH GOES TO....



Deja-Marie Simon \$300 1st place



Deanna Jeffers \$175 2nd place



Honorable Mention





Training topics

Domestic Violence

Sexual Assault

Rape

Sensitivity Training

Faith-Based

Healthy Relationships

Economic Abuse

Issues

DV and Disability

Economic Justice

For Survivors

Sexual Harassment

Workplace

College Campus

Teen Dating

Violence and

Sexual Assault

Human Trafficking

Cyberbullying

Many More...



VI DVSA serves

St. Croix

St. Thomas/ Water Island

St. John

Contact us:

WWW.VIDVSAC.org

info@VIDVSAC.net

340-719-0144

340-774-0144

340-473-5277

Join us at the Park!! Hey St John....

Find us at our table every two weeks, the second and fourth Thursdays 10am to 2pm ... *weather permitting* at

The Frank Powell Park

Join us for education and free stuff!!!

Helpful Information

[#WearBlueDay](#) | [Homeland Security \(dhs.gov\)](#)

[Office on Trafficking in Persons \(OTIP\)](#) | [ACF Enterprise \(hhs.gov\)](#)

[VIDVSAC](#) | [Sion Farm](#) | [VI Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Council](#)

