

Resolution on Promoting a Trauma-Informed and Survivor Centric Approach

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

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

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 2022 expires 2026

Resolution on Promoting a Trauma-Informed Organizational Culture

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

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

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

The state anticipated cost of implementation is \$0.

Resolution passed 2022 expires 2026

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 2023 expires 2027

*The idea for this resolution was proposed by an Individual TAASA Member from Region C

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;

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.

RESOLVED that TAASA is committed to elevating survivor voice as valued experts in the field.

This is a Statement Resolution.

Presented by the Board of Directors.

The state anticipated cost of implementation is \$0.

Resolution passed 2023 expires 2027

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 2023 expires 2027

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 2023 expires 2027

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 Code¹ 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 policies¹ 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 2023 expires 2027

¹Texas Family Code Sec. 32.004.

*The idea for this resolution was proposed by an Individual TAASA Member from Region C.

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

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 2023 expires 2027

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

WHEREAS the right to decide how to move forward in the aftermath of sexual violence is key to a survivor's recovery and ability to regain control of their lives.

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.

RESOLVED that TAASA will stand firm that survivors of sexual assault deserve dignity, justice, bodily autonomy and choice.

This is a Statement Resolution.

Presented by the TAASA Board of Directors.

The state anticipated cost of implementation is \$0.

Resolution passed 2023 expires 2027

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 behind survivors of sexual violence in their silence or as they speak out.

RESOLVED that TAASA will elevate survivor voice as valued experts in the field.

This is a Statement Resolution.

Presented by TAASA Board of Directors.

The state anticipated cost of implementation is \$0.

Resolution passed 2023 expires 2027

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 2026

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 2026

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 assistance¹;

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 years²; 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 2026

¹Espin, 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.

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

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 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 2026

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 2026

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 2026

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 2026

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 2026

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 2026

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 conviction¹;

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;

¹ 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).

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 assault²;

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 finding³; 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

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

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

³ 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. dismissed 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. 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.).

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 2026

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 laws that are designed to deny an individual's rights to use public facilities, such as bathrooms and restrooms 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;

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

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-conforming⁴;

WHEREAS 70% of sexual assaults are committed by a perpetrator known or related to the victim, not by a stranger⁵;

WHEREAS 84% of sexual victimization of children under age of 12 occurs in a residence⁶;

WHEREAS 60 percent of transgender students report having been prohibited from using the bathroom or locker room that aligns with their gender identity;

WHEREAS these bills designed to ensure "safety" and "protection" of young people, actually increases their danger and stigmatizes students who identify as transgender;

WHEREAS transgender students who experience discrimination, like being prohibited from using the restroom, report higher levels of depression and lower self-esteem;

WHEREAS non-discrimination laws that protect gender identity in public accommodations have existed in many states for over 12 years and have shown no record of increasing sexual violence⁷; and

⁴ www.ovc.gov/pubs/forged/sexual_numbers.html

⁵ 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.

⁶ 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.

⁷ Steinmetz, K. (2016). LGBT Advocates say Bathroom Predators are a Red Herring. Time. <http://time.com/4314896/transgender-bathroom-bill-male-predators-argument/>

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 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 be it further

RESOLVED 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 be it further

RESOLVED 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 be it further

RESOLVED that TAASA urges Policymakers concerned with public safety to allow evidence-based research concerning sexual violence perpetration guide their decisions; and be it further

RESOLVED that TAASA opposes all policies that seek to institutionalize transphobia and encourage oppression of transgender and gender non-conforming communities; and be it further

RESOLVED 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.

This is a Statement Resolution.

Presented by the TAASA Board of Directors, TAASA Diversity Task Force, and TAASA Staff Member Rick Gipprich, Jr.

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

The state anticipated cost of implementation is \$0.

