



rights4girls

Donate to Rights4Girls

Dear Friends,

This fall, we remained hard at work to ensure that girls' needs remain a priority. As we go into the holiday season, we hope you'll consider supporting our ongoing efforts to protect our girls.

## Legislative Wins

Success! This fall we celebrated several legislative victories in Congress! In October, the House overwhelmingly passed the bipartisan ***Justice for Juveniles Act*** to make it easier for incarcerated youth experiencing abuse in facilities to hold these institutions accountable in court.

The House also passed the bipartisan ***Protecting the Health and Wellness of Babies and Pregnant Women in Custody Act***, which will establish a national standard of care to address incarcerated women's needs during pregnancy, labor, delivery, and after childbirth.

In addition, the House passed the ***Stop Sexual Assault and Harassment in Transportation Act***, which helps improve the tracking and deterrence of sexual assault and harassment in transportation by requiring certain transportation carriers to establish official policies, training, and reporting concerning sexual violence.

We also celebrated a win in the Senate with the passage of the ***Jenna Quinn Law***. This bipartisan bill allows current grant funds to be used to train and educate students, teachers, caregivers, and other individuals who work with children on how to prevent, recognize, and report child sexual abuse.

At the local level, we provided testimony on the ***Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Amendment Act of 2020*** to the DC City Council to address the policing of youth and especially survivors of gendered-violence in the District.

## Centering the Needs of Vulnerable Girls

We are thrilled to announce the release of a new report from the *National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth* entitled, [Best Practices and Recommendations for States](#). The report, which contains **127 recommendations across 12 core areas** provides resources and guides for states to combat the sex trafficking of children and youth in the U.S. **Rights4Girls is proud to serve on this Advisory Committee and contribute to this comprehensive report** alongside national experts from across the country. For more on the work of the Committee and to download resources and shareables related to the report, see [here](#).

In other exciting news, this year we celebrated the **5th annual Girls' Justice Day**, where allies from across the country joined us in raising awareness about girls' unique experiences with the juvenile and criminal legal systems. **Read more about our efforts to center the needs of incarcerated girls during the COVID-19 pandemic** [here](#).



## Presentations and Trainings

This fall, **we educated over 2,000 people** on the intersections of race, gender, violence, and criminalization for girls:

- Our Executive Director [testified](#) at the **House of Representatives' Bipartisan Task Force to End Sexual Violence** briefing on the impact of COVID-19 on sex trafficking.
- We presented at the **American Public Health Association Annual Conference** on the exploitation and criminalization of women and girls of color in the sex trade.
- Our team participated in a [panel discussion](#) to shed light on the **criminalization of girls and survivors of violence** hosted by The International Human Trafficking Institute.
- As part of the **March for Our Lives DC Speaker Series**, we participated in a panel on the intersection of gun violence and juvenile justice involvement.
- We **educated judges on the dynamics of trafficking and solutions to reduce the criminalization of trafficking survivors** at the 2020 National Conference on Juvenile Justice, hosted by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.
- R4G's Senior Counsel, Cherice Hopkins **delivered the keynote at the Justice for Girls Coalition of Washington Beyond Pink Summit** on preventing violence against girls of color.

## Uplifting Girls' Voices

The DC Girls' Coalition (DCGC), co-convened by Rights4Girls and Black Swan Academy, continues to provide opportunities for girls' voices to be heard. This fall, DCGC hosted another virtual forum to **provide DC youth the opportunity to discuss the issues impacting them and their communities, like police in schools, community violence, and challenges faced as a result of the pandemic.**

**DC GIRL COALITION: YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD**



**VIRTUAL  
OPENING FORUM  
MEETING**



PLEASE JOIN TO DISCUSS  
ISSUES IMPACTING US, THE  
YOUTH, AND YOUR  
COMMUNITY

**OPEN TO YOUTH AGES 11-24  
\$20 STIPEND VIA CASHAPP,  
PAYPAL, VENMO, ETC**

NOVEMBER 18, 2020 | 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM  
VIA ZOOM  
Please RSVP with  
kmatthew@rightshockwomenservices.org by  
November 17, 2020 at 2 pm.

## Other News

- We're thrilled to report that **incarcerated child trafficking survivor, Patrice Smith was released from prison** after serving over 20 years for killing her trafficker as a teen. Rights4Girls was proud to help champion Patrice's release under NY's *Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act*. We're thankful to her attorney Kate Mogulescu and everyone who fought for her freedom! Read more about Patrice's case [here](#).
- **Another survivor of child sex trafficking and the abuse to prison pipeline, Keiana Aldrich, was released from prison** this fall as well! Rights4Girls had the privilege of participating in the national campaign advocating for her freedom, and we're grateful to Keiana's attorney, Maggy Krell, and all those who raised their voices in support of her! Read more on Keiana's case [here](#).
- In September, **R4G attorney Rebecca Burney was chosen as a National Juvenile Justice Network (NJN) Youth Justice Leadership Institute Fellow**. Rebecca will work with trafficking survivors who have touched the juvenile justice system and provide them with the tools necessary to become their own powerful agents for change. Learn more about Rebecca's project [here](#).
- This October, **we celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act**, our nation's foundational federal anti-trafficking law. We remain grateful to the survivors and advocates who ensured that this critical legislation became law and are committed to continuing to improve this legislation to meet the needs of survivors everywhere.



R4G's Rebecca Burney named 2020 NJN Fellow.



Child trafficking survivor Keiana Aldrich celebrates her release from prison on the beach in CA.

#GivingTuesday

# GIVING TUESDAY

Donate to Rights4Girls

Did you know #GivingTuesday, the global day of giving, is right around the corner? **We need your support now more than ever.** Please consider a [gift](#) to Rights4Girls to help protect girls from violence and exploitation, and join the movement to improve and heal our communities. Give today!