

Monday Mentoring Missives – March 8, 2021

Dear Friends,

On **Tuesday, March 9**, the Senate Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing for **Lisa Monaco** to serve as the USDOJ's Deputy Attorney General; and **Vanita Gupta** to serve as Associate Attorney General (see overview from *NPR* here: <https://www.npr.org/2021/03/08/974574938/new-justice-department-team-comes-into-focus-ahead-of-vote-on-garland>). Both of these positions are critical to our field; and both of these women are eminently qualified to fill them, with strong support for both of them from the victim/survivor services field. I'll be following the news about this important hearing; and will keep MMM apprised of ongoing efforts to secure top leadership at the U.S. Department of Justice that truly understands the needs of crime survivors, and those who serve them. Many Missives today – it's been a big week!

Regularly Scheduled Missives

From the Senate Judiciary Committee, here's an overview of important bipartisan efforts to strengthen the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) that supports the Crime Victims Fund, that supports thousands of victim/survivor services programs nationwide:

<https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/press/dem/releases/durbin-graham-bipartisan-senators-lead-legislation-to-strengthen-the-victims-of-crime-act>. The National Alliance to End Sexual Violence has published a Toolkit that can help you get involved; contact your Congress members; and promote the **#VOCAFix** on social media, available at <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1INcuxjAkN3Vsla0dYiLhq6KuLCxyA93Bv1ZHfi9GFWA/edit>. **Please take a moment to reach out to your representatives in Congress, VOCA funding is the backbone of our field!**

Thank you, Office for Victims of Crime, for the wonderful "Supporting Victims with Disabilities Online Training Toolkit," which features useful tips, tools, videos, and culturally-responsive best practices. The Toolkit was developed by the Vera Institute of Justice Center on Victimization and Safety, The Arc, and other national partners:

<https://ovc.ojp.gov/grantee-news/new-training-toolkit-supporting-crime-victims-disabilities>.

March 7 – 13, 2021 is "No More Week," and you can join webinars around the world, and download campaign information and a "No More" sign to end domestic and sexual violence, here: <https://nomore.org/campaigns/no-more-week-2021/>

With support from the Office for Victims of Crime, the International Association of Chiefs of Police released the second edition of its "Enhancing Law Enforcement Response to Victims" Strategy to help build broader communitywide trust and confidence in the police; foster the healing process for victims; increase victim participation in the criminal justice process; and produce stronger cases to hold offenders accountable. This has great tips, tools and videos for you, available at:

<https://ovc.ojp.gov/grantee-news/strategy-helps-law-enforcement-connect-victims-and-build-community-trust>

Here's an inspiring article from *PBS Morning Edition* about the heroic work of victim/survivor services agencies in the Philadelphia area, "Gun Violence Epidemic, Recent Mass Shootings Push Victim Service Agencies into Overdrive:"

<https://why.org/articles/gun-violence-epidemic-recent-mass-shootings-push-victim-service-agencies-into-overdrive/>. A HUGE thanks from MMM to our amazing colleagues in Pennsylvania!

"Check Your Workplace" is a campaign sponsored by Futures Without Violence to end workplace sexual assault and harassment, do check it out! <https://checkyourworkplace.com/>

The National Resource Center for Reaching Victims offers a series of brief, excellent videos about the basics of sign language interpreting and working with interpreters:

<https://fast.wistia.net/embed/channel/u5h3pdx5pe>

RAINN shares a great article, "Equipping First Responders to Help Save Children," which highlights the personal experience of survivor/advocate Ali Rothrock, and links to her nonprofit First Responders Care <http://frcare.org/>, which seeks to improve first responders' capacity to identify abusive situations in the home.

The National Organization for Victim Assistance has a full week of wonderful activities to commemorate 2021 National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 18 – 24, check it out at <https://www.trynova.org/ncvrw/>.