Resolution passed 2021 expires 2025

Resolution Regarding the Use of At-Home/DIY Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits

WHEREAS persons who have experienced sexual violence deserve quality, holistic, care including multi-disciplinary supportive resources where the focus is on the person as a whole being, versus focusing solely on the evidence collection;

WHEREAS sexual assault is a deeply personal crime that affects more than the physical body;

WHEREAS trauma-informed care incorporates the principles of safety, choice, collaboration, trustworthiness and empowerment;

WHEREAS forensic nurses provide care following these principles so as not to re-traumatize the person who has experienced sexual violence and deliver care to ensure that they are given the information needed to make informed decisions to maintain their bodily autonomy, explaining

each step and utilizing affirmative consent throughout the exam process confirming that nothing is done without their consent;

WHEREAS according to the Center for Disease Control, the consequences of sexual violence can be chronic, leading to post-traumatic stress disorder, re-occurring gynecological, gastrointestinal, cardiovascular and sexual health problems;

WHEREAS each of these consequences can be better identified and addressed by a certified medical professional who has received specialized training in caring for persons who have experienced sexual violence;

WHEREAS strangulation is often utilized as a way to elicit complete control and ensure compliance during the execution of a sexual assault both in intimate partner violence/domestic violence situations as well as in stranger assaults and non-fatal strangulation has unrecognized potential for lethality and can have life-threatening consequences without any noticeable outward physical signs on the skin;

WHEREAS forensic nurses have specialized training in screening for strangulation and suffocation and assessing for life-threatening injuries;

WHEREAS the New York Attorney General expressed her fears of persons who have experienced sexual violence collecting evidence without knowing whether the evidence will be admissible in court;

WHEREAS forensic nurses have specialized training in maintaining chain of custody and in providing expert testimony;

WHEREAS medical forensic services are free of charge according to the Office of the Attorney General of Texas, whereas at-home sexual assault kits must be purchased by the person who has experienced sexual violence;

WHEREAS during a medical forensic exam the person who experienced sexual violence has access to sexually transmitted infections (STI) and pregnancy prevention testing and resources, which are not available with at-home sexual assault kits;

WHEREAS the National District Attorneys Association identified that the misinformation given by at-home sexual assault kits will lead persons who have experienced sexual violence to falsely rely on the marketing practices of these companies that have prioritized profit over safety;

WHEREAS the California Association of Crime Laboratory Directors identified the significance of maintaining the integrity of evidence collection and having persons who have experienced sexual violence collect their own evidence jeopardizes the evidence collection objectivity and therefore the potential outcome of investigations and the adjudication process;

WHEREAS persons who have experienced sexual violence that receive sexual assault examinations that are done by certified medical professionals have the option to be a “non-report” and consent to evidence collection without police involvement and at-home sexual

assault kits require persons who have experienced sexual violence to make a report to law enforcement or forego evidence collection all together; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that TAASA denounces the use of at-home sexual assault kits, including promoting local and statewide efforts to prevent the sale of these kits; and be it further

RESOLVED that TAASA will work with sexual assault coalitions throughout the state to provide solutions to forensic nursing gaps in order to promote holistic care that is comprehensive and trauma informed.

This is a Statement Resolution

Presented by the TAASA Board of Directors

The state anticipated cost of implementation is \$0

Resolution passed 2021 expires 2025

Resolution Identifying Staff-Care as an Essential Aspect of Trauma-Informed Survivor-Centric Care

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

WHEREAS individuals involved in the anti-sexual violence movement are exposed to trauma on a regular basis;

WHEREAS witnessing trauma can and does have a cumulative toll on a person's overall well-being⁸;

WHEREAS organizations working to address social injustices are founded in response to trauma, therefore, being consistently exposed to and impacted by trauma;

WHEREAS an organization's recognition and response to all forms of trauma, including but not limited to acute, complex, interpersonal, vicarious, and historical traumas experienced by survivors, staff, and volunteers, can either cultivate a space for healing or compound the harmful effects of trauma⁹;

WHEREAS while staff and volunteers possess astounding amounts of resilience, wisdom, and strength, resiliency can be impacted by prolonged trauma exposure, and the negative impact of trauma exposure can be compounded by organizational leadership and culture;

WHEREAS organizations that impede or do not intentionally address trauma exposure, as well as the overall well-being of staff and volunteers, experience high rates of turnover that results

⁸ Office for Victims of Crime. *The Vicarious trauma toolkit*. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs.

