

NVRDC POLICY PRIORITIES: FISCAL YEAR 2020

The Network for Victim Recovery of DC (NVRDC) provides holistic victim services, including free legal representation, advocacy, and case management to victims of all crimes in DC. NVRDC's 2020 policy priorities are consistent with our mission and philosophy of survivor-defined justice.

I. Strengthening the Crime Victims' Rights Act.

While NVRDC's year-round mission is to advocate for crime victims' rights, fiscal year 2020 presents an exciting and unique opportunity to further progress on the codified rights enumerated in the Crime Victims' Rights Act. With the introduction of the Courtney Wild Crime Victims' Rights Reform Act of 2019 and the Crime Victims' Rights Amendment Act of 2020, NVRDC is excited and hopeful to advocate for changes to the Crime Victims' Rights Act that could transform the landscape of the crime victims' rights movement.

More specifically, NVRDC's advocacy for both bills will focus on clarifying that the crime victims' rights attach before the commencement of a prosecution, and increasing transparency and accountability for crime victims' rights violations through explicit and tangible repercussions.

II. Advocating for students' rights in light of the new Title IX regulations.

Pending the release of the U.S. Department of Education's new Title IX regulations, NVRDC will continue its efforts to reform Title IX processes at DC colleges and universities. This includes fighting for a Title IX system that is fair, consistent, and trauma-informed.

When the regulations are released, NVRDC's efforts will focus on educating and empowering DC's educational institutions and students on the implications of such regulations as well as exploring opportunities for advocacy and support of student-survivors.

III. Increasing Survivor Access to HIV Support.

NVRDC will continue its efforts to increase survivors' access to justice by addressing barriers to HIV medication and resources. NVRDC strives to ensure that if a survivor wants resources or support, their access will not be blocked by systemic barriers that discriminate against them. This includes the income discrimination that is created when there are no free or accessibly priced HIV prevention medication in the District.

IV. Preparing and Adjusting to Changes from the Implementation of the Sexual Assault Victims' Rights Amendment Act of 2019.

With the passage of the Sexual Assault Victims' Rights Amendment Act of 2019 (SAVRAA), NVRDC joins other organizations in preparing for its implementation in October of 2020. In addition to preparing its Advocacy Program for the expansion of the District's response to sexual assault survivors, NVRDC is working together with other providers to ensure that SAVRAA is implemented without compromising the quality of services available to survivors.