

Dear friends, colleagues, and supporters,

We have some big news to share! We have spent the last 6 months diligently at work on an exciting and unique project that will take the work we do to the next level.

We are planning a merger! With this merger, Survivor's Rising and all of its work will become a part of the Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence, and will expand its influence from the Omaha area to the entire State of Nebraska. The Nebraska Coalition will now become a vehicle for survivor inclusion at every level of the work to end gender-based violence. Our merger will expand both of our organizations' missions, and nurture survivor-centered approaches throughout Nebraska like never before. Wow—I know. It takes our breath away, too.

To understand why, let's us tell you about our organizations:

The Nebraska Coalition is a statewide organization established in 1983. It supports a network of 20 member programs that directly provide services to survivors in every part of our state. In addition, the Coalition provides training, public awareness, and public policy/legislative work to respond to and prevent gender-based violence AND to represent Nebraska survivors and work at the federal level.

Survivors Rising was formed in 2016 by a small group of post-crisis survivors, and has been dedicated to reducing trauma caused by domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, harassment, and sex trafficking ever since. It has centered survivors' lived experiences, and the communities most vulnerable to oppression and violence. Through 'Rise up and Speak Trainings', educational opportunities, public events and our Policy and Legislative Committee, we have been changing how survivors are engaged in what impacts them. Survivors have used their voices to pass laws that protect them, prevent laws that harm them, create public awareness, and change minds and organizations so that the lived experience of survivors is centered in this work—always.

We also must honor the outgoing staff of Survivors Rising: Executive Director Karen Abrams, Survivor Engagement Specialist Leontyne Evans and Program Specialist Morisha Brown. A special thank you to Karen Abrams for her dedication and guidance. Karen's valuable leadership included fostering relationships with partners and the community, expanding the organization's impact. We appreciate the work of Leontyne Evans and Morisha Brown for their innovative ideas, dedication, and commitment towards Survivors Rising. Their contributions are truly commendable.



Moving forward, the Nebraska Coalition is the perfect home for Survivors Rising. Our organizations have been partners, and have deepened our relationship over the past 2 years in order to bring survivor voices and lived experiences more directly into all the work the Nebraska Coalition does across the state.

Through our shared values of centering survivors, amplifying survivor voices, anti-oppression, and collaboration, we will elevate the incredibly important work we do and expand our collective reach. Through this merger, we will span the boundary between the mission and vision of our two organizations, and the extraordinary survivors at the center of both of our efforts. Together we will be stronger and more enduring.

We value each and every one of you and your commitment to us and our work. We look forward to our continued partnership and we can't wait to share this next phase of our evolution.

Thank you,

Candias Jones  
Board Chair  
Survivors Rising



Christon MacTaggart  
Executive Director  
Nebraska Coalition



NEBRASKA COALITION  
TO END SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE