



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NVRDC receives grant from Women's Bar Association Foundation

Washington, DC (February 17, 2021) - Network for Victim Recovery of DC (NVRDC) has been selected by the Women's Bar Association Foundation as a 2021 Grant Recipient for its unwavering commitment and growing achievements in serving the legal and related needs of women and girls in our local DC community.

NVRDC was founded "to empower all victims of crime to achieve survivor-defined justice through a collaborative continuum of advocacy, case management, & legal services." To date, NVRDC has served over 5,000 survivors, around 80% of whom identify as girls or women. Throughout the pandemic, NVRDC has been focused on continuing to advocate for survivors of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking. The legal team has provided assistance with emergency release, compassionate release motions, and united partner service providers to send a joint letter to local leaders with recommendations on how to address survivors' needs in emergency policies, that were later adopted by the American Civil Liberties Union.

The specific recommendations included: 1) Mandating and implementing universal testing of all individuals in custody and DOC staff 2) Releasing individuals nearing the end of their sentences 3) Prioritizing release to home confinement of individuals serving Bureau of Prison sentences in DOC custody 4) Modifying discovery practices to allow individuals a fair opportunity to defend their cases 5) Suspending mandatory minimum sentences and giving judges discretion to delay sentencing 6) Providing critical funding for community-based reentry service providers and for housing for returning citizens. 7) Amending the District's criminal record and sealing laws to provide greater opportunities for returning citizens to access job and housing resources 8) Amending DC's compassionate release statute to place vulnerability to COVID-19 as a separate standalone basis for compassionate release.

"NVRDC is proud that we were able to continue to provide DC survivors with free on-call, in-person hospital advocacy, virtual case management, and virtual legal services throughout the pandemic," says Executive Director of NVRDC, Bridgette Stumpf. "Funding from the Women's Bar Association Foundation helps to ensure that DC survivors continue to have a service provider focused on survivor-defined justice."

NVRDC will be receiving this grant award at the WBA Foundation's 12th Annual Grant Awards Ceremony, which will be held virtually this year.

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.