



# VIEW

## Vermont Information Exchange for Women Newsletter



**April 8th, 2021**

## News & Resources

### April is Sexual Violence Awareness Month

April is Sexual Violence Awareness Month. Learn more about it, and find information and resources from the [National Sexual Violence Resource Center \(NSVRC\)](#).

Find help & resources, or get involved in your community by contacting your local [Vermont Network Against Domestic & Sexual Violence member program](#).

**Applications Open | Bright Leadership Institute**

The Bright Leadership Institute trains and supports Vermonters who identify as Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) to run and lead. BIPOC Vermonters from every corner of the state are encouraged to apply. [The application deadline is tomorrow, Friday, April 9th.](#)

## **New Report: The Economic Impact of Domestic & Sexual Violence on the State of Vermont| VT Network**

For the past year, the VT Network Against Domestic & Sexual Violence has been gathering information about the impact of violence on our state and this week released a new report, [The Economic Impact of Domestic & Sexual Violence on the State of Vermont.](#) Every year, Vermont spends over \$111 million in public funds responding to domestic and sexual violence. This spending breaks down to \$2,655 per victim or approximately \$177 per capita. That means an average Vermonter pays at least \$177 a year related to domestic and sexual violence.

“We’re really hoping that elected officials take a good, hard look at these costs that are articulated in this report, understand that that’s kind of the tip of the iceberg and then think strategically about how we fund violence prevention,” said Karen Tronsgard-Scott, executive director of the network, [in an interview with VTDigger’s Lola Duffort.](#)

Watch the [VT Network’s press conference on the report on YouTube.](#)

## **Vermont Senate to Vote on Two Constitutional Amendments Tomorrow, April 9th**

**Proposition 5, Vermont’s Reproductive Liberty Amendment** would make Vermont the first state in the country to explicitly protect reproductive freedom in our constitution. This is history in the making! Planned Parenthood of Northern New England has put together a [guide for contacting your Senator quickly and easily.](#)

**Proposition 2: Vermont’s Anti-Slavery Amendment** would clarify that slavery and indentured servitude in any form are prohibited. The Vermont Racial Justice Alliance has put together [information about this proposal and suggestions for contacting Senators.](#)

Both amendments passed through the Senate & House last year. If they are approved by both bodies again this session, the amendments will go to the public to be voted on in 2022.

## **Menstrual Equity Update | VT Menstrual Equity Coalition**

VT’s [House Ways & Means Committee](#) is currently considering S.53: An act relating to exempting feminine hygiene products from the Vermont Sales and Use Tax. Do you

have an opinion about whether menstrual supplies should be exempt from or subject to sales tax? Make your voice heard.

Learn more about this issue in our [one-page info sheet](#), or check out [Period Equity's resources](#).

## **Call for Crime Victims' Service Awards | VT Center for Crime Victim Services**

If there is a service provider, advocate, municipal staff, legal aid, legislator, or other leader in the victim service field, now is the time to show them they matter! [There are 8 categories for awards, find the category for your nominee now!](#) Need some help? Reach out to Samantha with any questions or concerns. Anyone can nominate a recipient for an award. **The nomination deadline is tomorrow, April 9th at 5:00 p.m.!** Recipients will be notified the week of April 12.

## **Call for 2021 Annual Award Nominations | Vermont Women in Higher Education (VWHE)**

VWHE is pleased to announce the upcoming 36th annual presentation of recognition awards to women in the field of higher education. [Award nominations are now open!](#) This year VWHE is introducing a new award, the Dr. Wanda Heading-Grant Award for Justice, to complement the three awards they have previously given: the Sister Elizabeth Candon Award for Distinguished Service; the Jackie Gribbons Award for Leadership; and the Peggy R. Williams Emerging Professional Award. The Dr. Wanda Heading-Grant Award for Justice will be presented to a woman who has demonstrated significant commitment and leadership in fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion in higher education, especially uplifting and empowering those from traditionally marginalized and underrepresented communities. Anyone can nominate a recipient for an award. The awards will be presented in the fall of 2021. If you have questions or need further information, please contact [Julia.Russell@uvm.edu](mailto:Julia.Russell@uvm.edu). Deadline for nomination submissions is August 16, 2021.

