#### TAASA RESOLUTIONS

# As of 2020 Special Meeting - May 18, 2020

**RESOLUTIONS EXPIRING IN 2021** 

# Resolution In regard to Public Accommodations and policies that target and deny rights to Transgender / Gender Non-Conforming Individuals

WHEREAS, oppression is a root cause of sexual violence;

WHEREAS, any law that denies an individual their rights leads to further oppression;

**WHEREAS,** "bathroom bills" that are designed to deny an individual's rights to use public facilities that correspond to their gender identity are more likely to put transgender/gender non-conforming individuals at a greater risk of both physical and sexual violence; <sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS,** 50% of people who died in violent hate crimes against LGBTQ people were transgender women who were also sexually assaulted during the crime; the other half were male, many of whom were gender non-conforming;<sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS,** policies that support "bathroom bills" rely on false information that further perpetuates myths surrounding sexual assault;

**WHEREAS,** 70% of sexual assaults are committed by a perpetrator known or related to the victim, not by a stranger;<sup>2</sup>

WHEREAS, 84% of sexual victimization of children under age of 12 occurs in a residence; 3

**WHEREAS,** non-discrimination laws that protect gender identity in public accommodations have existed in many states for over 10 years and have shown no record of increasing sexual violence;<sup>4</sup> and

**WHEREAS,** respect and equality for people of all gender identities and expression is an important value of Texas Association Against Sexual Assault; now therefore, be it

#### **RESOLVED:**

- 1) That TAASA will not be silent when communities attempt to leverage sexual assault myths in order to discriminate and further oppress transgender and gender non-conforming communities; AND
- 2) That the voices and histories of transgender victims of sexual violence are counted, valued, and become a part of the work that TAASA embodies; AND
- 3) That TAASA is dedicated to educating about the **realities** of sexual violence as well as utilizing evidenced-based approaches to prevent sexual assault and eliminate future violence; AND

- 4) That TAASA urges Policymakers concerned with public safety to allow evidence-based research concerning sexual violence perpetration guide their decisions; AND
- 5) That TAASA opposes all policies that seek to institutionalize transphobia and encourage oppression of transgender and gender non-conforming communities; AND
- 6) That TAASA urges all whom this resolution reaches to enact rules and regulations which respect and protect the rights of transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Contributors: TAASA Board, TAASA Talking Point's Regarding "Bathroom Bills", Katrina Stewart

This is a Statement Resolution.

Presented by the Board of Directors and the TAASA Diversity Task Force.

The state anticipated cost of implementation is \$0.

Resolution passed 2017 expires 2021

¹www.ovc.gov/pubs/forge/sexual\_numbers.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Busch-Armendariz, N.B., Olaya, D., Kerwick, M., Wachter, K., Sulley C. (2015). Health and Well-Being: Texas Statewide Sexual Assault Prevalence. The University of Texas at Austin, Institute on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault: Austin, Texas.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Snyder, H. N. (2000). Sexual Assault of Young Children as Reported to Law Enforcement: Victim, Incident, and Offender Characteristics. National Center for Juvenile Justice NCJ 182990. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Steinmetz, K. (2016). LGBT Advocates say Bathroom Predators are a Red Hering. Time. http://time.com/4314896/transgender-bathroom-bill-male-predators-argument/

## Resolution on Promoting a Trauma-Informed and Survivor Centric Approach

WHEREAS, inequity is at the root of all forms of violence, including sexual violence;

**WHEREAS,** effective advocacy and inclusive programming are necessary for survivors' healing and attainment of justice;

**WHEREAS,** the way survivors are treated reflects the way our society respects and values their experiences; and

**WHEREAS,** people's identities and positions in society impact their vulnerability and experience of violence; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that TAASA has adopted core values that guide their work through a trauma-informed and survivor centric approach which affirms survivor's experiences; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that TAASA believes that by **promoting equity** we can eliminate sexual violence by fostering communities in which all people are valued, have meaningful access to resources necessary to thrive, and are free to express their full identities without fear of violence and oppression; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that TAASA believes in **Improving Access to Services** and is committed to ensuring all survivors in Texas have access to appropriately funded and culturally-resonant services, as well as systems that are responsive to their needs; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that TAASA believes in **Building Community through Collaboration** and is committed to work that affirms survivors and improves response to sexual violence by engaging with an array of institutions, organizations and individuals throughout the state; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that TAASA believes in **Acknowledging the Intersectionality of Identities and Systems** and is committed to work that centers the voices of those in marginalized communities and those affected by violence by supporting the movements that challenge systems of oppression; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that TAASA urges all members to adopt these values into their work and is available to assist members in doing so.

