



National Alliance to End Sexual Violence

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NAESV Celebrates Appointment of Lynn Rosenthal as Director of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence at the United States Department of Health and Human Services

Washington, D.C.--The National Violence Against Sexual Violence (NAESV) celebrates a major victory today largely due to the advocacy efforts of over [19 leading national anti-sexual violence organizations](#) and [47 state and territorial sexual assault coalitions](#) who requested the Biden Administration create a new senior position at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) focused on sexual violence. Today, NAESV applauds the appointment of Lynn Rosenthal as the first HHS Director of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence. Lynn has decades of experience in both government and the private sector improving systems and coordinating responses for those who have experienced gender-based violence. She is a charismatic leader who cares deeply about survivors.

“We are thrilled that our top priority for this administration, a senior advisor on sexual violence, has come to fruition. Lynn Rosenthal will provide a powerful advocacy voice for sexual assault survivors at HHS. We look forward to working closely with her to broaden survivors’ access to healing and healthcare as well as strengthening sexual violence prevention.” – NAESV CEO and President
Monika Johnson Hostler

Many survivors encounter the problems of homelessness, substance abuse, mental health problems, trafficking experiences, and chronic health conditions, and there is a particular need to elevate the needs of survivors in communities of color and specifically Black survivors. The issue of sexual violence cuts across many HHS bureaus, programs, and offices: programs in the Family and Youth Bureau including Family Violence Prevention and Services (FVPSA), Homeless & Runaway Youth, and Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention; the Office on Trafficking in Persons; the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; the Office of Refugee Resettlement; and the CDC where the Rape Prevention & Education Program (RPE) is housed. HHS will now have the dedicated expertise to coordinate responses to sexual violence and ensure the specific needs of the many who have experienced the trauma of sexual violence are considered and addressed.

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The National Alliance to End Sexual Violence is the voice in Washington for the 56 state and territorial sexual assault coalitions and 1500 rape crisis centers working to end sexual violence and support survivors.