## **Gender & Media Bias Event | VTDigger in partnership with Vermont Has Her Back**

Last Thursday evening, NYTimes bestselling feminist author Rebecca Traister provided the enthralling keynote and then joined in a conversation about anger and objectivity, the intersectionality of race and gender, and personal experiences in covering the news. Moderated by Jane Lindholm, participants included Anne Galloway (VTDigger), Sarah Ashworth (VPR), Eva McKend (formerly WCAX, now of Spectrum News), Candace Page (Seven Days) and co-author of Vermont Has Her Back, Natalie Silver. **If you missed the event, you can [watch the full recording here](#).**

## **Eliminating Race-Based Discrimination | Comcast Newsmakers**

[The Rutland Area NAACP](#) gives a voice to marginalized communities and advocates for the advancement for people of color. Rutland branch NAACP President, Mia Shultz, [discusses the work they do to eliminate racial discrimination in Vermont and the nation.](#)

## **LGBTQ+ Community's Guide to Breast & Cervical Cancer Screenings | Pride Center of Vermont**

Information about breast and cervical health care often leaves out the specific needs of LGBTQ+ people. Pride Center of Vermont put together this guide so you know if and when these screenings are right for you. [Click here to view the entire guide.](#)

## **Artist Misoo Bang's Giant Asian Girl series challenges 'vulnerable' stereotype | VTDigger**

"Misoo Bang paints a collection called "Giant Asian Girls," which she describes as a painting and collage series that addresses racial stereotypes and gender-based violence as it relates to Asian women living in America. 'In one aspect, the work is a counterbalance to the western 'fetishization' of Asian women, and in another, it is a fantasy narrative about the privilege of size,' she writes in a description of the series on her website. Bang, horrified by the shootings in Atlanta — and pervasive racism and attacks against Asian women — quit her gallery job in recent weeks and has shifted her attention to educating youth about artwork in various cultures through forthcoming classes at the Shelburne Craft Center. She also spends much of her time in conversations about race, gender and empowerment with her 11-year-old daughter, Lily." – [Emma Cotton for VTDigger](#)

## **Asian American community hears 'silence' from leaders, media in week after Atlanta shooting | VTDigger**

"For seven days following the Atlanta shooting that killed eight people, including six Asian American women, a group of Asian American Vermonters looked to state leaders for a response. They hoped for public condemnations of the acts or a renewed commitment to rooting out discrimination against Asian Americans in Vermont. Instead — from politicians, colleagues and local media — they heard silence." – Emma Cotton for VTDigger

## **One Asian Vermonter: 'Angry, sad— and scared' | VTDigger**

"Sitting down to write this is, honestly, really hard. I don't know where to start or how to organize all of the thoughts and feelings I've been dealing with the past couple days. Mostly, I've felt sad. Sad for those eight people whose lives were ended, sad for their friends and families, sad for the entire Asian community that I know is feeling scared right now. But I'm also incredibly angry. I'm angry because another white man

committed another violent crime, an act of terrorism, and it's been described by cops as a "bad day" for him, for the person who murdered eight people. I'm angry because the same cop who made this statement ordered T-shirts that say "COVID-19 imported virus from Chy-na" on them." – [Lily Doton via VTDigger](#)

## **Making of an Activist: Noel Riby-Williams | VTDigger**

"When Noel was in high school, her younger brother was called a racial slur by a classmate. Unsure of what to do, she reached out to her cousin, Joelyn Mensah, who had founded the Racial Justice Alliance at Montpelier High School. Joelyn contacted teachers and made it clear that the family would not tolerate being in classes with the student. 'I really saw the power I could have by advocating for myself,' Noel said of Joelyn's actions. 'She is my biggest inspiration.'" - [Anika Turcotte, of Montpelier High School via VTDigger](#)