This is a Statement Resolution.

Presented by the Board of Directors and the TAASA Diversity Task Force.

The state anticipated cost of implementation is \$0.

Resolution passed 2018 expires 2022

## **Resolution on Promoting a Trauma-Informed Organizational Culture**

WHEREAS, inequity is at the root of all forms of violence;

**WHEREAS,** effective advocacy and inclusive programming are necessary for survivors' healing and attainment of justice;

**WHEREAS,** the way survivors are treated reflects the way our society respects and values their experiences; and

**WHEREAS,** people's identities and positions in society impact their vulnerability and experience of violence; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that TAASA has adopted core values in order to keep their work guided by a trauma-informed and survivor centric approach which affirms survivor's experiences; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that TAASA believes that by **promoting equity** we can eliminate sexual violence by fostering communities in which all people are valued, have meaningful access to resources necessary to thrive, and are free to express their full identities without fear of violence and oppression; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that TAASA believes in **Improving Access to Services** and is committed to ensuring all survivors in Texas have access to appropriately funded and culturally-resonant services, as well as systems that are responsive to their needs; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that TAASA believes in **Building Community through Collaboration** and is committed to work that affirms survivors and improves response to sexual violence by engaging with an array of institutions, organizations and individuals throughout the state; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that TAASA believes in **Acknowledging the Intersectionality of Identities and Systems** and is committed to work that centers the voices of those in marginalized communities and those affected by violence by supporting the movements that challenge systems of oppression; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that TAASA urges all members to adopt these values into their work and is available to assist members in doing so.

This is a Statement Resolution.

Presented by the Board of Directors and the TAASA Diversity Task Force.

The state anticipated cost of implementation is \$0.

Resolution passed 2018 expires 2022

## **Addressing Clergy Abuse**

WHEREAS, sexual abuse and violence committed by clergy and other faith leaders is a widespread epidemic;

**WHEREAS,** many look to those in power within religious communities to provide guidance and support in times of need;

**WHEREAS,** attempts to deny, minimize, or hide abuse allows the cycle of perpetration to continue, silences victims, and creates barriers for future victims to come forward; and

**WHEREAS,** when members of the faith community do not respond by believing and supporting survivors it can increase the level of trauma they experience and reinforce feelings like shame, blame, and powerlessness; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED** that accountability is not only necessary for those who commit these atrocious acts, but also for those who are complicit by covering the abuse; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that TAASA encourages faith communities to partner with local agencies to increase efforts to prevent future violence and support survivors; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that TAASA supports all survivors of clergy abuse and urges individuals from faith communities and all communities believe and support these survivors.

This is a Statement Resolution.

Presented by the Board of Directors. \*

The state anticipated cost of implementation is \$0.

Resolution passed 2019 expires 2023

#### **Ending Human Trafficking**

**WHEREAS**, human trafficking is a form of slavery;

**WHEREAS,** hundreds of thousands of children, women, and men are trafficked across international borders every year;

WHEREAS, thousands of children, women, and men are trafficked across and within state borders;

**WHEREAS,** many survivors are trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation and victims who are trafficked for labor or domestic servitude are sexually assaulted into submission;

**WHEREAS,** Texas is a border state with numerous points of entry by air, sea, and land and supports several major highway systems for traffickers and their victims;

<sup>\*</sup>The idea for this resolution was proposed by an Individual TAASA Member from Region C

**WHEREAS,** international, federal, state and local law enforcement agencies are committed to combating human trafficking;

**WHEREAS,** communities can most effectively respond to human trafficking when law enforcement agencies, medical professionals, immigrant advocacy groups and local social service organizations work together;

**WHEREAS,** local sexual assault programs have a critical role to play in preventing human trafficking and serving survivors of human trafficking; and

**WHEREAS,** TAASA is committed to responding to the shifting demands placed on local sexual assault programs; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED** that TAASA is committed to preventing human trafficking; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that TAASA is committed to supporting survivors of human trafficking; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that TAASA will assist international, federal, state and community efforts to confront human trafficking.

