



rights4girls

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Friends,

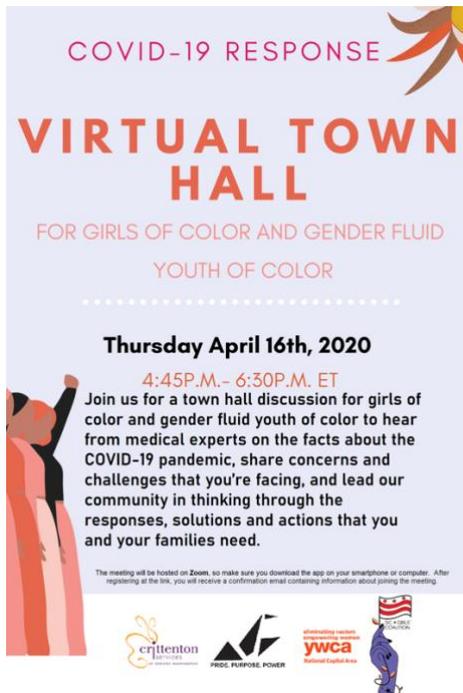
We send our best to you, your families, and your communities. We know that for many, this has been a time of stress and uncertainty. This is particularly so for many of our young women and girls. Our most vulnerable have constantly faced barriers to their safety and well-being. **Now, the spread of COVID-19 is not only posing a threat to their health but is exacerbating conditions that render girls vulnerable to harm**—increasing their risk of being trafficked and subjected to other forms of violence, increasing disparities in their well-being compared to other youth, and all while decreasing their access to meaningful services and supports.

While current circumstances require us to work differently, be assured that our work on behalf of marginalized girls and young women continues in full force. Due to the imminent harm posed by COVID-19, Rights4Girls is shifting our focus to ensure that the needs of our girls are urgently met during this time of crisis. Our crisis response efforts include:

- Dedicating funds to **support young women and girls in DC and their families with essential items** such as food, laptops, school supplies, hand sanitizer, cleaning supplies, sanitary products, toilet paper, diapers and other baby items.
- Supporting survivor-led, anti-trafficking organizations like [Courtney's House](#) in **meeting the basic needs of trafficked youth in the DMV region** with food and snacks.
- Advocating for **children in DC and across the country to be released from detention**, where they are at increased risk of contracting COVID-19, as well as working to improve conditions for youth who remain incarcerated by ensuring proper sanitization, entertainment while quarantined, access to education, mental health supports, proper nutrition for youth who test positive for the virus.
- Advocating for an **increase in child abuse and family violence prevention and intervention resources** to address the alarming spike in the frequency and intensity of gender-based violence and domestic violence across the country.
- Moving our youth workshop series for girls in DC to an **online platform and developing creative ways to engage youth** during the pandemic.
- Reprioritizing staff time to **provide mentorship, advocacy, and support for individual youth in our programs** who no longer have access to school counselors and other community supports.
- **Educating communities and policymakers** about the unique experiences and needs of marginalized girls during the pandemic and how they can best support them.

Ways To Support Our Community

As part of our work co-convening the DC Girls' Coalition, the coalition is co-sponsoring a **COVID-19 Response Virtual Youth Town Hall** for girls of color in DC. Register [here](#) to join the conversation **TODAY at 4:45 pm - 6:30 pm Eastern**.



COVID-19 RESPONSE

VIRTUAL TOWN HALL

FOR GIRLS OF COLOR AND GENDER FLUID YOUTH OF COLOR

Thursday April 16th, 2020

4:45P.M.- 6:30P.M. ET

Join us for a town hall discussion for girls of color and gender fluid youth of color to hear from medical experts on the facts about the COVID-19 pandemic, share concerns and challenges that you're facing, and lead our community in thinking through the responses, solutions and actions that you and your families need.

The meeting will be hosted on Zoom, so make sure you download the app on your smartphone or computer. After registering at the link, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Partners: crntention, FREED. PURPOSE. POWER, ywca, and the DC Girls' Coalition.

In addition, if you are in the DC area and would like to make in-kind donations of non-perishable foods, toiletry products, or cleaning supplies please email Kaya at klowery@blackswanacademy.org.

If you are interested in assisting with our efforts to provide entertainment to incarcerated youth in DC, please shop from the [Wishlist](#) created by our partners in the Youth Justice Project coalition.

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

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