



rights4girls

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Dear Friends,

We know that 2020 was a challenging year for all of us, but throughout it all our work and commitment to defending the rights of our most vulnerable girls and young women remained constant. In addition to ushering in a new year and new hope for a brighter 2021, Rights4Girls renewed our vision and dedication to creating a world where all of our girls can be safe and free. Read on to learn more about our work this past winter.

Legislative Wins

Great news! In December, Congress passed a COVID relief package that included **\$85 million for services for trafficking survivors**. Though several COVID packages were passed in 2020, this was the first package that included funding for trafficking survivors.

In addition, the *LIFT Act* became law in January. The law includes a requirement that members of the US Advisory Council on Human Trafficking— a federal council comprised solely of survivors— **be compensated for their time and expertise**.

At the state level, we testified and supported the passage of a bill in the Virginia House of Delegates to **eliminate the harmful practice of incarcerating status offenders**-- children who commit non-violent behaviors such as running away from home or skipping school. Although the measure ultimately failed in the Senate, we are committed to working with our local partners to re-new this measure and educate lawmakers on the urgent need to end this dangerous practice.

Rights4Girls in the Media

Rights4Girls remains a go-to resource on issues of safety and justice for marginalized girls. This winter **we authored a joint piece together with our partners at Courtney's House** for [US News & World Report](#) on survivor-centered policies to reform the sex trade. In addition, we are so thankful that **our research and messaging were lifted up by ABC and Shondaland** during an episode of Grey's Anatomy and Station 19 involving the trafficking of two African American girls, showcasing a critical and authentic narrative around the lives of domestic child sex trafficking survivors.

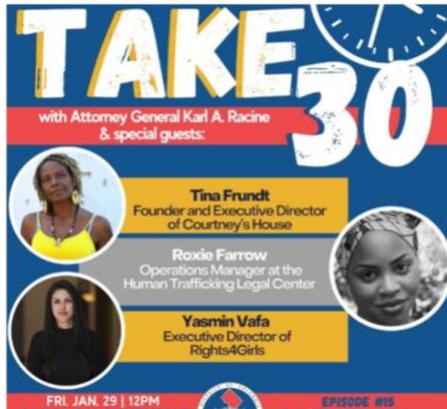


Presentations and Trainings

Our team has been busy providing virtual trainings and education on the nexus between sexual violence and girls' criminalization to the public and system professionals all winter. **Our trainings and advocacy this season reached a national audience of nearly 1,000 viewers!**

- Our Executive Director, Yasmin Vafa **joined DC Attorney General Karl Racine and survivor experts** to discuss the racial and gender disparities that define human trafficking today.
- We also **joined a panel of trafficking survivors and experts to discuss the wrongful prosecution of sex trafficking victims** in a [presentation](#) hosted by World Without Exploitation.

- Our team **educated state juvenile justice professionals** on the continued criminalization of girls of color via the abuse to prison pipeline.
- We also **trained victim advocates** on the importance of applying an intersectional lens in addressing sex trafficking for a training hosted by the National Organization for Victims Assistance.
- Rights4Girls also **launched a talk series** this winter with our partners at Courtney's House to tackle some of the major themes connected to sex trafficking. Stay tuned for future sessions!



Uplifting Girls' Voices

This winter our team continued our work to ensure that girls and survivor voices were centered-in the public policy space. As co-convenors of DC Girls' Coalition (DCGC), we are continuing to **work with members of the DCGC Youth Advisory Board to craft their testimonies before DC Council** on issues impacting their lives. In addition, our team continues to work with survivors leaders from Courtney's House through our bi-weekly survivor policy workshops to **prepare survivors to make their voices heard by key decision-makers** on issues relating to police reform, foster care, and safety and justice for survivors and their peers.

Other News

- Our Senior Counsel Cherice Hopkins [co-authored a piece together](#) with Tina Frundt describing the sex trade's **legacy of racialized violence and its impact on trafficking today**.
- Rights4Girls continues to stand in solidarity with Zephaniah "Zephi" Treviño, a child trafficking

survivor who is being charged with capital murder in Texas for a death caused by her trafficker. **Please contact the Dallas County District Attorney John Creuzot and join us in demanding justice for Zephi at 214-653-3600 or email John.Creuzot@dallascounty.org.**

- Good news! In December, **Visa and Mastercard cut ties with Pornhub** after confirming that the site hosted multiple videos containing trafficking, child sexual abuse content and other images of sexual assault and violence against women.



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

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