This is a Statement Resolution.

Presented by the Board of Directors.

The state anticipated cost of implementation is \$0.

Resolution passed 2019 expires 2023

## **Ending Sexual Violence in Detention**

**WHEREAS,** the PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT(PREA) establishes a zero-tolerance standard against sexual violence of incarcerated persons of any age and increases accountability for administrators who fail to prevent, reduce, and punish sexual violence;

WHEREAS, Texas has the largest incarcerated population in the US;

WHEREAS, Texas leads the U.S. in rates of sexual victimization behind bars;

WHEREAS, sexual assault in detention is committed by other inmates and staff members equally;

**WHEREAS,** individuals in detention deserve to be free from sexual victimization from other inmates and from staff that work in facilities; and

**WHEREAS,** the majority of prisoners are released back into Texas communities with trauma and unresolved trauma from being sexually victimized in detention can lead to devastating effects including violence that can create additional victims in the community; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED** that TAASA urges all federal, state, local public and private correctional institutions to make every effort to prevent, eliminate, and appropriately respond to sexual violence in facilities throughout Texas; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that TAASA supports and encourages local programs to offer emotional support services to individuals in detention who have been sexually victimized based on their capacity to offer these services.

This is a Statement Resolution.

Presented by the TAASA Board of Directors.

The state anticipated cost of implementation is \$0.

Resolution passed 2019 expires 2023

## **Improving Access for Survivors**

WHEREAS, all survivors deserve to have meaningful access to services;

**WHEREAS,** the unique identity of every survivor is an essential perspective to reflect when providing services and establishing programs;

**WHEREAS,** additional barriers to service are created and individuals can be revictimized and further marginalized when programs fail to consider the varying needs of survivors; and

**WHEREAS,** client advocacy must always respect the survivor's individual right to self-determination, which includes recognizing different paths or options for healing and justice; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED** that TAASA urges programs to provide equitable opportunities for healing by engaging with the community to create practices that are culturally, socially, and linguistically relevant; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that TAASA recognizes centering marginalized identities in planning for programming and service delivery is essential to creating and expanding meaningful access; and be it further

**RESOLVED** TAASA believes in the importance of service providers continuously educating themselves in order to appropriately evaluate and implement service delivery plans that improve access at all points of interaction between the program and survivors; and be it further

**RESOLVED** TAASA believes in improving access to services and is committed to ensuring all survivors in Texas have access to appropriately funded and culturally resonant services, as well as systems that are responsive to their needs.

This is a Statement Resolution.

Presented by TAASA VOICES' members (Formerly known as Diversity Task Force).

The state anticipated cost of implementation is \$0.

Resolution passed 2019 expires 2023

#### **Improving Support for Youth Survivors of Sexual Violence**

**WHEREAS,** the majority of perpetrators of sexual violence against minors are known and trusted individuals, often family members and friends;

WHEREAS, minors must often rely on trusted adults in their lives to confide in and access services through;

**WHEREAS,** barriers to reporting include fear of not being believed by an adult and getting kicked out of their homes, which are increasingly prominent for LGBTQ+ and youth of color;

**WHEREAS,** research has indicated the most important factor in resilience in child sexual abuse survivors is support from the family and the wider social environment;

**WHEREAS,** young people may not have the developed language or cognitive processing ability to discern, label, and report sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, young people can consent to their own counseling treatment at rape crisis centers as allowed through the Texas Family Code<sup>1</sup> with limited liability to the sexual assault program; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED** that TAASA will encourage and support training for service providers, advocates, first responders, and all adult influencers to learn about and challenge adultist perspectives that reinforce imbalanced power between themselves and young people; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that TAASA will promote programming to engage youth as leaders in sexual violence prevention; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that TAASA will encourage sexual assault programs to formalize policies<sup>1</sup> that allow for young people to consent to their own mental health treatment; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that TAASA will encourage and support programs and communities to cultivate equitable, compassionate and safe environments for youth both inside and outside of school spaces; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that TAASA will support services that impact all youth in order to reach youth survivors and start by believing when they disclose any act recognized as sexual violence.

