



## U.S. NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE: A LISTENING SESSION FOR YOUTH OF COLOR • FAQs

We are excited that you are considering participating in the U.S. National Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence: A Listening Session for Youth of Color on

**Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 6pm/Eastern.**

Please read the frequently asked questions carefully so that you don't miss any important information.

### **Who is the North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault?**

The North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NCCASA) is a nonprofit organization that serves as the sole statewide expertise and alliance working to end sexual assault and human trafficking through education, advocacy, and legislation. NCCASA provides prevention education, intervention resources, and public policy to end all forms of sexual assault. Our dedicated staff works with over 70 rape crisis centers across the state in addition to the military, law enforcement, college campuses, attorneys, and allied professions to create a coordinated response to sexual assault.

### **What is the Young Advocates Institute?**

Launched in 2011, the Young Advocates Institute is a social justice summer learning initiative that empowers and trains 200 youth, ages 13-17, from across North Carolina during a weekend of prevention/intervention education, advocacy, and leadership development seminars. Hosted at one of North Carolina's ten (10) Historically Black Colleges and Universities, the Institute features national speakers, peer to peer education, campus tours, and team building activities. The purpose of the Young Advocates Institute is to give youth a voice, the opportunity to share their experiences regarding social justice issues, and to help them become an integral part of the solutions.

For the past decade, the Young Advocates Institute has been a rigorous training ground for over 1,800 youth across North Carolina. Merging the prevention/intervention of sexual and dating violence + social justice + education + advocacy + love + hip hop and popular culture lens + intergenerational approach, the Young Advocates Institute is a soulful and liberating experience.

### **What is gender-based violence?**

Gender-based violence is violence directed against a person because of their gender. Both women and men experience gender-based violence but the majority of victims are women and girls. Examples of gender-based violence are dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. It is rooted in structural gender inequalities, patriarchy, racism, oppression, and power imbalances.

### **What is a listening session?**

A listening session is similar to a focus group and is a type of facilitated discussion with a group of people, aimed at collecting information about their experience. Participants in a listening session are encouraged to share what they know and think and sometimes answer specific questions about a topic.

Participants in this listening session will have an opportunity to provide input by answering questions in the chat. There will be a few time-limited opportunities for youth to verbally share thoughts, ideas, or experiences.

Specifically, this offering is an opportunity for youth of color to provide input on gender-based violence, social justice, the importance of youth of color voices, and dreams and joy that will be addressed as part of the U.S. National Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence.

### **What is a National Action Plan?**

A national action plan can serve as a core strategy to coordinate and align activities of different stakeholders in different sectors. It can also provide a legal and political framework for action.

### **What is the U.S. National Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence?**

Under international law, every country has an obligation to address gender-based violence and all forms of violence against women. On March 8, 2021, President Biden issued an Executive Order on Establishment of the White House Gender Policy Council that directs the White House Gender Policy Council. One of the Council's responsibilities is to create the first National Action Plan to End Gender- Based Violence ("GBV NAP").

The GBV NAP can provide a comprehensive, all government approach to prevent and address gender-based violence. The plan puts needs and experiences at the center of solutions and services.

The GBV NAP should prioritize working with and hearing from a diverse group of stakeholders, like youth. The GBV NAP should have a specific and intentional focus on and include strategies that address the occurrence of gender-based violence on women and girls of color; such that any prevention, intervention and data collection initiatives/strategies are informed by the needs of Communities of Color and developed in partnership with organizations and projects that are created by and for Communities of Color.

### **This is great is a great opportunity for youth of color AND these are really hard topics to think through and talk about, will there be any wellness or mental health supports available during and after the session?**

Yes, during the listening session youth will have access to a virtual safe space that will be staff by an advocate available to address any emotions that arise throughout the session.

In addition, immediately after the session, a licensed therapist of color will host a wellness space for thirty (30) minutes that will offer practical mental health activities and tools.

### **Who can participate in the listening session?**

The listening session has been created for and by youth of color, ages 13-17 years old.

### **Will accessibility accommodations be available?**

Yes, the listening session will include closed captioning in English, ASL and Spanish interpretation. Please use the registration form to request other accommodations.

### **Will the listening session be recorded?**

Yes, the listening session will be recorded solely for evaluation purposes.

### **Will a recording of the listening session be available?**

No, a recording of the listening session will not be made available to the public. NCCASA will share the recommendations and artwork created with participants and make it available on our website, [www.nccasa.org](http://www.nccasa.org), in April 2022.

### **How do I register for the session?**

Register at <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUkd-6sqT0vHNK2Yt6UMuyIkfif5jCZC-SA>

### **Who can I contact for additional information and questions?**

Feel free to contact Tracy D. Wright from the North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault at (919) 871-1015 or [tracy@nccasa.org](mailto:tracy@nccasa.org)