The Audacity to Heal: Preventing and Recovering from Teen Sexual Assault

Salamishah Tillet, Ph.D.
Founded in 2003, A Long Walk Home, Inc. (ALWH) is a 501 (c) non-profit that uses art therapy and the visual and performing arts to end violence against all girls and women.
Girl/Friends Leadership Institutes
Sexual Assault and Teens

- 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 is a victim of sexual assault before the age of 18. Half of these girls told no one about the incident.

- 90% of children and teens are most commonly raped or abused by someone known to them. More than half of those are family members.

- 25% of child sexual assault survivors told someone during the childhood.
Risk Factors

- Girls are more likely than boys.
- Research shows a connection between bullying & sexual abuse – those who bully & are victims are especially at risk.
- LGBTQ Youth
- Youth of different physical, emotional, or cognitive abilities are 3x more likely than non-differently abled peers.
- Youth that live in households characterized by instability, interpersonal conflict, or other forms of abuse.
61% of rape survivors are under the age of 18.

North Lawndale ranks 3rd in Illinois in reported violent sexual crimes.

The only rape crisis center on the westside of Chicago closed in April 2011.

50.91% experienced domestic violence.

50% experienced sexual assault.

61.9% experienced teen dating violence survivors.

2.38% involved in sex trade.

70.14% experienced sexual harassment.

66.5% experienced internet sexual violence.

Physica and sexual abuse are two of the most common reasons teens drop out of high school.

400 North Lawndale girls joined the global movement to end violence against women and girls. They lead programs for 8000 students.

© A Long Walk Home, Inc.
Core Issues

- Peer Disclosures
- Lack of Safety Net
- Multiple Forms of Violence
- Ecological Model
- Invisibility to Investment
Girl/Friends Leadership Institute
WE ARE GIRL/FRIENDS
Art on Community Violence, Justice, and Healing by Chicago Teen Girls

1 Girl/Me
2 Girl/Culture
3 Girl/Power
4 Girl/Future
Girl/Me
Self-Portraits
Self-Portraits
Girl/Me

EVE ENSLER
THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES
EVE ENSLER
THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES
EVE ENSLER
THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES
EVE ENSLER
THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES
EVE ENSLER
THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES
EVE ENSLER
THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES
Girl/Me
Girl/Power
Girl/Friends Manifesto

We are Girl/Friends. We are not what society makes us. We are not loud, gold diggers or hos. We are intelligent. We are independent. We are powerful.
We are beautiful inside and out. We are creative, outspoken and misunderstood.
We stand for equality, respect and unity for everyone. We fight violence against girls and women. We are leaders.
We strive to succeed. We have a voice.
We are the future!
International Street Harassment Week
Ensuring School Safety Act (ESSA)

My name is [redacted] and I am 16 years old. I am writing this testimony to support House Bill 2231, the Ensuring Success in Schools Act (ESSA) initiated by the National Shriver Center for Poverty Law.

I am in a program called Girl/Friends Leadership Institute by A Long Walk Home, which uses art therapy, visual and
Standing Silence in Chicago
Standing Silence in North Lawndale
Girl/Friends hosting and learning Self-defense for Domestic Violence Awareness Month
Girl/Friends at Facing Race Conference
Girl/Friends at One Billion Rising Event at Daley Plaza
Girl/Friends Recommendations for Safety Policy and Procedures for Young Girls

- Develop more advocates at their school who are also trained specifically in gender based violence.

- Have on-site counseling and services for survivors and significant others of domestic, dating and sexual violence.

- Make Girl/Friends a mandatory class.

- Create more allies, resources, and support for Girl/Friends outreach events.

- Have more lighting in the park around their campus (Collins).

- More security guards at the Christiana campus—Discrepancy between the two campuses in terms of safety.

- Have policies and procedures in the school handbook about gender based violence.
PARENT LEADERSHIP TO END GENDER VIOLENCE
National Sexual Assault Conference
Domestic Violence Awareness
Family March
Domestic Violence Awareness
Family March
Join A Long Walk Home in the Movement to End Violence Against Girls and Women

Join our newsletter:
www.alongwalkhome.org

Follow us on twitter at
twitter.com/alongwalkhome

Follow us on facebook at
facebook.com/alongwalkhomeinc