This is a Statement Resolution.

Presented by TAASA Board of Directors. \*

The state anticipated cost of implementation is \$0.

Resolution passed 2019 expires 2023

#### Increasing Accessibility for Survivors who Identify as Male

WHEREAS, 1 in 5 males across the state of Texas have experienced sexual assault in their lifetime;

**WHEREAS,** youth and Adult Survivors who identify as male are less likely to report a sexual assault committed against them;

**WHEREAS,** rigid gender norms, social stigmas and other factors create additional barriers for male survivors of sexual violence who are seeking help and support from the community and first responders; and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Texas Family Code Sec. 32.004.

<sup>\*</sup>The idea for this resolution was proposed by an Individual TAASA Member from Region C.

**WHEREAS,** Sexual Assault Forensic Nurses are not currently required to perform forensic exams with male survivors as part of training for certification; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED** that TAASA will work with members to help reduce barriers for men to access services through continued education, awareness, and provision of inclusive services, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that TAASA will encourage victim-serving professionals to access training and continuing education to expertly serve male survivors of sexual violence; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that TAASA will challenge misconceptions and stereotypes that reinforce strict gender norms that further isolate and silence male survivors.

This is a Statement Resolution.

Presented by TAASA Board of Directors.

The state anticipated cost of implementation is \$0.

Resolution passed 2019 expires 2023

# **Supporting Reproductive Justice and Choice**

WHEREAS, abortion was legalized in 1971 by the Supreme Court of the United States; and

**WHEREAS,** legislation to restrict abortion could have unintended and harmful consequences to sexual assault survivors; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED** that TAASA will support legislation that protects sexual assault/incest survivors' rights to make choices with regards to abortion; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that TAASA will oppose legislation that restricts a person's right to choose an abortion.

This is a Statement Resolution.

Presented by the TAASA Board of Directors.

The state anticipated cost of implementation is \$0.

Resolution passed 2019 expires 2023

#### **Supporting Survivors of Sexual Violence**

WHEREAS, 2 in 5 women and 1 in 5 men have been sexually assaulted at least once in their life;

**WHEREAS,** a culture of victim-blaming and shaming exists prominently and reinforces silence while further traumatizing survivors;

**WHEREAS,** sexual violence may take many forms and impacts survivors' emotional, mental, physical, and financial well-being; and

**WHEREAS,** less than half of survivors of sexual assault disclose or report and face varied and valid barriers to reporting and engaging systems of care or justice; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED** that TAASA will honor the brave survivors of sexual violence, and be it further

**RESOLVED** collaboration between advocates, counselors, forensic examiners, law enforcement and other allied professionals is important in order to ensure survivors are not only supported but also afforded their rights; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that TAASA will cultivate and reinforce safe and inclusive spaces to address and reduce barriers to reporting, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that TAASA will advocate for and alongside survivors of sexual violence in their silence or as they speak out.

This is a Statement Resolution.

Presented by TAASA Board of Directors.

The state anticipated cost of implementation is \$0.

Resolution passed 2019 expires 2023

## Awareness and Prevention of Sexual Violence Against the Elder Population

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization estimates 1 in 6 elders are victims of some form of abuse;

WHEREAS, the population age 60 and above is projected to double to 2 billion by the year 2050;

**WHEREAS,** elders are categorized together by age but are a heterogeneous group of people from every possible background/socioeconomic status/ethnicity/gender, etc.;

**WHEREAS,** awareness of sexual violence against elders historically has not been easily identified nor its existence routinely acknowledged;

**WHEREAS,** the aging process affects both physical and cognitive abilities that can dually increase the possibility of and the vulnerability to sexual violence for elders; and

WHEREAS, TAASA is committed to prevention of sexual violence against all persons, therefore be it,

**RESOLVED**, that TAASA is committed to the prevention of sexual violence against elders; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that TAASA is committed to increasing awareness of sexual violence against elders, understanding that knowledge is a key factor towards the goal of prevention; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that TAASA will assist in leading, providing and promoting education throughout the state to address the occurrence of sexual violence against the elder population in an effort to prevent and eliminate it.

This is a Statement Resolution.

Presented by the TAASA Board of Directors.

The state anticipated cost of implementation is \$0.