And here are great resources from the National Sexual Violence Resource Center to help commemorate Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) in April: <https://www.nsvrc.org/saam>

On **Wednesday, March 31, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. EST**, the National Institute of Corrections is hosting a webinar entitled "Building Inclusion Across Multi-Disciplinary Teams. "Do you feel like you are working in an inclusive environment? Organizations of all kinds – including corrections – have wrestled with how to create an inclusive culture and promote inclusivity for decades. Now the stakes are even higher to develop and cultivate a culture that promotes excellence by leveraging everyone's skills, abilities, knowledge, and workplace experiences. Focusing on your workforce's diverse talents will promote a heightened awareness of each person's contribution and produce higher performing teams. If you are interested in being part of a team where everyone can contribute and feel they are a valued member, this one-hour interactive webinar sponsored by NIC will explore the benefits of building inclusion across multi-disciplinary teams in corrections to increase cultural awareness, operational effectiveness, and program efficacy." For more information and to register, visit <https://nicmeetings.webex.com/nicmeetings/onstage/g.php?MTID=eaf259141606d6fed76a9d70a638f34dc>

Racism and Systemic Racial Injustice Missives

I am fortunate to co-facilitate a thought leader group of Black survivors, advocates and activists, and I'll be sharing some of what I am learning from them in Monday Missives:

- Sam Simmons joins an important discussion on Minnesota Public Radio about “the effects of trauma on communities of color,” where I was introduced to his critical concept of “*persistent trauma*” that emanates out of historical trauma: <https://www.mprnews.org/story/2016/07/11/historical-trauma>.
- “A Call to Check Unchecked White Rage – Now” by Tiffany Turner-Allen, Executive Director of Non-profit Prince George’s County, published in *Nonprofit Quarterly*, offers an historic overview of the results of white rage; calls for action and equity; and provides good advice about how to be an ally: <https://nonprofitquarterly.org/a-call-to-check-unchecked-white-rage-now/>

My friends at Catholic Mobilizing Network offer a resource page, “Restorative Approaches in a Time of Racial Reckoning,” available at <https://catholicmobilizing.org/resource/restorative-approaches-time-racial-reckoning?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=cbfa8d60-ebad-40ea-b5c9-0a3c31932edf>

From PBS, here’s an informative article, “A Call to Action for White Educators Who Seek to be Anti-Racist,” that also applies to OUR work!

<https://www.pbs.org/education/blog/a-call-to-action-for-white-educators-who-seek-to-be-anti-racist>

COVID-19-related Missives

I appreciated this article in the *Huffington Post* about the impact of the pandemic on children, written by a child therapist: https://www.huffpost.com/entry/child-therapist-covid-19_n_6030234bc5b67c32961d9f6a

As one who is personally confused about the different COVID-19 vaccines, I found this article in *Bloomberg* to be very helpful: <https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2021-03-06/which-covid-vaccine-is-the-best-moderna-pfizer-or-johnson-johnson>

From one of my favorite blogs, the “NDAA Prosecutor Well-bring Blog,” here are good tips to take care of yourself during the pandemic:

<https://ndaajustice.medium.com/8-tools-to-improve-well-being-in-the-midst-of-a-pandemic-217cd569fb86>

Annie’s Tips for Sanity

I just LOVED this article from *BrainPickings* about the difference between “resume virtues” and “eulogy virtues” (and I’ll personally be working on the latter!):

<https://www.brainpickings.org/2015/04/21/david-brooks-road-to-character/>

And who DOESN'T love baby goats jumping for joy? https://youtu.be/KP_v7kYObWk

Best wishes, ANNE

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Your colleagues can join MMM by simply sending a *BLANK* email to:
MMM+subscribe@groups.io

To “unsubscribe” from MMM, send a blank email to
MMM+unsubscribe@groups.io

Archived Monday Missives can be found at <https://groups.io/g/MMM>

2021 National Crime Victims' Rights Week (#NCVRW2021) – April 18 to 24, 2021

THEME: *Support Victims. Build Trust. Engage Communities.*

Sign up for OVC's 2021 NCVRW subscription list at <https://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ncvrw/subscribe/>

NCVRW 2021 Artwork available at <https://ovc.ojp.gov/ncvrw2021/ncvrw-artwork>

National Mass Violence Victimization Resource Center

<http://www.nmvvrc.org/>

VictimConnect Resource Center

1-855-4VICTIM (1-855-484-2846) by phone and text

<https://victimconnect.org/>