



rights4girls

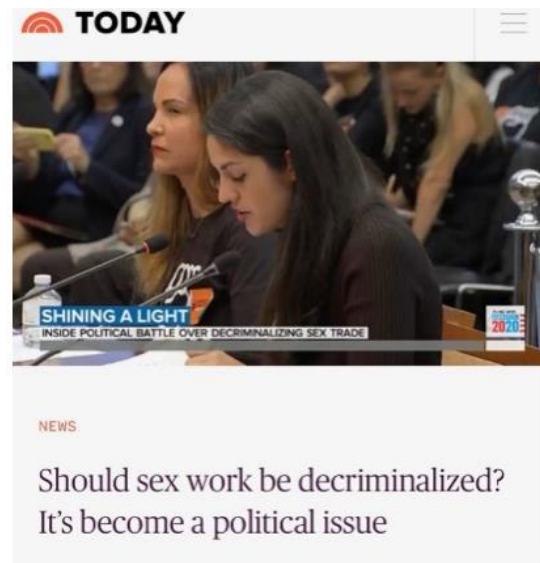
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Greetings friends!

2019 was an exceptional year for Rights4Girls and rounded out a decade of major victories in the movement to end violence against women and girls. We carry that energy and commitment into 2020 as we continue to advance our vision of a world where all girls are safe to live out their full potential. Read more about our exciting and productive winter:

Rights4Girls in the Media

- Our ED Yasmin Vafa joined anti-trafficking advocates on comedian [Amy Schumer's Podcast](#) to discuss sex trafficking. Listen to the *Understanding the Sex Trade* episode [here](#).
- Yasmin was also briefly featured on the [Today Show](#) in a segment focused on the harmful impacts of full decriminalization on marginalized communities.
- R4G was also quoted in the [Boston Globe](#) explaining how decriminalizing sex-buying and pimping/pandering increases trafficking of vulnerable people.



Centering Girls' Voices

Great news! The DC Girls' Coalition is in full swing after kicking off in October. This winter we launched our Youth Advisory Council meetings which are open to girls and young women across the District. **Over 40 young people attended our February meeting to have their voices heard** and be advocates for change in their communities. We're so proud to be part of this inspiring movement with our DC Girls' Coalition co-conveners, Black Swan Academy.

Last month, we also **hosted two listening sessions for DC girls** with our partners at the Georgetown Juvenile Justice Initiative. Young women and girls were provided a safe space to not only share about the obstacles they face, but also their solutions to dismantling those barriers. Their powerful insights will inform our upcoming Girls Workshop Series for girls of color impacted by the criminal legal system set to launch in the spring.



DC youth strategize on policy reform at our DC Girls' Coalition Youth Advisory Council meeting.

Legislative Wins

We witnessed a major victory in December when *The Family First Transition Act* was signed into law. This critical piece of legislation provides crucial resources—**\$500 million in funding to states and tribes** to assist them in implementing the *2018 Family First Prevention Services Act*, a landmark child welfare reform law intended to help keep children with their families and out of the child welfare system.

More progress! *The END Network Abuse Act* also became law in December. Led by Senators Schatz (D-HI) and Murkowski (R-AK), this law will address the proliferation of child sexual abuse images shared on Department of Defense computers by **improving the tools necessary to respond to online child abuse and to connect survivors to services.**

In addition, we're pleased to report that the *Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act of 2019* (H.R. 5191) passed through the House Education and Labor Committee! The legislation reauthorizes the *Runaway and Homeless Youth Act* which **enables vital services to runaway and homeless youth**—a population gravely at risk for being trafficked and exploited for sex.

Forging Global Alliances

We were honored to partner with SPACE International, a global alliance of sex trade survivors dedicated to education and advocacy, to host a powerful discussion about the racist, patriarchal, and colonial roots of the commercial sex trade. The **event featured survivor leaders from the US, South Africa, the First Nations/Canada, and the Netherlands who provided invaluable insight** as to the ways the sex trade preys on women and girls of color. View a recording of the panel [here](#).



International survivor leaders coming together to discuss the violent, colonial roots of the sex trade.

TA & Other News

Rights4Girls continues to be a go-to resource for parents, service providers and system professionals seeking to learn about the intersections of gender, race, and violence and improve their responses to survivors.

- As part of Human Trafficking Awareness Month, **we educated business leaders on the role businesses can play in providing opportunities and support to sex trafficking survivors** at a conference hosted by the US Chamber of Commerce.
- We **led a webinar for service providers** on the importance of applying an intersectional approach to addressing sex trafficking.
- We were a **guest on the [One in Ten podcast](#)** to discuss the Child Trafficking-to-Adult Prostitution Pipeline and how to promote survivor-centered policies to disrupt this trajectory.
- We were **proud to contribute to [this important report](#)**, released by Shared Hope International, which provides critical guidance for criminal justice professionals and advocates working with sex trafficking survivors to improve the identification of and responses toward trafficking victim-offenders.
- **We're hiring!** R4G is looking for communications and policy professionals to join our growing team. For more info on how to apply, email us at carolina@rights4girls.org.



R4G and allies meet with Congressional staff to discuss legislative priorities for 2020.

As always, our work would not be possible without your support. [Please consider making a gift](#) to help us continue our critical work and advocacy on behalf of vulnerable young women and girls.

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