Resolution passed 2020 expires 2024

#### The Detention of Immigrant Adults and Children

**WHEREAS,** we recognize that adults and children in detention centers are escaping sexual violence and threats of sexual violence;

**WHEREAS,** many who flee from their home country experience sexual violence while in route to and/or while in an immigration detention center in the United States compounding the effects of trauma;

**WHEREAS,** detaining individuals fleeing violence and threats of violence, and holding them in an immigrant detention facility under the watch of armed guards contradicts survivor-centered care;

**WHEREAS,** individuals placed in the Migrant Protection Protocol (MPP) are at a risk of suffering violence including sexual violence in Mexico;

WHEREAS, the MPP contradicts the laws of asylum of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, TAASA is committed to ALL survivors of sexual violence, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that TAASA is committed to upholding the standards of care and rights of victims regardless of their status, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that TAASA is committed to advocating on behalf of immigrant men, women, and children detained in immigration facilities who has experienced sexual violence or are escaping threats of sexual violence.

This is a Statement Resolution.

Presented by TAASA Region C Individual Members and Member Organizations
The state anticipated cost of implementation is \$0.

Resolution passed 2020 expires 2024

# **Supporting Undocumented Survivors**

**WHEREAS,** Texas is comprised of immigrants from throughout the world who contribute to the state's social vigor, cultural richness, and economic vitality;

**WHEREAS,** the experience of immigration can lead to emotional and physical trauma for both individuals and their family members;

**WHEREAS,** when denigrative political rhetoric is used to justify legislative initiatives and create false perceptions of undocumented individuals it creates a culture where undocumented victims can be further exploited or unable to seek assistance<sup>1</sup>;

**WHEREAS,** TAASA and its member programs respect the rights of and provides equal service to all individuals affected by sexual violence, regardless of race, ethnicity, national origin, or immigration status;

**WHEREAS,** immigration policies have become a controversy statewide, thereby substantially putting at risk the trust and confidence of the immigrant community which TAASA and its member programs have cultivated for the past several years<sup>2</sup>; and

**WHEREAS,** the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure prohibits racial profiling by law enforcement and further requires law enforcement to provide potential victims with all reasonable information to prevent further violence, including giving written notice of a victim's legal rights and remedies and of the availability of shelter or other community services for sexual assault survivors, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that TAASA will commit itself and the resources of its members to restoring the trust of undocumented residents, so that all Texas residents and visitors, including all immigrants, can have the confidence to contact and interact with victim service providers without fear of immigration consequences.

This is a Statement Resolution.

Presented by Region C Individual Members and Member Organizations
The state anticipated cost of implementation is \$0.

Resolution passed 2020 expires 2024

<sup>1</sup>Espin, O. (1997). Crossing borders and boundaries: The life narratives of immigrant lesbians. In Greene, B. (Ed.), Psychological perspectives on lesbian and gay issues: Vol. 3. Ethnic and cultural diversity among lesbians and gay men (pp.191-215) Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

# Awareness and Prevention of Sexual Violence Against Persons with Disabilities

**WHEREAS,** the World Health Organization states that adults with disabilities are at increased risk for sexual violence when compared to non-disabled adults;

**WHEREAS,** adults who experience mental health issues experience increased vulnerability and are at greater risk for sexual violence;

**WHEREAS,** children with disabilities are at increased risk for sexual violence when compared to non-disabled children;

**WHEREAS,** children with intellectual or mental impairments are the most vulnerable with their risk for sexual violence being 4.6 times higher than their non-disabled counterparts;

**WHEREAS**, persons with disabilities are a heterogenous group of people from every possible background/socioeconomic status/ethnicity/gender, age group, etc.;

**WHEREAS**, disability may be described as any type and/or combination of issues encompassing physical, cognitive, emotional, and/or mental issue/illness which may or may not be readily evident upon observation;

**WHEREAS,** awareness of sexual violence against disabled persons historically has not been easily identified nor its existence routinely acknowledged; and

WHEREAS, TAASA is committed to prevention of sexual violence against all persons, therefore be it,

**RESOLVED**, that TAASA is committed to the prevention of sexual violence against all persons with disabilities; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that TAASA is committed to increasing awareness of sexual violence against persons who are disabled, understanding that knowledge is a key factor towards the goal of prevention, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that TAASA will assist in leading, providing and promoting education throughout the state to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Fix, M., & Passel, J. S. (1994). Immigration and immigrants: Setting the record straight. Washington, DC: The Urban Institute.

address the occurrence of sexual violence against persons who are disabled in an effort to prevent and eliminate it.

