



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NVRDC Statement on the Violent Attack on the U.S. Capitol and our Community

Washington, DC (January 7, 2021) - Network for Victim Recovery of DC (NVRDC) condemns the hate and violence that led to the attack on the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021. In addition to threatening the rule of law in our country and placing the lives of DC residents and first responders at risk, this attack was reflective of the same injustices we see every day: systemic and structural racism.

As a DC-based victim services organization, we cannot help but compare and reflect on the stark differences between the responses to the U.S. Capitol attack and the Black Lives Matter protests that occurred in our city and around the country, and how they are mirrored in the experiences of our clients as they go through the criminal legal system. The White privilege of the Capitol attackers spared them from the violence imposed on Black Lives Matter protestors this summer. It is the same White privilege that influences who the criminal legal system accepts as a “victim” worth assisting or a “perpetrator” worth condemning, who is worthy of suspicion and who merits the benefit of the doubt. Yesterday’s events reflect, once more, how the narratives of harm and accountability shift depending on your race.

We cannot ask our communities to have faith in our legal and courts systems when race, and not the harm caused, is determining the fate of people’s lives and shaping the communities we live in. This is especially true for victimizations that are centered in forms of oppression such as sexual assault; the most common form of violence that NVRDC clients experience. NVRDC renews our commitment to reexamine the ways we can support the reformation of these systems to create new and alternative definitions of “justice” and “accountability” that directly confront this country’s history and the role that race plays in the oppression of Black and Brown communities every single day.

Victims of hate and bias-motivated crimes in the District can contact NVRDC for free legal and advocacy services by calling (202) 742-1727.

Network for Victim Recovery of DC empowers victims of all crimes to achieve survivor-defined justice through a collaborative continuum of advocacy, case management, and legal services. To learn more about NVRDC, please visit nvrdc.org.