



# COALITIONCONNECT

The Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence has retained its commitment to leading the anti-violence movement, rooting out injustice, and prioritizing an innovative, intersectional approach to prevention.

February has been an exciting month for the Coalition!

As we continue to navigate the complexities of COVID-19, we remain steadfast in completing the important work of prevention, education, and building a more equitable state for all Nebraskans.

We are still hosting virtual trainings, completing public outreach in a new way, and working dilligently to support our vast member network.

Read this month's edition of 'Coalition Connect' to find out what we've been doing this month.

We highlight our latest staff spotlight, recap some of our policy wins, and recognize the importance of Black History Month.

We'll also preview some exciting things that we have coming up soon!



## Staff Spotlight



Jennifer Kirkpatrick,  
Capacity Building Director

Three years ago, Jennifer joined the Coalition team.

She brought with her a focus in the criminal justice system. Recognizing the plight of survivors, and the shortcomings of that system's efforts, she knew there was more work to be done.

Prioritizing a direct connection with survivors and victims, Jen offers her unique outside-the-box thinking to advance our mission.

Wearing a variety of hats, Jen is passionate about supporting the Coalition team, building an intersectional approach to advocacy, and engaging young people in the movement.

Jen is passionate about building an inclusive organization that works to make the world a better place, for everyone.

# Black History Month

know the past. shape the future.



In February, the Coalition joined in celebrating Black History Month. Here are some highlights:



BIPOC leaders have led the civil rights movement since its inception.

What we must understand is that people of color cannot, must not bear this burden alone.

The Nebraska Coalition has committed to standing as an ally in this fight.

To build change, we must address structural racism to root out violence.

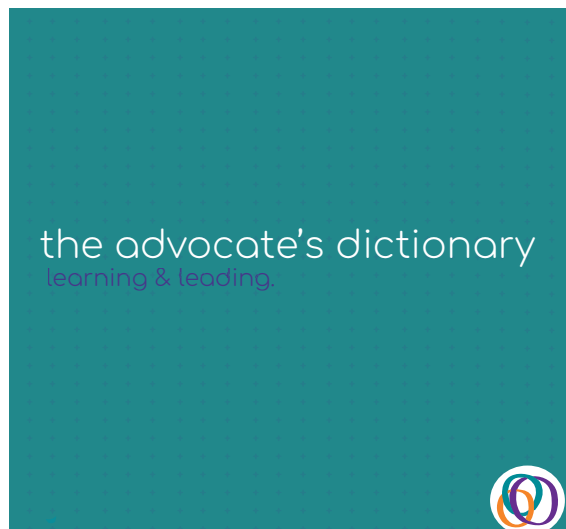


More than 18% of Black women will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime.

Estimates indicate that for every 15 Black women who are assaulted, only one will report their case.

Black women who report sexual violence are less likely to be believed, and men found guilty of abusing Black women will receive lesser sentences.

## The Advocate's Dictionary



# Policy Update

The Nebraska Coalition has always had a vested interest in advocating policy at the state level in an effort to codify change into law.



This work allows us to support those who have experienced violence, and work to root out the systemic causes of violence.

- Senator Jen Day introduced LB372 -- legislation to make the existing Nebraska Crime Victims Reparations Program more accessible to victims of trafficking, sexual assault, and domestic abuse.

[This item has been moved to General File](#)

- Senator Wendy DeBoer introduced LB497 to support the financial security of survivors of domestic abuse and sexual assault by providing a process for direct payment of medical costs associated with their victimization.

[This item has been moved to General File](#)

- U.S. Senator Deb Fischer introduced 'The Safe Connections Act' in an effort to help victims of violence separate from their abuser. This legislation would allow survivors to separate their mobile phone plan without penalty.

## Nebraska Engage



The Nebraska Coalition has moved to create a comprehensive youth outreach program.

The purpose of this initiative is to connect with young people across the state.

Through the Young Leaders Coalition and our Votes and Voices program, we have worked to engage and educate high school and college-aged students in our movement.

This month, our Young Leaders Coalition participants discussed the complexities of the anti-violence movement, ways to serve as an ally, and how to spot red flags in relationships.

Using the backdrop of Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, participants heard from Nebraska Coalition staff members about prioritizing safety, building healthy relationships, and understanding how to respect the rules of affirmative consent.

# Things To Come

As the Nebraska Coalition continues to evolve, we have some exciting announcements to share in the coming weeks!

We will be announcing a voter outreach initiative to engage in the Lincoln Municipal Elections in April and May of 2021.

Stay tuned for more on a Legislative Day of Action, the Coalition is proud to debut.

Connect with us on our social media and website to track our announcements. You won't want to miss everything we have in store for 2021!

## COVID-19 Commitment

Through the course of COVID-19, the Nebraska Coalition has remained committed to doing its part to slow the spread of the Coronavirus.

Our staff members are working remotely, we have paused all in-person activities, and transitioned our processes to meet the needs of our programming in a safe and responsible way.

With the vaccine rolling out, like you, we hope that the end of this virus is near. However, we remain committed to social responsibility and will continue our COVID restrictions as long as necessary.

## The Coalition Commitment

The Nebraska Coalition supports the philosophy that abuse is a choice and a practice by which people achieve power, gratification or financial advancement through the abuse of another person by abrogating that person's human right to dignity, equality, autonomy and physical and mental well being.

Therefore, we must work to eliminate racism, homophobia, anti-Semitism, classism and oppression of all traditionally silenced groups.

These oppressions are perpetuated by the same systems that profit from sexual and domestic violence and cannot be separate from the overall mission of the Coalition, for the oppression of one is the oppression of all.