This is a Statement Resolution.

Presented by the TAASA Board of Directors.

The state anticipated cost of implementation is \$0.

Resolution passed 2020 expires 2024

## **Engaging Youth to End Sexual Violence**

**WHEREAS,** youth (individuals aged 12 - 18) are greatly impacted by sexual violence during the most formative years of their lives;

**WHEREAS,** youth involvement has the potential to end sexual violence by challenging social norms and stereotypes connected to the root causes of sexual violence;

**WHEREAS,** youth involvement has the potential to end sexual violence by challenging sexism and recognizing overlapping oppressions connected to the root causes of sexual violence;

**WHEREAS,** utilizing youth activists to educate is an effective method to enhance peer influence as a catalyst for action, behavior and accountability as youth have an increased level of credibility among their peers;

**WHEREAS,** youth can be given the tools and skills necessary to stand up for their beliefs and create social change;

WHEREAS, youth activists can be empowered and supported by adult allies to end sexual violence; and

**WHEREAS,** the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA) is committed to inspire youth to be agents of change, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that TAASA is committed to cultivating youth as leaders in preventing sexual violence among their peers, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that TAASA affirms its commitment to protecting youth from sexual violence and supporting youth survivors in its communities, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that TAASA is committed to supporting youth activists and their adult allies to end sexual violence by creating social change.

This is a Statement Resolution.

Presented by TAASA Region D Individual Members and Member Organizations The state anticipated cost of implementation is \$0.

Resolution passed 2020 expires 2024

## TAASA as an Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression Organization

WHEREAS, TAASA is the unifying voice to eliminate sexual violence in Texas;

**WHEREAS,** as the statewide coalition of rape crisis centers, sexual assault programs, advocates, and survivors, we are committed to fostering a culture that respects the fundamental rights and dignity of all in Texas;

**WHEREAS,** forms of oppression such as racism, sexism, classism, and heteroclassism are inherently violent and contribute to cultures of violence;

WHEREAS, sexual assault is but one of the forms of violence that occur as a result of these structures;

**WHEREAS,** a basic tenet of the Sexual Assault Demonstration Initiative is that effective sexual assault programs cannot happen if there is not an understanding and direct response to racism and oppression;

**WHEREAS,** programs that do not endorse and enact an anti-racism and anti-oppression approach will be limited in their capacity to serve survivors from marginalized groups; and

**WHEREAS,** a framework based on anti-racism and anti-oppression seeks to dismantle beliefs and structures that perpetuate these forms of violence within the organization and the broader community, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED** that a core value and guiding principle of TAASA is to maintain an anti-racism and anti-oppression approach, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that, as an anti-racism and anti-oppression organization, TAASA will seek to identify and implement structures within the organization that are nonviolent, just, and humane, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that TAASA will seek to disrupt structures and policies within the organization and in the greater community that continue to perpetuate violence through forms of oppression such as racism, classism, sexism, and heteroclassism, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that TAASA urges member programs to adopt these values into their work and is available to assist programs in doing so.

This is a Statement Resolution.

Presented by the TAASA Board of Directors.

The state anticipated cost of implementation is \$0.

Resolution passed 2020 expires 2024

# **Addressing Sexual Violence in Institutions of Higher Education**

**WHEREAS,** there is a continuing increase in attention and funding to addressing sexual violence in institutions of higher education; and

**WHEREAS,** institutions of higher education can include but are not limited to, public and private colleges and universities, trade schools, and seminaries;

WHEREAS, sexual violence does not affect all victims/survivors the same;

**WHEREAS,** intersectionality in issues, such as, race, sexual orientation, and gender identity have the ability to further disenfranchise and increase the traumatization of survivors;

**WHEREAS,** institutions of higher education can be insular regarding their own culture, policies, and procedures;

**WHEREAS**, the attempt to protect both complainants and respondents in the interest of fairness can result in the silencing and re-traumatization of victims/survivors, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that TAASA is committed to addressing the needs of victims/survivors in institutions of higher education, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, TAASA is committed to elevating the capacity of member agencies and institutions of higher education to work with students affected by issues of intersectionality, oppression, and culture to address the root causes of sexual violence incorporating anti-oppression work, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, TAASA is committed to supporting member agencies in developing coordinated responses and preventative practices and efforts with survivor-centered and trauma-informed practices in collaboration with institutions of higher education.