⁹ Maul, A., & Menschner, C. (2016). *Key ingredients for successful trauma-informed care implementation*. SAMHSA.

in the loss of highly-skilled and dedicated individuals (which studies show impacts BIPOC professionals, especially Black professionals, at disproportionately higher rates)¹⁰;

WHEREAS an organization's ability to be trauma-informed begins with organizational leadership and their commitment to fully integrating trauma-informed principles into organizational culture, including policies and practices, both documented and observed, that involve treatment of individuals that work and volunteer for the agency¹¹;

WHEREAS when organizations honor the experiences of volunteers and staff, it cultivates a larger culture of care that can transform trauma and create change for individuals as well as the movement¹²;

WHEREAS trauma-informed care is not a therapy or an intervention, but a comprehensive principle-based, culture-changing process aimed at recognizing strengths and resiliency, acknowledging the effects of trauma, and actively working to prevent re-traumatization, so that individuals can have healthy and positive lives¹³; and

WHEREAS organizations that integrate trauma-informed principles are better able to support and center the experiences of the survivors they serve; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that TAASA encourages organizations serving sexual assault survivors to recognize and respond to all forms of trauma and understand the principles and pillars of trauma-informed care¹⁴; and be it further

RESOLVED that TAASA urges organizations serving sexual assault survivors to strategize and integrate the following trauma-informed pillars throughout their entire agency in policies and practices regarding survivors, staff, and volunteers:

- Safety
- Trustworthiness and transparency
- Peer support
- Collaboration and mutuality
- Empowerment, voice, and choice
- Responsive to the intersecting needs of staff and the origins of trauma, including historical, collective, and the inter-generational impact of trauma; and be it further

¹⁰ Institute on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault. (2019). *Victim services occupation, information, & compensation experiences survey*. The University of Texas at Dallas. https://sites.utexas.edu/idvsa/files/2019/03/VOICE-Summary-of-Findings_IDVSA_1.2018.pdf

¹¹ The National Sexual Assault Coalition Resource Sharing Project & the National Sexual Violence Resource Center. (2017). *Building cultures of care: A guide of sexual assault services programs*. Sexual Assault Demonstration Initiative. https://www.nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/2017-10/publications_nsvrc_building-cultures-of-care.pdf

¹² Darnoot Lipsky, L. (2009). *Trauma stewardship*. Barrett-Koehler Publishers, Inc.

¹³ H. Res. 443, Recognizing the importance and effectiveness of trauma-informed care, 115th Cong. (2017). <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-resolution/443/text>.

¹⁴ SAMHSA Trauma and Justice Strategic Initiative (2014). *SAMHSA's concept of trauma and guidance for a trauma-informed approach*. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. https://ncsacw.samhsa.gov/userfiles/files/SAMHSA_Trauma.pdf

RESOLVED that TAASA emphasizes that trauma-informed organizations must actively take steps to support staff and volunteers and their physical, emotional, relational, and financial well-being; and be it further

RESOLVED that TAASA believes those who work and volunteer for organizations that serve sexual assault survivors deserve to be compensated for their work rather than exploited for their dedication to the movement; and be it further

RESOLVED that TAASA acknowledges that the findings of the Victim Services Occupation Information and Compensation Experiences (VOICES) survey are reflective of many individuals in the field and urges all organization to look to them for guidance; and be it further

RESOLVED that TAASA urges all organizations serving sexual assault survivors to incorporate their staff and volunteers in decision-making processes and seek guidance and input on how the organization's policies, practices, and culture can facilitate an environment that supports overall health and well-being; and be it further

RESOLVED that TAASA affirms the importance of having leadership that models and practices trauma-informed behavior, which includes actively assessing and attending to their own trauma as well as actively assessing and attending to organizational trauma; and be it further

RESOLVED that TAASA commits itself to assist organizations in cultivating an environment where the individuals working and volunteering are honored, cared for, valued, heard, empowered, supported, and treated with fairness, dignity, and respect.

This is a Statement Resolution

Presented by the TAASA Board of Directors and TAASA Staff Member Haleh Cochran

The state anticipated cost of implementation is \$0

Resolution passed 2021 expires 2025

Resolution for LGBTQ+ Inclusion and Support in Sexual Violence Services and Employment

WHEREAS the sexual violence field employs and serves members of the LGBTQ+ community;

WHEREAS oppression of all communities is a cause of sexual violence, including homophobia, transphobia and all systemic violence towards the LBGTQ+ community¹⁵;

WHEREAS the LGBTQ+ community experiences high rates of poverty, incarceration, and homelessness, putting them at higher risk for sexual violence¹⁶;

¹⁵ <https://transforminghate.eu/chapter3/>

¹⁶ 1 in 5 trans people incarcerated are sexually assaulted by facility staff, homeless shelters see high rates of sexual assault towards trans people, and homeless LGBTQ+ are 7.4 times more likely to experience sexual violence and sex trafficking.

