

**SURVIVORS'  
AGENDA**

# WHAT'S YOUR

**Building Survivor Power Across Movements**

# AGENDA?



**HOSTED BY**

Denise Beek, *me too. International*  
Flannery Houston, *RISE*

JoEllen Chernow, *Survivors Know*  
Nathalie Meus, *Futures Without Violence*

**me too.**



survivors  
**KNOW**

**FUTURES**  
WITHOUT VIOLENCE



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**“Survivors are a  
constituency,  
we are a power base and  
inherently in survival as  
power, and we’re just here  
to exercise that power.”**

-Tarana Burke, Survivors' Agenda  
National Call, June 2020



**What are your hopes for the survivor movement?**

**What's your vision for change in your town/cities/communities?**

***Please write your responses in the chat!***



# WHAT IS THE SURVIVOR'S AGENDA?



# QUESTION N PROMPT

1

**What needs to change in workplaces so that everyone can work free from sexual harassment and violence?  
Please select the top 3 changes that are most important to you:**

a. Require employers to publicly report the number of sexual harassment claims against them in a manner that is easily accessible to workers, applicants, and customers.

b. Expand the legal definition of what counts as sexual harassment to all forms of sexual harassment, including single instances and verbal comments.

c. Prohibit employers from using nondisclosure agreements that prevent workers from talking about experiences of sexual harassment.

d. Extend the time limit for filing a sexual harassment complaint against an employer so that survivors have more time to address their claims.

e. Require all employers (regardless of the number of employees) to take steps to prevent sexual harassment in the workplace, such as worker-led training, independent auditing of complaints, and bystander engagement.

f. Require employers to pay tipped workers the full minimum wage as other workers, before tips, so tipped workers don't have to rely on gratuities and tolerate harassment from customers in order to supplement their wages.

g. Ensure all workers, including independent contractors and workers who work for individuals and families, have legal protection from sexual harassment.

h. Other (please tell us what other changes you would like to see to make the workplace safe from sexual harassment)



# QUESTION

# 2

What needs to change in workplaces so that everyone can work free from sexual harassment and violence?  
Please select the top 3 changes that are most important to you:

## PROMPT

a. Establish school-based comprehensive sex education programs that address consent, boundaries, gender inequity, and healthy relationships.

b. Expand and strengthen Title IX protections in schools (including K-12 and colleges) so that schools are forced to address sexual harassment and assault claims in a prompt, equitable, and trauma-informed manner to protect the educational needs of survivors.

c. Students of color are disproportionately punished when they file a sexual violence claim with their schools. Identify and address inequities based on race, disability, or sexuality in the way schools address sexual violence claims.

d. Adopt a survivor-centered approach to addressing sexual harassment, placing the physical and emotional safety of the survivor first.

e. K-12 schools often do not have rules in place to address or prevent sexual misconduct. Ensure all schools have a comprehensive plan in place for addressing sexual misconduct.

f. Other (please tell us what other changes you would like to see to make schools safer for everyone)

# QUESTION

# 3

**What needs to change within the healthcare system to ensure that everyone can access services safely and without discrimination? Please select the top 3 changes that are most important to you:**

## PROMPT

- S** a. Strengthen and enforce laws that protect LGBTQ individuals from discrimination by healthcare providers.
- b. Increase access to sexual health and reproductive care, including abortion, birth control, and emergency contraceptives.
- c. Increase the number of trained Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners available at hospitals and healthcare providers, especially in rural and tribal areas.
- d. Strengthen requirements that all healthcare providers to address and prevent practices that discriminate based on race, citizenship, or disability.
- e. Ensure that all healthcare providers are trained to recognize the signs of abuse or human trafficking, are able to speak to survivors privately about sexual violence, and have the resources to provide trauma-informed services.
- f. Other (please tell us what other changes you would like to see to make healthcare more accessible)



# QUESTION

# 4

What needs to change so that everyone has a safe living environment? Please select the top 3 changes that are most important to you:

## PROMPT

☐ Transitional housing units provide safe housing for up to two years for survivors of intimate partner violence, but there are not enough units to meet the current need. Increase the number of transitional housing units available to survivors.

☐ Increase community investment in more safe and affordable housing to reduce the length of time someone needs to stay in emergency and transitional shelters.

☐ Create programs that include childcare and transportation as part of housing services (especially in rural areas).

☐ Make resources such as mental health support, social services, and crisis support available online or virtually accessible to survivors.

☐ Provide comprehensive resources in shelters that care for a survivor's mental health (and that of their children) as well as their housing and financial needs.