## **Amy Brady: Vermont needs a fair, transparent, and equitable child protection system | Brattleboro Reformer**

"If you live in Vermont, it is almost certain that you know somebody who has been impacted by our child protection system. The current rate of child removal is more than double the national average — in fact, it is the 5th highest in the nation. Of the current 1,308 children and youth in foster care, almost a quarter have experienced four or more foster care placements. Around 14 percent of our children end up in a group care setting of some kind during their time in care. Every community in Vermont is impacted by these truths — and each one of us carries responsibility for the health and safety of Vermont's children and youth..." – Amy Brady via Brattleboro Reformer

## **Two Decades After Reports Documented Racism In Vt. Schools, The Problem Still Exists | VPR**

"A recent incident in Bennington shows that students of color sometimes still face racially insensitive curriculum in Vermont schools. The incident comes as Vermont legislators are debating a plan which, if approved, would invest money in teacher training to improve racial equity in classrooms across the state. For Bennington parent Mia Schultz, a red flag went up as soon as she saw a recent worksheet sent home from her son's current events class." – [Howard Weiss-Tisman for VPR](#)

## **Bill would eliminate statute of limitations for civil claims of childhood physical abuse | VTDigger**

"Proposed legislation would eliminate the statute of limitations in Vermont for a victim of childhood physical abuse to bring a civil action against those responsible. The bill, S.99, which was presented Friday before the Senate Judiciary Committee, follows legislation enacted two years ago that repealed the statute of limitations for victims of sexual abuse to bring civil lawsuits. Both pieces of legislation also come in light of claims of

physical and sexual abuse decades ago at the Vermont Catholic Diocese's former St. Joseph's Orphanage in Burlington." – [Alan Keays for VTDigger](#)

## **People's Law School | Vermont Law School & Partners**

Attorney General TJ Donovan, the Association of Africans Living in Vermont (AALV), Vermont Racial Justice Alliance, and the Vermont Institute for Community and International Involvement (VICII) announced [The People's Law School](#)—a series of free, virtual presentations on contemporary topics impacting the lives of Vermonters. The series, which begins on April 7, 2021, will provide practical information about a range of topics including such topics as the Fourth Amendment, representing yourself in small claims court, tenant rights, understanding eligibility for benefits, and family law. Find these events on our [statewide events calendar](#).

## **A Guide to Being an Ally to Transgender and Nonbinary Youth | The Trevor Project**

It can be tough for transgender and nonbinary people to bear the burden of educating others about their lived experience. This new [Guide to Being an Ally to Transgender and Nonbinary Youth](#) is an introductory educational resource that covers a wide range of topics and best practices on how to support transgender and nonbinary people.

## **Job Corps Openings in Vergennes**

Job Corps is a tuition-free trade education program for young adults out of school and interested in beginning a career path into long-term employment. Job Corps students receive all meals, on-campus housing, and basic healthcare at no cost. The program can provide students with driver's licenses, high school diplomas, work-based learning experiences, apprenticeships, and a college opportunity. Upon completion of the program, graduates enter the world of work (with the help of a career transition counselor), continue with college, enlist in the military or pursue advanced training opportunities through Job Corps.

Northlands Job Corps offers careers in Culinary Arts, Office Administration, Clinical Medical Assistant, Building Construction Technology (which encompasses electrical, plumbing, carpentry, and solar panel competencies), Auto Tech (maintenance and light repair), Welding, Urban Forestry and Carpentry. All Job Corps trade certifications are nationally recognized. They encourage all young women to explore these non-traditional vocations!

