2021 kNOw MORE Webinar: Identifying & Responding to Stalking

GCASAFV presents the February webinar series on Identifying & Responding to Stalking by Stalking, Prevention, Awareness and Resource Center (SPARC), a project of AEquitas. SPARC is an initiative aimed at ensuring that first responders and other allied professionals have the specialized knowledge to identify and respond to the crime of stalking. SPARC also provides the tools, resources, and support needed to promote victim safety and offender accountability in stalking cases.

Though January is recognized as the National Stalking Awareness Month, GCASAFV has scheduled the Stalking webinar series from 9am to 11:30am ChST starting Tuesday, February 2nd to Friday, February 5th. The webinar features topics on: Stalking Prevalence, Dynamics & Intersections with Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence; The Use of Technology to Stalk; The Investigation & Prosecution of Stalking and Intersections with Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence; and on Risk Assessment and Safety. Presenters for this webinar are:

- Jennifer Landhuis, the SPARC Director, began her career as an advocate for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking where she spent a decade providing services and public education on these issues. Jennifer also served as the Director of Social Change at the Idaho Coalition where she led statewide projects such as the Idaho Victim Assistance Academy and the Idaho Coordinated Response to Domestic & Sexual Violence. Jennifer has been an advocate and educator on the issues of stalking, domestic violence, and sexual assault for 23 years.

- Jane Anderson brings her expertise in prosecuting domestic violence, stalking, sexual violence, and human trafficking to her role as an Attorney Advisor with AEquitas. Jane served as a prosecutor in Miami, Florida where she tried many of the state’s first human trafficking cases. Jane also served as a supervisor in the Domestic Violence Unit, where she trained new attorneys and oversaw the prosecution of domestic violence, stalking, and violations of protection orders. Throughout her career, Jane prosecuted felony-level crimes of all types, including homicide, kidnapping, and sexual assault.

- Mark Kurkowski, a retired law enforcement officer with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, has 24 years of experience and training in investigating incidents of intimate partner violence, stalking, and sexual assault, while he was assigned to the Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART Unit), The Grants To Encourage Arrest Program, and the St Louis Regional Domestic Violence Prevention Team. He is a certified instructor with BK Forensics, a consultant for the US Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime - Training and Technical Assistance Center, and an instructor with the National Sheriffs Association.

For more info and other webinars, email: info@guamcoalition.org or visit www.GuamCoalition.org for updates.
Join GCASAFV in coordinating the activities planned for April – Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Child Abuse Prevention Month, and National Crime Victims’ Rights Week! GCASAFV will host Zoom meetings to facilitate/coordinate this year’s virtual outreach activities for the month of April. We plan to hold weekly meetings starting on Wednesday, February 10 at 2pm. For more information, please email us at info@guamcoalition.org or call our office at 479-2277.

'Tis the Season... for GRANTS!

This is the time of year that many grant opportunities become available. The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) has recently posted several announcements on its website that may be of interest to you. Here are a few tips to keep in mind as you consider applying for these grants:

- You will need your Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number and be registered with the System of Award Management (SAM) and on Grants.gov (https://www.grants.gov/) by the date posted in the solicitation.

- OVW is now using a new 2-step process that requires a) submittal of the SF-424 and SF-LLL forms not later than 24 to 4 hours prior to the deadline on Grants.gov and b) submittal of the full application including attachments on the Justice Grants System (or JustGrants) by the grant submission deadline. Be sure to note the Grants.gov deadline and the application JustGrants deadline – these are not the same date!

- Review the solicitation and list all the ‘must’ and submittal requirements for any grant your organization wishes to apply for. Tip: Submit the forms as soon as possible once your organization has decided to apply for the grant to avoid missing the deadline, and so there will be ample time to address any technology-related issues if they arise.

GCASAFV is available to provide support if your organization needs assistance understanding the solicitation or the process for submitting a grant application. If you are interested in attending a GCASAFV Review of OVW Grant Solicitations, please email info@guamcoalition.org. The grant opportunities can be found at https://www.justice.gov/ovw/open-solicitations and https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html

The following are among those posted by OVW:

FY 2021 Grants to Reduce Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking on Campus Program Solicitation

This grant is for institutions of higher learning to develop and strengthen effective security and investigation strategies to combat domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking on campus, develop and strengthen victim services and provide education and awareness to the campus community. A letter of intent to apply is strongly encouraged and should be submitted no later than February 23, 2021 to OVW.Campus@usdoj.gov. This grant application is due March 16, 2021.