☐ Create programs that specifically address the housing needs of marginalized populations (including LGBTQ youth and survivors with disabilities).

☐ Strengthen and enforce existing housing protections to protect residents from sexual harassment by landlords and other residents, while ensuring landlords cannot use sexual or intimate partner violence as a reason for evicting survivors.

☐ Other (please tell us what other changes you would like to see to make housing safer and more accessible to survivors)

# QUESTION PROMPT

5

**What needs to change on the streets so that everyone can move through communities free from sexual violence?  
Please select the top 3 changes that are most important to you:**

- a. Prevention of sexual violence through addressing root causes, such as increasing employment opportunities, access to transportation, comprehensive harm reduction services for drug and alcohol abuse, and societal norms that support abuse of power and male superiority.
- b. Family courts need to address racial disparities and work with community service providers to prevent sexual abuse of children while providing trauma-informed services to help survivors heal.
- c. Develop or engage culturally-rooted community-based programs that allow the community to address the problems of sexual violence without police involvement, including mental health services, family and trauma-informed counseling, and social supports.
- d. Greater accountability and stronger penalties for convicted offenders (including law enforcement).
- e. Educate community members, schools, workplaces, and community agencies on trauma and the broad range of impacts of sexual violence on survivors, families, and communities.
- f. Decriminalize and protect sex workers.
- g. Other (please tell us what other changes you would like to see to make communities safer for survivors)



## PROBLEM STATEMENT DRAFT ON COMMUNITY SAFETY:

Many survivors choose not to, or are unable to, engage with the criminal legal system for very legitimate reasons; including its history and current practices which are violent especially toward Black people, people of color, LGBTQI+, migrants and other marginalized identities. As such, we must significantly invest beyond a system that is inadequate or counterproductive in providing all survivors the accountability, support, healing, and end to violence that they want.



# METHODOL OGY

- A combination of open-ended questions that gave respondents the freedom to express their thoughts about what it means to be a survivor and what safety looks like, then grouped them by the arenas that affect survivors the most: workplace, education, healthcare, housing, and the community.
- The policy preferences list the most common suggestions that steering and partner organizations are advocating, and chose to have them select 3 to demonstrate the things that are most immediate and pressing to respondents, without asking them to settle on any single preference.
- Brandeis researchers separated the questions into quantitative and qualitative. The quantitative results were things we could easily categorize into groups or could translate into numerical results, while the qualitative research looks at the open-ended questions to identify themes.



# RESULTS

## WORKPLACES

- Prohibit Non-disclosure Agreements
- Extend Time Limit for Filing
- Expand Protections for All

## EDUCATION

- Comprehensive Sex Ed
- ID and Address Inequities
- Survivor-Centered Approach

## HEALTHCARE

- Train Providers
- Increase # of Trained SANE
- Increase Access

## SAFE LIVING

- Online and Virtual Accessibility
- Childcare and Transportation
- Increased Community Investment

## COMMUNITY

- Address Root Causes
- Stronger Penalties/Culturally-Rooted Community Programs
- Education on Trauma



## ON INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE

**“I only accepted that trauma was behind [my] chronic health issues 20 years into [my] health problems. I had not disclosed [my] childhood sexual abuse to doctors and probably have even denied it. Medical environments are usually not trauma-informed safe environments.”**



## ON HEALTHCARE

**“The nurse at the hospital blamed me for my assault which made me not report. Nurses need to be trained on how to properly address these situations.”**



## ON VITAL RESOURCES

**“I held off on going to a therapist for a long time because I make poverty wages and had to pay out of pocket. We need better resources for people who might not have the means to pay for their own needed therapy.”**

**QUESTI  
ON**

**What are ways that we can make  
sure that our work is truly survivor-  
led?**



**QUESTIONS?**

# **SURVIVORS' AGENDA**

## **JOIN US AT THE SURVIVORS' SUMMIT**

**SEPTEMBER 24-26**

Register at [survivorsagenda.org/summit-registration](https://survivorsagenda.org/summit-registration)

### **SCHEDULE OVERVIEW**

Welcome to the Survivors' Agenda

Thursday Sept. 24

6-8pm ET | 3-5pm PT

Breakout Sessions

Friday Sept. 25

12-3pm ET | 9am-12pm PT (sessions to be announced in September)

The Rallying Cry

Saturday Sept. 26

12-3pm ET | 9am-12pm PT

Closed captioning and  
accessibility needs will be  
provided at no cost.

If you have any questions,  
please contact  
[info@survivorsagenda.org](mailto:info@survivorsagenda.org)