

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Contact:** Rose Luna – Communications Program Director – TAASA – 512-659-8065  
Chris Kaiser – Staff Attorney – TAASA -512-740-1317

**Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA) hosts meeting to discuss sexual violence, immigration and family detention facilities**

**Austin, TX** – Today the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA) will host sexual assault, domestic violence, and immigration advocates to discuss the issue of detained women and children in Texas. Family detention centers have been the topic of conversation amongst human rights, legal, and immigration advocates. A detention center in Texas captured national attention as allegations of sexual abuse surfaced. “Allegations of sexual abuse while in confinement are particularly alarming, but we’re also very concerned that the confinement setting itself is exacerbating the effects of trauma and isolating victims from the health care they need to recover. Many of these women and children are in detention precisely because of the extreme violence they’ve experienced, and confining them is making it worse.” says Chris Kaiser, Staff Attorney at TAASA.

As the narrative continues, questions on the role of local rape crisis center agencies emerge. What does this mean for sexual assault & domestic violence advocates, prevention specialists, and community members? “Where’s the outrage?” says Linda A. Brandmiller, Immigration Attorney and CEO of Asociacion de Servicios Para el Inmigrante based in San Antonio, TX, “Many of the women and children detained have experienced immense trauma and are further traumatized by our system’s response to their plight.” TAASA’s Diversity Task Force invited Linda to provide a workshop to address sexual violence, immigration, and family detention facilities. Linda represents several women and children detained in a Texas facility.

**TAASA’s Diversity Task Force Meeting–Friday July 10, 2015**

- Workshop begins at 10:00 am
- TAASA Offices – 6200 La Calma Drive, Austin, TX 78752
- Interviews available at the conclusion of workshop (approximately 11:30 am)

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**The Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA)** is the statewide organization committed to ending sexual violence in Texas. A non-profit educational and advocacy organization based in Austin, TAASA member agencies comprise a statewide network of more than 80 crisis centers that serve rural as well as metropolitan areas. Founded in 1982, the agency has a strong record of success in community education, legal services, youth outreach, law enforcement training, legislative advocacy, and curricula and materials development. Additional information about TAASA can be found at [www.taasa.org](http://www.taasa.org).