This is a Statement Resolution.

Presented by TAASA Region B Individual Members and Member Organizations The state anticipated cost of implementation is \$0.

Resolution passed 2020 expires 2024

## **Including Transgender & Gender Non-Conforming Clients**

WHEREAS, oppression is a root cause of sexual violence;

**WHEREAS,** the lack of state and federal discrimination protections for gender identity and/or gender expression in areas such as employment, housing, and public accommodations creates an environment where an individual's gender identity and/or expression can be used to assert power and control over them;

**WHEREAS,** laws and exclusionary policies that deny an individual their rights and allow for discrimination leads to further oppression and a higher risk of both physical and sexual violence;

**WHEREAS,** one in two transgender and gender non-conforming (GNC) individuals are sexually abused or assaulted at some point in their lives;

**WHEREAS,** some reports estimate that transgender/GNC survivors may experience rates of sexual assault up to 66 percent, often coupled with physical assaults or abuse;

WHEREAS, this data indicates that a large percentage of transgender/GNC individuals are living through the repercussions of such trauma and fear of possible future victimization; and

**WHEREAS,** training on working with transgender and gender non-conforming clients is not always readily available, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that TAASA is committed to ensuring that transgender and GNC victims of sexual assault are counted, valued, and a part of the work that TAASA embodies; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that TAASA is committed to seeking training resources for members to better expand their understanding and commitment to serving transgender and gender nonconforming clients, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that TAASA will make culturally responsive care for transgender and GNC clients central to the ethical standards of the organization.

This is a Statement Resolution.

Presented by the TAASA Board of Directors.

The state anticipated cost of implementation is \$0.

Resolution passed 2020 expires 2024

## **Addressing Allegations Against High-Profile and Public Figures**

**WHEREAS,** there is a concern in how high-profile cases are treated throughout community resources, legal responders, and medical providers;

**WHEREAS,** confidentiality during high-profile cases can be difficult to navigate due to a number of conflicts and barriers from the nature of the offense;

WHEREAS, victims/survivors of these crimes have a right to use a pseudonym to protect their identity; and

**WHEREAS,** navigating communication with the media during high-profile cases has created challenges within the impacted community, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that TAASA is committed to aiding community, legal, and medical providers to provide a collaborative response ensuring offender accountability and victim safety, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, TAASA is committed to keeping confidentiality paramount through education on the responsibilities of the community.

This is a Statement Resolution.

Presented by the TAASA Board of Directors.

The state anticipated cost of implementation is \$0.

Resolution passed 2020 expires 2024

#### **Awareness of Sexual Assault Protective Orders**

**WHEREAS,** Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Art. 56.021 states that victims of sexual assault have the right to apply for a sexual assault protective order, as well as to be informed of that right;

**WHEREAS,** Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Art. 7A.01 states that victims not only have the right to apply for a sexual assault protective order, but that the state shall apply for a sexual assault protective order on behalf of the victim in cases where there is a sexual assault conviction<sup>1</sup>;

**WHEREAS,** Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Art. 7A.03 states that when granting a protective order, the court must find whether there are reasonable grounds to believe that the applicant is a victim of sexual assault or abuse, indecent assault, stalking or trafficking;

**WHEREAS,** the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure does not require a victim to provide additional corroborating evidence (such as sexual assault exam findings or a police report) in order for the court to find reasonable grounds that the applicant is a victim of sexual assault<sup>2</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, when courts deny victims of sexual assault a chance to file for a protective order or requires them to provide a higher burden of proof during protective order hearings, they are not only treating victims unfairly, but are also denying victims their rights, possibly contributing to their trauma by requiring a higher burden of proof, and may be causing victims more harm;

**WHEREAS,** a victim's testimony or affidavit may be sufficient for a court to find reasonable grounds for a sexual assault protective order, and a court is free to place greater weight on the victim's testimony or affidavit when making a finding<sup>3</sup>; and