James, S. E., Herman, J. L., Rankin, S., Keisling, M., Mottet, L., & Anafi, M. (2016). *"The Report of the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey"*. Washington, DC: National Center for Transgender Equality.

<https://www.dressember.org/blog/the-link-between-lgbtq-youth-and-human-trafficking>

WHEREAS the LGBTQ+ community experiences sexual violence at a disproportionate rate in comparison to their heterosexual peers and general population¹⁷;

WHEREAS 85% of victim advocates surveyed by the NCAVP (National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs) reported having worked with an LGBTQ survivor who was denied services because of their sexual orientation or gender identity¹⁸;

WHEREAS The LGBTQ+ community is targeted and discriminated against in public and private services, such as health care, education, employment, mental health care, social services and more¹⁹;

WHEREAS the LGBTQ+ community experiences overwhelming rates of violence within the workplace and during employment²⁰, especially in the non-profit sector; and

WHEREAS laws and policies do not provide protection for LGBTQ+ employees in all sectors, laws that impact their access to defensive and safe employment²¹; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA) stands with the LGBTQ+ community and will actively pursue opportunities to grow our efforts in support of this community; and be it further

RESOLVED that TAASA takes a stance against homophobia, transphobia, and all violence towards this community and chooses to join in the fight to end such violence, as it directly relates to sexual violence and those who are impacted by it; and be it further

RESOLVED that TAASA, as an agency, will consistently acknowledge and review internal and external policies and procedures to ensure they are trauma-informed and updated for growing practices that better support LGBTQ+ survivors and employees; and be it further

RESOLVED that TAASA will also support and encourage all agencies in the sexual violence field to do the same, so as to better serve and support LGBTQ+ survivors and employees; and be it further

¹⁷ National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (2011). "NISVS: An Overview of 2010 Findings on Victimization by Sexual Orientation". Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/cdc_nisvs_victimization_final-a.pdf

¹⁸ <https://www.hrc.org/resources/sexual-assault-and-the-lgbt-community>

¹⁹ <https://www.uft.org/news/union-resolutions/resolution-promoting-health-care-and-human-rights-protections-transgender-people>

²⁰ National Sexual Violence Resource Center (2012). "Sexual violence & individuals who identify as lgbtq".

²¹ <https://www.aclu.org/legislation-affecting-lgbt-rights-across-country>

RESOLVED that TAASA will focus future state level policy efforts to combat laws that discriminate and harm LGBTQ+ survivors and employees, and pursue efforts to establish laws that protect and better serve this community; and be it further

RESOLVED that TAASA will continue to grow itself to be a place that holds space for healing, progress, support, and better change for the LGTBQ+ community as a whole.

This is a Statement Resolution

Presented by TAASA Staff Member Madison Jackson

The state anticipated cost of implementation is \$0

Resolution passed 2021 expires 2025

Resolution in Support of Trauma-Informed, Evidence-Based Therapies for Sexual Assault Survivors

WHEREAS survivors of sexual assault and abuse may experience trauma;

WHEREAS the most commonly cited definition on trauma is from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)²²: ““Individual trauma results from an event, series of events, or set of circumstances that is experienced by an individual as physically or emotionally harmful or life threatening and that has lasting adverse effects on the individual’s functioning and mental, physical, social, emotional, or spiritual well-being.”;

WHEREAS the consequences of sexual assault are far-reaching, including physical and emotional impacts such as mental health disorders such as major depression, anxiety, suicidal ideation, of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), substance use disorders, as well as physical health impacts such as migraines, physical disabilities, gastrointestinal disorders, and chronic health conditions and physical disabilities²³;

WHEREAS most persons impacted by sexual assault and violence experience some symptoms of PTSD²⁴;

WHEREAS lifetime prevalence of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) for persons who have been sexually assaulted far exceeds US National estimates²⁵;

²² SAMHSA (2014). SAMHSA’s Concept of Trauma and Guidance for a Trauma-Informed Approach SAMHSA’s Trauma and Justice Strategic Initiative. Available at: <http://store.samhsa.gov/product/SAMHSA-s-Concept-of-Trauma-and-Guidance-for-a-Trauma-Informed-Approach/SMA14-4884>.