FY 2021 Sexual Assault Services Culturally Specific Program Solicitation

This grant program is meant to support non-profit organizations that focus primarily on culturally specific communities and have expertise in providing culturally specific sexual assault services. It is important to include how the organization would establish, maintain, and expand sustainable services. Submit the letter of intent by March 1, 2021 to OVW.SASP.Cultural@usdoj.gov. This application is due March 16, 2021.

FY 2021 Grants for Outreach and Services to Underserved Populations Solicitation

This program aims to develop and implement outreach strategies targeted at, and provide victim services to, adult or youth victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking in underserved populations. This program aims to address gaps in services to the unique needs of underserved communities. A letter of intent is highly encouraged and should be submitted to ovwunderserved@usdoj.gov no later than March 16, 2021; the deadline to submit is April 1, 2021.
This year marks the 11th anniversary of February being designated nationally as Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month (TDVAM). GCASAFV recognizes the need to promote healthy relationships and raise awareness of dating violence. Join us by wearing **ORANGE** on Tuesday, February 9th, as a sign of solidarity with young people and to support healthy relationships!

The theme for TDVAM2021 is **Know Your Worth!**

One way to promote healthy relationships is by setting boundaries, whether they are digital, physical, or emotional boundaries. “**That’s Not Cool**” ([https://thatsnotcool.com/](https://thatsnotcool.com/)), an award-winning multi-platform campaign, offers information for one to take charge in showing their friends how to recognize, avoid, and prevent dating violence. This initiative includes social media apps and games showing them where to safely “draw their digital line”.

The website [loveisrespect.org](http://loveisrespect.org), a project of the National Domestic Violence Hotline in partnership with Break the Cycle, provides information and resources for young people experiencing dating violence and relationship abuse. This site offers tips to a healthy relationship.

**Tips for a Healthy Relationship**

- Your self-worth is not contingent on appearance, achievements, or friends.
- Mistakes happen. They are not failures. Learn from them and try again.
- Reach out to your friends and family with your struggles and be open to support, whether solicited or not.

Join GCASAFV in raising awareness to stop dating abuse before it happens. Post images wearing **ORANGE** on social media using hashtags: #TeenDVMonth, #TDVAM2021, #BreaktheCycle, #TDVAMwithGCASAFV. Follow GCASAFV on social media.
The year 2020 has been an interesting year given the pandemic we have been experiencing. Building resilience and learning to accommodate for the changes necessary to support the work that we do was a noteworthy feat. As we continue to navigate and become more familiar with protocols and procedures to stay healthy and safe given our new environment that COVID-19 has created, the Guam Coalition would like to recognize our champions who continue to support the work that we do.

GCASAFV will feature our **COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS** as we launch this new section in the GCASAFV newsletters. We thank the overwhelming support and guidance of members of GCASAFV’s Board of Directors… our Executive Committee:

**PALE’ MICHAEL CRISOSTOMO - Chair**

Pale’ Mike has not only served as the Coalition’s Board Chair but is always willing to help provide key support to the Coalition. A priest with the Archdiocese of Agana (AOA) for over 24 years, Pale’ Mike also serves as a member of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Commission and oversees the AOA’s Ministry to the Homeless. As pastor of St. Anthony’s Church and the AOA Vicar for Clergy, Pale’ Mike manages to find time to help the Coalition by speaking at our trainings, raising community awareness; and mobilizing community networks to address sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, dating violence, and human trafficking related issues. Some of the commendable work Pale’ Mike has facilitated includes coordinating the Guam Coalition’s 2020 kNOw MORE Webinar ‘Safeguarding the Young Ones’, the October 2020 Silent Witness Ceremony, Listening Sessions, and much more! Through his background and training, Pale’ Mike instills hope in victims, courage to the oppressed and assistance to the needy; Pale’ Mike brings to any discussion a unique perspective as a clergy and as a victim survivor.

**NADINE CEPEDA - Vice Chair**

Nadine has been in the field of behavioral health for the past 20 years and works currently as the district psychologist for the Guam Department of Education. Nadine is not only active as the Coalition’s Board Vice Chair but has held several positions as a social worker, therapist, and supervisor of community activities such as an Advisory Council Member for Persons in Need of Advocacy with Mental Illness and Vice Regent of Catholic Daughters of America Santa Barbara Court. Her leadership roles in the community not only benefitted in providing relentless support to victims and survivors but her expertise has helped build the capacity for services to address sexual assault and domestic violence issues on the island.

