



rights4girls

Donate to Rights4Girls

Friends,

Spring has been a busy time at Rights4Girls and many exciting things have taken place. Read on to find out what we've been up to these past few months in our work to protect vulnerable girls.

Report Launch: Girls in D.C.'s Juvenile Justice System

This spring Rights4Girls, in partnership with the Georgetown Juvenile Justice Initiative, released a groundbreaking report examining girls' increased contact with D.C.'s juvenile justice system. The report, [Beyond the Walls: A Look at Girls in D.C.'s Juvenile Justice System](#), highlights the many ways in which D.C. is on track with harmful national trends impacting girls' justice involvement and how, in some cases, D.C. girls fare even worse. Review our startling key findings [here](#). You can also check out the [video](#) of our report launch, featuring an incredible panel discussion with community and system leaders.



Youth advocate, Nataly DelValle, speaking powerfully about her experiences in the JJ system.

Rights4Girls in the News

Rights4Girls continues to stand with [Cyntoia Brown](#), a child trafficking victim currently serving a life sentence for protecting herself against her exploiter. [Read our latest interview](#), following Cyntoia's clemency hearing, on what the #MeToo movement looks like for our most vulnerable girls.

Our *Beyond the Walls* report is raising awareness of the Abuse to Prison Pipeline and its impact on Black girls in Washington, D.C. with coverage on [NPR](#), [WTOP](#) and [other outlets](#).

Legislative Wins

This spring, we saw the passage of several critical laws at both the federal and local level. At the federal level two major anti-trafficking bills made significant strides: The *Allow States to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act*, H.R. 1865, was signed into law while the *SOAR to Health and Wellness Act*, H.R. 767, overwhelmingly passed in the House.

Locally, the D.C. Council unanimously passed the *Student Fair Access to School Act*—protecting children's rights to education by limiting exclusionary school discipline practices and promoting alternatives, such as teacher training and mental health support.

Rights4Girls Youth Workshops

L.O.U.D. Brown Girls

This spring, Rights4Girls partnered with the Georgetown Juvenile Justice Initiative to facilitate an eight-part workshop series called **L.O.U.D. Brown Girls**. This series encouraged teen girls of color, who have been impacted by the juvenile and criminal justice systems to embrace their bold voices and empowered them to be their own powerful advocates for change.



L.O.U.D. Brown Girls facilitators and youth celebrating the completion of the program.

Protect Our Youth

Rights4Girls and our community partners, Black Swan Academy and Melanin Uprising, continued to provide safe spaces for D.C. youth to discuss topics of importance to them through our **Protect Our Youth** workshops. This spring, youth discussed a broad spectrum of issues pertaining to safety and violence—from bullying at school to sex trafficking. Our final workshop in the series takes place in June and will equip youth with advocacy skills needed to address the issues that impact their lives and communities.



Protect Our Youth participants pose for a picture after a great discussion on safety.

Honors & Awards

Rights4Girls was honored to have been awarded the **Leading Together Award**, by our partners at the Black Swan Academy, for our collaborative work in creating safe spaces for girls of color in Washington, D.C. We are thankful to partner with them in our work to support D.C. youth.

Other News

- In March, we attended the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and participated in a panel discussion on the overrepresentation of women and girls of color in sexual exploitation around the globe with leaders from South Africa, Sweden, Colombia, and France.
- In March, we attended NCJFCJ's National Conference on Juvenile Justice where we presented on judicial responses to child sex trafficking and the harms of detention for child sex trafficking victims.
- In March, we presented on the pervasive violence against Native girls for the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Native American Child Health.
- In March, we presented on the Abuse to Prison Pipeline at the Girls LEAD Summit hosted by the Washington Area Women's Foundation.

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

[Donate to Rights4Girls](#)