²³ Busch-Armendariz, N., Olaya-Rodriguez, D., Kammer-Kerwick, M., Wachter, K., Sulley, C., Anderson, K., & Huslage, M. (2015). Health and well-being: Texas statewide sexual assault prevalence study. Institute on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. <https://sites.utexas.edu/idvsa/files/2019/03/TX-SA-Prevalence-Study-Final-Report.pdf>

²⁴ Creamer M, Burgess P, McFarlane AC. Post-traumatic stress disorder: Findings from the Australian National Survey of Mental Health and Well-being. *Psychol Med*. 2001;31(7):1237–1247

²⁵ National Center for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Epidemiological Facts About PTSD - A National Center for PTSD Fact Sheet. Retrieved April 1, 2005 from http://www.ncptsd.va.gov/facts/general/fs_epidemiological.html; 2005.

WHEREAS research has also indicated that with appropriate supports and intervention, people can overcome traumatic experiences;

WHEREAS culturally meaningful trauma healing practices are integral for many survivors;

WHEREAS peer and spiritual support can be helpful tools for survivor healing in addition to use of evidence-based therapies;

WHEREAS therapies such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Prolonged Exposure (PE), Cognitive Therapy (CT), Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), and Narrative Exposure Therapy (NET) have been identified as recommended by the American Psychological Association and the Veterans Administration/Department of Defense Clinical Practice Guideline Working Group as recommended therapies for the treatment of PTSD²⁶;

WHEREAS evidence supports that the majority of individuals who meet the diagnostic criteria for PTSD are not able to access evidence-based treatment options²⁷;

WHEREAS the state of Texas ranks 50th in access to mental health care and those with limited income or inadequate healthcare coverage may not be able to receive therapy²⁸;

WHEREAS clinical services offered by sexual assault programs are able to remove financial barriers and increase access to evidence-based mental healthcare; therefore be it

RESOLVED that TAASA urges the use of recommended evidence-based therapies for sexual assault survivors seeking clinical mental health support and treatment; and be it further

RESOLVED that TAASA encourages organizations serving sexual assault survivors to provide access to and support, financially and by allotting time to attend, training and supervision for therapists and counselors in evidence-based therapies; and be it further

RESOLVED that TAASA implores mental health providers treating sexual assault survivors to receive specific training around the treatment of trauma, as well as specific sexual assault trauma treatment; and be it further

RESOLVED that TAASA emphasizes that therapists practicing mental health treatment must be in good standing, adhering to all licensing requirement and ethics including addressing their own trauma history as well as the impacts of providing trauma treatment, such as vicarious traumatization; and be it further

²⁶ Watkins, L. E., Sprang, K. R., & Rothbaum, B. O. (2018). Treating PTSD: A Review of Evidence-Based Psychotherapy Interventions. *Frontiers in behavioral neuroscience*, 12, 258. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fnbeh.2018.00258>

²⁷ Harvey, A., & Gumpert, N. (2015). Evidence-based psychological treatments for mental disorders: modifiable barriers to access and possible solutions. *Behavioral Research and Therapy* 86, 1-12. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4395546/>.

²⁸ Mental Health America (2020). Ranking the states. MHA. <https://www.mhanational.org/issues/ranking-states>

RESOLVED that TAASA urges agencies and organizations to provide access to evidence-based treatment modalities to mental health practitioners impacted by exposure to trauma through supporting sexual assault survivors; and be it further

RESOLVED that TAASA advises agencies to have policies for clinical staff therapists and counselors which are in alignment and compliant with the current rules for licensees, including the use of clinical case notes, practices around retention of records, and HIPAA regulations; and be it further

RESOLVED that TAASA supports transparency of the services an agency is able to provide to sexual assault survivors and should access to effective and evidence-based mental health treatment be a limitation of the organization that the agency will make best efforts to assist survivors in accessing those services.

