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Season's Greetings from Rights4Girls! We're excited to share what we have been up to this fall. As we go into the holiday season, we hope you'll consider [supporting our work](#) to obtain safety and justice for marginalized young women and girls.

## Legislative Wins

Rights4Girls is excited to announce the **passage of two major anti-trafficking bills** in the Senate: the *Abolish Human Trafficking Act* (S.1311) and the *Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2017*(S.1312). Together these bills update and strengthen key aspects of federal anti-trafficking law to improve our response toward trafficking survivors.

In addition, we are thrilled to report that another critical anti-trafficking measure, the *Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act*, S.1693, was **passed unanimously** by the Senate Commerce Committee—bringing survivors who have been trafficked on the internet one step closer to being able to find justice.

We've also witnessed gains to protect youth from other forms of sexual violence. Just last week, **the Senate passed S.534**, the *Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017*, a bill that will protect child athletes from sexual abuse by promoting reporting and training requirements to help prevent such violence.

## Inspired by Survivors

This November, we were honored to attend the *6th Annual Inspiring Hope Through Survivor Leadership Empowerment Conference* in California. This powerful event brings together remarkable young survivors of sex trafficking for a weekend of healing and encouragement from fellow survivors, through creative expression, relationship building, and opportunities to connect with supportive allies. It's been our privilege to attend this conference for the last six years with our partners in LA County.



Earlier this fall, we attended a conference in Atlanta with our partners in the movement to end sexual exploitation from around the globe. Rights4Girls' Executive Director Yasmin Vafa presented on the federal legislative framework for trafficking at the Carter Center, alongside allies from France, Ireland, India, and South Africa.

## Rights4Girls Welcomes Rebecca Burney, Equal Justice Works Fellow



Rights4Girls is pleased to welcome Rebecca Burney to our team! Rebecca is a Georgetown Law graduate and attorney who joined us this fall as our Equal Justice Works Fellow, sponsored by PepsiCo, Inc. Rebecca will be working with girls, service providers, and other organizations in Washington, D.C. to develop strategies to disrupt the [Sexual Abuse to Prison Pipeline](#) for girls of color in the District.

## Presentations & Trainings

This fall, we were honored to partner with Black Women's Blueprint to conduct a webinar on prioritizing and **envisioning safety for black girls** ahead of the March for Black Women. We were also delighted to present at the *In Solidarity We Rise Conference* on strategies to dismantle the Abuse to Prison Pipeline and methods to **center girls' voices** in advocacy efforts on behalf of the Girls at the Margin National Alliance.

Over the past two months, we have also provided technical assistance and training as well as presented to a range of law enforcement and court personnel including the **Texas Department of Justice**, the **D.C. Family Court**, and the **International Association of the Chiefs of Police**. We were also excited to present at **Georgetown Law's O'Neill Institute for Public Health** on understanding sexual exploitation as violence at the intersections of race and gender, and to moderate a **Washington Area Women's Foundation** panel on addressing school pushout for girls of color.



Rights4Girls marching for an end to violence against Black women  
and girls at the March for Black Women.



Rights4Girls at the In Solidarity We Rise Conference.

## Upcoming Events

For our friends and supporters in D.C., we hope to see you at our Holiday Open House to celebrate the holidays and write cards to incarcerated youth including [Cyntoia Brown](#), a child sex trafficking survivor currently serving time in prison for protecting herself from a child predator.



As always, we thank you for your [continued support](#) of our work to uphold the rights of our most vulnerable girls and young women.