**WHEREAS,** sexual assault protective orders can provide a sense of validation as well as safety for survivors who often see no other form of justice, therefore, be it

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See Tex. Code Crim. Proc. art. 7A.01 (a)(1), (2), (5) (a prosecuting attorney may file a sexual assault protective order on behalf of a victim of an offense under Tex. Penal Code §§ 21.02, 21.11, 22.011, 22.012, 22.021, 42.072, 20A.02, 20A.03, or 43.05); see also Maki v. Anderson, 2013 WL 4121229, at \*7 (Tex. App.—Fort Worth Aug. 15, 2013).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Cynthia Gustafson and Kristine Soulé, *Myths about protective orders*, Texas District & County Attorneys Association (last visited Mar. 12, 2020), <a href="https://www.tdcaa.com/journal/myths-about-protective-orders/">https://www.tdcaa.com/journal/myths-about-protective-orders/</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See Williams v. Williams, 2019 WL 3331032, at \*5 (Tex. App.—Houston (1st Dist. July 25, 2019, no pet.) (trial court "was free to believe [the applicant's] testimony regarding the abuse . . . even without evidence corroborating every detail of [the applicant's] account); Boyd v. Palmore, 425 S.W.3d 425, 431 (Tex. App.—Houston [1st Dist. 2011, no pet.) (holding trial court was free to place greater weight on applicant's testimony when making family violence finding); Amir-Sharif v. Hawkins, 246 S.W.3d 267, 272 (Tex. App.—Dallas 2007, pet. dism'd w.o.j.) (testimony and affidavit of applicant for protective order alleging violence by subject of order was sufficient to support issuance of order, despite absence of police records or other evidence corroborating applicant's allegations.); see also Caballero v. Caballero, 2017 WL 6374724, at \*5 (Tex. App.—Houston [14th Dist. Dec. 14, 2017, no pet.); Coffman v. Melton, 448 S.W.3d 68, 74 (Tex. App.—Houston [14th Dist.] 2014, pet. denied); Warren v. Earley, 2011 WL 3850035, at \*3 (Tex. App.—Waco Aug. 31, 2011, no pet.). was sufficient to support issuance of order, despite absence of police records or other evidence corroborating applicant's allegations.); see also Caballero v. Caballero, 2017 WL 6374724, at \*5 (Tex. App.—Houston [14th Dist.] 2014, pet. denied); Warren v. Earley, 2011 WL 3850035, at \*3 (Tex. App.—Waco Aug. 31, 2011, no pet.); Coffman v. Melton, 448 S.W.3d 68, 74 (Tex. App.—Houston [14th Dist.] 2014, pet. denied); Warren v. Earley, 2011 WL 3850035, at \*3 (Tex. App.—Waco Aug. 31, 2011, no pet.).

**RESOLVED**, that TAASA is committed to supporting the rights of sexual assault victims/survivors, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that TAASA urges courts and prosecutors to uphold the rights of sexual assault victims and not prevent them from applying for protective orders under Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Art. 56.021; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that TAASA is committed to raising awareness that courts shall grant a protective order upon a finding that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the applicant is a victim of sexual assault or abuse, indecent assault, stalking or trafficking, and not to a higher standard that requires a victim to provide corroborating evidence, pursuant to Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Art. 7A.03; and be it further

**RESOVLED**, that TAASA is committed to raising awareness that courts may find reasonable grounds to believe that the applicant is a victim of sexual assault or abuse, indecent assault, stalking or trafficking based solely on a victim's testimony or affidavit, and may place greater weight on the victim's testimony or affidavit to make that finding; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that TAASA believes all survivors of sexual assault deserve to pursue options that help them feel safe and that they should be treated with fairness, dignity, and respect when doing so.

This is a Statement Resolution.

Presented by the TAASA Board of Directors.

The state anticipated cost of implementation is \$0.

Resolution passed 2020 expires 2024

## POSSIBLE FUTURE RESOLUTIONS

TAASA as a Stand-Alone Organization (expired 2014) Maintaining Funding for Sexual Assault Centers (expired 2013) Hate Crimes (expired 2014) Reinforcing Crime Victim Rights (idea in 2019)