This is a Statement Resolution

Presented by the TAASA Board of Directors and TAASA Staff Member Haleh Cochran

The state anticipated cost of implementation is \$0

Resolution passed 2021 expires 2025

Resolution in Support of Pronouns in Rape Crisis Center Services

WHEREAS language is the lens through which we understand the world, and has the power to affirm and legitimize, as well as invalidate and harm;

WHEREAS asking community members what their gender pronouns are and consistently using them correctly is a basic way to show your respect for their gender identity;

WHEREAS, pronouns are often used with dichotomous language, placing individuals who identify as transgender, non-binary, genderfluid, genderqueer, and/or any other gender that is not cis, at a higher risk of physical and verbal violence²⁹; and

WHEREAS LGBTQIA+ individuals have reported being excluded from services or mistreated by service providers by using incorrect pronouns³⁰; therefore be it

RESOLVED that TAASA will respect others by using gender neutral pronouns and/or use names in place of pronouns until someone's pronouns are disclosed with consent; and be it further

RESOLVED once pronouns are known, TAASA will mirror the language a survivor is using to identify themselves and their experiences; and be it further

²⁹ PCAR - Technical Assistance Bulletin - Proactive Inclusion of LGBTQIA+ Survivors of Sexual Violence
https://pcar.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdfs/tab_2107_inclusion-of-lgbtqia-survivors.pdf

³⁰ MEYER, D. (2015). *Violence against Queer People: Race, Class, Gender, and the Persistence of Anti-LGBT Discrimination*. Rutgers University Press. Retrieved March 9, 2021, from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt1bc53v7>

RESOLVED as aspiring allies, TAASA also commits to providing and pursuing education around pronoun use and trauma-informed practices; and be it further

RESOLVED that TAASA supports and encourages the option of using pronouns in official professional correspondence and representation, as in business cards, and email signatures; and be it further

RESOLVED that TAASA stands to create a culture where sharing pronouns are commonplace; and be it further

RESOLVED that TAASA will ensure there are learning opportunities around LGBTQ+ issues and language.

This is a Statement Resolution

Presented by TAASA Staff Member Alexis Hinojosa

The state anticipated cost of implementation is \$0

Resolution passed 2021 expires 2025

Resolution in Support of Culturally-Grounded Healing and Sexual Violence

WHEREAS trauma results from an event or series of events caused by individuals, communities, systems, and/or set of circumstances experienced as physically, sexually, psychologically harmful and/or life-threatening;

WHEREAS trauma may cause adverse effects on an individual's physical, social, emotional, relational, mental, and/or spiritual well-being and functioning;

WHEREAS historical trauma is defined as the cumulative emotional and psychological wounding across generations, including the lifespan, which emanates from massive group trauma³¹ and includes the suppression of cultural healing practices through historical processes and continued through systemic racial and ethnic oppression;

WHEREAS healing modalities are imbedded in specific cultural contexts and worldviews thus the intersection of racial and ethnic identity, sexuality, gender identity and expression are primary in determining the most appropriate therapeutic interventions;

WHEREAS professionalized healing modalities are not always the most appropriate for all survivors who may benefit from healing modalities more resonant with their cultural identity and are practiced outside of the those offered in most sexual assault programs;

³¹

https://www.ihs.gov/sites/telebehavioral/themes/responsive2017/display_objects/documents/slides/historicaltrauma/htreturns/acredpath0513.pdf

WHEREAS despite suppression and marginalization, there are culturally-grounded organizations and healing practices developed by and for the communities they serve and may be distinct from formal, professionalized forms of therapeutic interventions; and

WHEREAS it is imperative that we respect, value, and credit the cultures and people who developed particular culturally-grounded healing modalities so as not to continue racial and ethnic oppression; therefore be it

RESOLVED that TAASA will move with intention and integrity to reach out, build trust and relationships with culturally-grounded organizations and healers; and be it further

RESOLVED that TAASA will support culturally-grounded healers and their work and sharing their services with appropriate audiences; and be it further

RESOLVED that TAASA will support the professional development of culturally-grounded healers and the intersections of sexual violence, and be it further

RESOLVED that TAASA will support sexual assault programs with opportunities to learn about historical trauma, culturally-grounded organizations/healers, when and how culturally-grounded healing modalities are appropriate and developing a working relationship with culturally-grounded healers and organizations.

This is a Statement Resolution

Presented by the TAASA Staff Members

The state anticipated cost of implementation is \$0

Resolution passed 2021 expires 2025

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)