**MARIA TERESA P. AGUON - Treasurer**

Maria Teresa, or Maresa, serves as the Coalition’s Board Treasurer but also represents the Healing Hearts Crisis Center (HHCC) and Guam Sexual Assault and Abuse Resource Center Association. Maresa has provided numerous individual and family therapy sessions to victims and families of victims of sexual assault and abuse. As an administrative supervisor for all HHCC personnel and clinical supervisor for HHCC Social Work staff, she has provided supervision for and observed or conducted numerous intakes and child forensic or multi-disciplinary team interviews for victims of sexual assault and abuse. GCASAFV considers Maresa as our community champion as she has worked through the pandemic to ensure that needs of victims and survivors of sexual assault were addressed and continued to support the community by finding alternative ways to provide services in coordination with the new social distancing protocols. Maresa finds time to participate in webinars, membership meetings, and GCASAFV’s Family Violence Awareness Month planning activities, and was an overall consistent presence where support to victims and survivors are involved.
GRACE DONALDSON - Secretary

The Guam Coalition is grateful for Grace as the Coalition’s Board Secretary for her expertise in human resources and providing vital guidance in policy development and identifying gaps where employers can be more sensitive to victim/survivor situations. Grace has always been active on the Coalition’s Community Advocate teams during the roundtable discussions, listening sessions, and with the Family Violence Awareness Month planning committee. Grace continues to be a strong supporter of the Coalition’s Holiday Elves Project and we appreciate her generous donations to help support this outreach project.

JOHNNY SAN NICOLAS - Verizon

With a grateful heart, the Coalition would like to extend our appreciation to Johnny San Nicolas for his consistent efforts to keep his community safe without ever expecting anything in return. Johnny is a familiar face amongst the offices in the Ada’s Plaza Center through his camaraderie and Hafa Adai spirit. The Coalition is particularly grateful as Johnny takes the initiative to promote self-care and provides opportunities for team building for the Coalition’s team. Johnny also provides troubleshooting assistance for the Coalition which greatly improves the overall office workflow and supports the efficiency in the work that we do. To the Guam Coalition, he is a community champion in more ways than we can count.

NOMINATE YOUR COMMUNITY CHAMPION!

Submit your nominations for Community Champions to feature in our upcoming newsletters. This individual (or agency) is one you feel makes a difference and helps with your efforts to support victims/survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and human trafficking. This Champion(s) could be a service provider, team member, or a private citizen you would like to recognize. Please email your nomination by the third Thursday of the month with a brief paragraph to info@GuamCoalition.org.

SELF-CARE for Essential Workers (YOU)

With all the changes and stresses dealing with a different work/home environment during this pandemic, self-care has never been more essential.

Knowing that hindsight is 2020, GCASAFV is kicking off 2021 with its own efforts to self-care. We invite you to join us (virtually or in person) every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 4:30pm as we promote self-care for better health.

We encourage you to follow our example and, if you have not already, begin your own self-care efforts as well. If you are unable to participate in your workplace, here are some self-care tips that you can do:

- Do something nice for yourself: go for a jog, watch your favorite TV show, or take a much-needed power nap.
- Take a break from the news/social media. Set your phone on vibrate. Take a moment to focus on your breathing.
- Reconnect with loved ones; chat with friends and family you have not seen in a while.
- Recognize the power of “No”: It is okay to say “no” if you feel over committed and need a break.
- Do not be afraid to ask for help…it could be from a close friend, family member, or a local service provider.

“If you want to have enough to give to others, you will need to take care of yourself first. A tree that refuses water and sunlight for itself can’t bear fruit for others.”

– Emily Maroutian

“When you are nourished within, you are able to grow and blossom. Feed on the ingredients needed to impact those around you.”

–Anonymous
Governor Lourdes Leon Guerrero and Lt. Governor Joshua Tenorio signed the Proclamation declaring January as National Slavery & Human Trafficking Awareness Month during a virtual ceremony on January 11, 2021, which included a Resolution presentation by the 36th Guam Legislature lead by Speaker Therese Terlaje and Vice Speaker Tina Muna Barnes. Attorney General Leevin Camacho, leading Guam’s Human Trafficking Task Force, was joined by other community leaders, agency partners, faith-based leaders, and community advocates.

GCASAFV held its four-day 2021 kNOw MORE Webinar Series: Human Trafficking Awareness and Response focusing on law enforcement response the first week followed by the community response during the second week. Attorney General Leevin Camacho’s opening remarks noted the importance of awareness and vigilance of Human Trafficking not only in the community but mainly in the workforce. Jayne Flores, Administrator of the Governor’s Community Outreach – Federal Programs Office, presented the ‘Stop the Evil’ campaign against labor and sex trafficking, which is available in five different languages.