In addition to a career opportunity, students, once completed with their on-center program, may attend CCV, at no charge and continue in the Job Corps program. Students can live on their campus in Vergennes, or can commute. Job Corps provides transportation within a 25-mile radius.

Job Corps is seeking self-motivated young women, between the ages of 16 and 24, who meet income eligibility standards, respond well to supervision, have no open court cases, will do well living in a dormitory with other students, or who can handle the rigor of a daily commute. Enrollees are required to pass a drug screening upon arrival. For more information, contact Rose Nelson at 802-458-2249 or via email at [nelson.rose@jobcorps.org](mailto:nelson.rose@jobcorps.org).

## Employment Opportunities

### Communications & Media Coordinator | National Center on Restorative Justice at Vermont Law School

The National Center on Restorative Justice is a partnership between Vermont Law School, the University of Vermont, and the University of San Diego, with funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The National Center is pleased to announce it is looking to hire a [full-time Communications and Media Coordinator](#).

## Funding Opportunities

### RISEVT Amplify Grants

RiseVT works to amplify community efforts that are making the healthy choice the easy choice where we live, work, learn, and play. Toward this goal, RiseVT supports a variety of projects by awarding [Amplify Grants](#) to community partners. All grant applications must work to address one or more of the CDC strategies to reduce obesity/increase access and reduce barriers to physical activity, healthy foods, and/or physical, social, and emotional wellbeing. Amplify Grants range from \$250-\$1,500.

### New economic grants for sole proprietors

\$1.6 million is available to fund [grants between \\$1,500 and \\$10,000 to qualifying sole proprietors](#) on a first-come, first-served basis. Applicants must demonstrate financial need through business expenditures that have not yet been reimbursed through other relief programs. Expenditures may represent expenses incurred between March 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021, or ongoing expenses in order to “pivot” business operations due to the pandemic. Among other eligibility requirements, applicants must be from a low to moderate income household per federal guidelines, which is defined as having a household income of 80% or below the area median income for your county and be a

sole proprietor that does not issue W-2s to any employees. **Application Period: April 5 - May 26.**

## Events

### **Women Can Do | Vermont Works for Women**

[Week of April 5-9](#)

### **Storytelling for Business: Farm & Produce | CWE VT**

[Friday, April 9, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.](#)

### **Courageous Conversations | Catamount Arts**

[Sundays, April 11 – May 2, 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.](#)

### **Powering Through COVID: In-Person/High-Touch | CWE VT**

[Mondays, April 12 – May 24, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.](#)

### **Early Childhood Education Capacity Grants Presentation | Vermont Community Loan Fund**

[Tuesday, April 13, 6:15 – 7:30 p.m.](#)

### **Virtual Advocacy Evening | VT Network Against Domestic & Sexual Violence**

[Wednesday, April 14, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.](#)

### **The Bystander Moment: Transforming Rape Culture at its Roots | Women's Freedom Center**

[Thursday, April 15, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.](#)

### **Storytelling for Business: Retail | CWE VT**



*Friday, April 16, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.*

**Growing Together | Girls Inc. & Dartmouth Hitchcock**

*Saturday, April 17, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.*

**Nurturing Healthy Sexual Development | Prevent Child Abuse Vermont**

*Tuesday, April 20, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.*

**Earth Day & the Environment | The People's Law School**

*Wednesday, April 21, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.*

**Overcoming Barriers to Protecting Children from Sexual Abuse | Prevent Child Abuse Vermont**

*Wednesday, April 21, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.*

**Racism in America Forum: Re-imagining Policing and Public Safety in Vermont | Good Shepard Lutheran Church**

*Wednesday, April 21, 7:00 p.m.*

**TECHNICOOL: Keeping Kids Safe on the Internet | Prevent Child Abuse Vermont**

*Tuesday, April 27, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.*

**Responding to Events of Racism in School Based Relationships | VT-HEC**

*Wednesday, April 28, 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.*

**Submit your event to our statewide events calendar**



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