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Friends,

Though this has been a difficult summer for many of our friends and allies throughout the country, we hope that you enjoyed a bit of rest, relaxation and sun. For us, this summer provided an opportunity to deepen our local impact and create critical partnerships with allies from around the country. Read on to learn more about how we continued our mission to achieve justice on behalf of vulnerable girls.

Our thoughts are with those impacted by Hurricane Harvey and Irma, and in particular, those serving trafficked and vulnerable children. We remain in contact with our partners in Texas and Florida and will send updates on their needs as we receive them.

Rights4Girls Featured at Grantmakers for Girls of Color National Convening

In June, Rights4Girls' Staff Attorney Maheen Kaleem participated in a panel at the [Grantmakers for Girls of Color](#) Second National Funders Convening, *Reimagining Safety: An Urgent Conversation about the Movements Centering Girls of Color*, hosted by the NoVo Foundation. The convening brought together funders, practitioners, and thought leaders from around the country to learn, strategize, and create momentum to invest in girls of color. Our panel focused on the real and lived experiences of girls impacted by systemic and interpersonal violence. Click [here](#) to watch video clips from the convening and learn more.



Capitol Hill Briefing: The Role of Men in the Fight to End Sex Trafficking

On July 19th, we partnered with Congressmember Karen Bass (D-CA), Congressman Ted Poe (R-TX), and Congressmember Ann Wagner (R-MO) to hold a bipartisan briefing on Capitol Hill entitled, ***The Role of Men in the Movement to End Child Sex Trafficking***. Moderated by Rights4Girls Executive Director Yasmin Vafa, the event featured a panel of experts including Tina Frundt, Founder and Executive Director of [Courtney's House](#) and Member of the U.S. Survivor Advisory Council on Human Trafficking, Alex Trouteaud, Director of Policy and Research at [Demand Abolition](#), Neil Irvin, Executive Director of [Men Can Stop Rape](#), and Valiant Richey, [Senior King County Prosecuting Attorney](#). In addition to our Congressional sponsors, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX) and Congresswoman Vicky Hartzler (R-MO) also joined us to offer remarks.

The Members and panelists gave powerful statements about the critical role of men in the movement to end sex trafficking as well as the urgent need to reauthorize the *Trafficking Victims Protection Act*, to continue our efforts to reduce the demand for commercial sex and to promote the understanding that it is our collective responsibility to work to end child sex trafficking.

Check out the [photos from the event](#) and stay tuned for more information on pending legislation moving this fall!



Rights4Girls Welcomes Airen Washington, Social Media and Digital Communications Fellow



Rights4Girls is very proud to welcome Airen Washington to our team. Airen will be joining us as our Social Media and Digital Communications Fellow. Airen is a graduate of Trinity University in Washington, DC with a B.S. in Communications and a concentration in Mathematics.

Her work includes graphic design, content creation, and website design for young professionals, the federal government, and other organizations. Be sure to visit our [website](#) to learn more about her. Please join us in wishing her a warm welcome!

Training and Technical Assistance

DC Court Training

For the past several months, Rights4Girls has been providing training and technical assistance to a number of agencies in the District of Columbia as they ramp up their efforts to support victims of child sex trafficking in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. We recently partnered with the [National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges](#) (NCJFCJ) to host a half-day training for more than 100 participants across several different agencies and organizations throughout DC. Special thanks to Judge Mary-Grace Rook for the invitation and for her leadership on behalf of survivors of child sex trafficking here in the District.

Department of Justice Office of Victims of Crime Regional Human Trafficking Training

In August, Rights4Girls was invited to present at the Department of Justice Office of Victims of Crime's Regional Human Trafficking Training in Salt Lake City, Utah. The training gave us the opportunity to present to providers, law enforcement agencies, and other stakeholders, and to learn about the innovative work that is happening across the Mountain region to address human trafficking.

Girls Voices on Juvenile Justice

Rights4Girls is a member of the DC Girls Coalition, spearheaded by the [DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence](#) (DCCADV), and we are excited that their work is being guided by our research on the [Sexual Abuse to Prison Pipeline](#). Earlier this year, the Girls Coalition partnered with [Sanctuaries DC](#) to bring 15 young women from all over DC together to learn about the Abuse to Prison Pipeline and the structural factors that drive girls into the juvenile justice system, to develop advocacy skills to raise their own voices, and to discuss their own experiences and perspectives on violence, abuse, discrimination, and justice-involvement. The girls' stories, letters, and poetry were ultimately published in a collection entitled [Girls Voices on Juvenile Justice](#). We thank DCCADV for involving us in this very important project!



Legislative Updates

Success! We are so thrilled to announce that on August 1, 2017, the Senate passed S. 860, the ***Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 2017 (JJDP A)***. This bill reauthorizes and strengthens the JJDP A for the first time in more than ten years. We are especially grateful to the Senate for including a number of provisions we championed aimed at better protecting girls and victims of child sex trafficking. The next step is for the House and Senate to work together in conference to send one final bill to the President's desk.

In addition, Rights4Girls has been actively working with Members of the House and Senate on several bipartisan pieces of anti-trafficking legislation to improve our response toward survivors and remove barriers to holding exploiters accountable. The following pieces of legislation are all critical in the fight to end trafficking and support survivors across the country. Rights4Girls will continue working to educate Members on both sides of the aisle on the importance of furthering such measures:

- S. 1693 *Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act*
- S. 1311/H.R. 2803 *Abolish Human Trafficking Act of 2017*
- S. 1312 *Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2017*
- H.R. 2200 *Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Act of 2017*
- H.R. 2268 *Empowering Educators to Prevent Trafficking Act*
- H.R. 767 *SOAR to Health and Wellness Act of 2017*

Other News

DC Young Women's Initiative Young Women's Advisory Council

Rights4Girls welcomes the phenomenal members of the [YWI Young Women's Advisory Council](#). We are proud to be members of the DC Young Women's Initiative Advisory Committee, whose goal is to center girls' voices and experiences in a city-wide effort to improve life outcomes and increase opportunities for young women, girls, transgender women, and gender non-conforming youth of color between the ages of 12-24 here in DC. We are very excited to collaborate and learn from these bright and inspiring young women here in the District.

Judicial Institutes

Rights4Girls continued its longstanding work to educate and train judges from around the country on recognizing the signs of trafficking in their courtrooms and working to improve outcomes for trafficked youth. In June, we held our National Judicial Institute on Domestic Child Sex Trafficking in San Diego, CA. Together with our partners at the NCJFCJ, we have trained more than 400 judicial officers nationwide on identifying domestic child sex trafficking and promoting alternatives to detention for survivors.

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