Law enforcement response was presented by Sgt. Gino Charfauros with Guam Police Department and Special Agent Blu Shiroma with the DHS Homeland Security Investigations; Attorney Eric O’Malley with the US Attorney’s Office for the Districts of Guam and NMI presented on Investigating a Human Trafficking Operation.

While the first week of the webinar focused on law enforcement, week two addressed community services and resources to support victims and survivors of human trafficking. GCASAFV Board Chair Pale’ Mike Crisostomo welcomed participants and introduced the special guest, Director Katherine Chon with the Office on Trafficking in Persons. Representatives from key federal agencies shared information on their agencies – National Center on Missing & Exploited Children, National Human Trafficking Training/Technical Assistance Center, and the Trafficking Victims Assistance Program with the US Committee on Refugees and Immigrants (TVAP/USCRI). Local partners shared services they provide – Salvation Army, Victim Advocates Reaching Out, and the American Samoa Alliance against Domestic and Sexual Violence. Human Trafficking 101 was presented by the TVAP / USCRI and what human trafficking looks like in the Pacific were by representatives from Karidat Services in CNMI, Pohnpei Women Council, Chuuk Women’s Council, and the American Samoa Alliance. Thank you to ALL who participated in this webinar!!
GCASAFV Activities throughout 2020 included community outreaches, and public awareness; training and webinars; and roundtables, focus groups, and listening sessions.

Flashback to 2020

Just like prior years, GCASAFV started out 2020 recognizing January as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month and Stalking Awareness Month. In collaboration with Soroptimist International of Guam, GCASAFV held an outreach fair at Micronesia Mall with agency partners providing information and resources and included the Governor’s Proclamation signing and presentation of the Legislative Resolution. We even did our outreach WAVE with agency partners along Marine Corps Drive fronting Chamorro Village.

GCASAFV continued to plan for a conference and other outreach events…until the news of COVID-19 quickly altered all our plans. Initially, we canceled our events and community meetings in efforts to stop the spread of this virus.

Like the rest of the island, it became apparent that this pandemic was not going away anytime soon.

GCASAFV continued to work behind ‘closed’ doors – with staff working remotely until we were able to utilize both the office and training room so the Coalition team could continue to meet the requirements of the grants we had and support our frontliners – advocates, case workers, therapists…those who continued to support victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence, our local service providers. As we all were trying to better understand this ‘new’ environment, we went virtual with training and outreach activities.
These virtual events also provided an opportunity for those from neighboring islands to participate as well as individuals from the mainland in our webinars. GCASAFV conducted many Zoom sessions and even Talk Story Sessions for Agency Updates that were livestreamed on Facebook. We even focused on more virtual activities such as the Family Violence Awareness Month and our We Stand Together campaign.

GCASAFV partnered with many national providers to bring training to the island community during our ‘regular’ working hours in Chamorro Standard Time while many worked from home. GCASAFV appreciates the support from all participants and community partners for making this a successful year despite all the obstacles. GCASAFV looks forward to continuing to provide virtual events, meetings, and webinars because the work should not stop to support our communities being safe, healthy, and violence-free!
The We CARE (COVID Assistance Relief Effort) virtual outreach was launched to provide information, a mini info card, and engage island residents as Community Champions in becoming knowledgeable of key service providers and in supporting others dealing with domestic violence or sexual assault. GCASAFV distributed 4,000 CARE packages that included face masks and hand sanitizers to Coalition members and partners including public housing residents, village Mayors, church leaders, and shelter programs.
THANK YOU!

Throughout the year, We Are Grateful for our members and partners who have joined us in our mission to foster safe, healthy, violence-free island communities. This aligns with GCASAFV’s purposes to identify and address the sexual assault and family violence needs of the community, ensure access to services, promote awareness of sexual assault and family violence, and build the island’s capacity to respond the community needs.

For donations the past year:
- Mr. Jessie Rosario - Graphic Center, Inc.
- Mr. Troy K. Moylan - Moylan Insurance Underwriters
- Ms. Taliea Strohmeyer - Color Guam Art Studio & Entertainment
- The Choir Students and Directors of John F. Kennedy High School

Christmas Elves Project with the Office of the Public Guardian:
- Ms. Grace Donaldson, Ms. Edna Nery, Ms. Maria Teehan, Ms. Aurora Wong, Mr. & Mrs. John & Liza Weisenberger, Ms. Taylor Amdal-Barela Asuncion

Thank you to all our Trainers and Presenters for donating their time, especially National Organization of Asians and Pacific Islanders Ending Sexual Violence, Ms. Stella Gallegos, and Ms. Sue Metuschke