



Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence
ACTIONALLIANCE

July 22, 2016

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PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Coalition to Host Unprecedented Statewide Conference Addressing Violence Against African-American Communities

Richmond, VA – Next month, the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance (Action Alliance), Virginia's leading voice on sexual and intimate partner violence, will host *The Warmth of Other Suns: Multi-Disciplinary Strategies to Prevent and Respond to Sexual and Intimate Partner Violence in African-American Communities*. This conference, the first of its kind in Virginia, will bring together policymakers, movement makers, thought leaders, professionals, advocates, and community members to create a space for action, change, deep learning, connection and healing.

"*The Warmth of Other Suns*, at its core, is an intentional space for those of us yearning for better. We encourage everyone in Virginia, regardless of racial or ethnic identity, to join us for this profound event. Our present, and certainly our past, compel us to act. We need everyone committed to preventing, ending, and healing violence in Virginia at the table with us. Unless we work together to examine and break apart the systems that permit violence that permeates our communities, we will not succeed in our collective mission of ending sexual and intimate partner violence in all communities." Action Alliance Executive Director Kristi VanAudenhove said.

Highlights of the conference will include opening remarks from Delegate Jennifer L. McClellan; Nubia Peña speaking about the "School to Prison Pipeline;" local movement maker Performing Statistics; Charlene Allen and Dr. Kirk James sharing about their groundbreaking initiative Healing Works; Monica Simpson of SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective; Dr. Russell Jones of Virginia Tech exploring historical and community trauma; and much more.

This conference was made possible in part by the Virginia Department of Social Services, the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services, and The Virginia Victims Fund.

The Warmth of Other Suns Conference will take place from August 10-12, 2016 at the Crowne Plaza in Downtown Richmond, Virginia. To learn more about the conference, visit <https://warmthofothersunsconference.org/>. To learn more about the Action Alliance, visit <http://www.vsdvalliance.org>.

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