This fiscal year has found your Coalition Board very much engaged in the work of our statewide organization. The Color of Violence Conference last October proved to be an outstanding success with over 200 participants from many of the counties across the state including Medoc, Sonoma, Orange, Tulare and Contra Costa. Participants also attended from other states such as New York, Oregon, Washington and Nevada. The Women of Color Caucus-South did a wonderful job in organizing this first time ever conference of this kind. On the strength of this success the Coalition has been invited to be a Co-Sponsor of a national violence prevention conference organized by the L.A. County Violence Prevention Coalition in May, 1995.

The Board has been very focused in several areas. One certainly has been dealing with the plethora of legislation that has come across your desks and ours. We were able to design a CSCRCC legislative position paper energized by the Bay Region to guide us in our deliberations about which legislation is worthy of our support or not. We have also made a strong networking contact with the statewide office of N.O.W. They are interested in supporting expanded funding for rape crisis centers for our rape intervention and prevention efforts. Elizabeth Toledo, the N.O.W. statewide coordinator came to our Board meeting that was held in Fresno and then invited CSCRCC members for a strong presence at their Statewide Conference in May. Our coalition was very well represented by Leah Aldridge, the chair of the Women of Color Caucus-South and a LACAAW staff member. Leah gave one of the opening addresses along with Patricia Ireland, National Chair of N.O.W. and long time feminist thinker/activist/author Robin Morgan. Through our collaboration on the Clothesline Project throughout our state we hope that our two statewide organizations - N.O.W. and CSCRCC will expand the voice of survivors to have impact on policy issues. Our Board rep from the Central Coast Region-Jamie Leigh from the Ventura Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence is charging our statewide Clothesline Project. We held a T-shirt Bee at our agency and it was very moving for everyone to create these memorial shirts honoring the violent experiences that women survive on a daily basis. The CSCRCC suggests that centers organize a shirt-making at their sites with advocates, survivors and staff. The SAC has been meeting and considering changes in the funding formula. Board member Lee Ann Eager from Fresno RCC is our Coalition's liaison to the SAC, she has been carefully attending to the details of the proposed changes.

We are also pursuing a new look for the Coalition and perhaps a new name. Our new brochure is done and the Board is going to experiment with some fundraising by enabling friends of the Coalition to support us through a donation. You will be hearing more about this in the very near future. Please think about a new name for our group. The CSCRCC is a tongue twister; it doesn't rhyme with anything; and you can't dance to it. We need a catchy name so, please think about it. Let's vote on a new name at our annual meeting which is Tuesday, evening September 13th at the NOVA Conference in San Francisco. We will also be holding elections for Chair and Co-Chair. We are saying so-long to Monica Williams who has left the Compton Rape Crisis Center and has resigned as Co-Chair of the Coalition. We wish Monica best of luck and appreciate all that she has contributed to our Coalition and to the lives of women in her community and beyond. Folks may leave Rape crisis but rape crisis never leaves us. So we know that Monica will forever be connected to these issues, as we all are and will be.

One of the major items that we will be discussing at the annual meeting is a proposal to engage in certain steps to organize and fundraise for a statewide office and a staff person to coordinate the work of the Coalition. For years there has been a dream to one day have a functioning office. The CSCRCC Board has been developing a plan to make this happen. We were spurred on by a proposal for a merger with NAAR (National Action Against Rape) last year. Out of those discussions has come what we hope you will agree is a forward thinking vision and proposal to advance the impact, success and reach of our statewide organization and further support the work of rape crisis centers.
The California Coalition of Rape Crisis Centers is comprised of over 70 centers throughout California. We have been actively working since 1974 to eliminate sexual assault, and in the interim to ensure that resources for support are available to its victims. While CSCRCC agrees that it is critical to address the issue of convicted felons being released from prison only to victimize again, we have seen that these measures do not dramatically increase the safety of our communities. Increased sentences for sex offenders have been implemented in California and throughout the country for more than a decade. Yet the incidence of these crimes has steadily increased during the same period. We believe this is logical given that statistics indicate that only 3% of sexual assaults result in the perpetrator being convicted of a crime.

The current social sentiments on crime coupled with the realities outlined above, result in those efforts actually leaving potential victims more vulnerable because of the illusion that this critical problem is being addressed and that our communities will be safer.

CSCRCC believes that there are legislative changes that can be enacted to substantively impact the incidence of sexual assault. We outline a few of the issues we believe to be critical below. Our goal in sharing this information is to increase the dialogue on solutions to the incidence of sexual assault and to increase the legislatures ability to address this growing social problem. CSCRCC will not support legislation that penalizes victims or takes away the few option that are available to them. We must increase awareness on the issues surrounding the re-victimization of survivors throughout the Justice System.

Most victims of sexual assault are attacked by someone they have had a prior relationship with, such as relatives, dates, acquaintances, and authority figures. Effectively decreasing the incidence of sexual assault requires providing individuals with information on how to identify a potentially dangerous situation and techniques for avoiding or escaping them. It is also critical to give potential perpetrators information on and techniques for observing appropriate boundaries. The bottom line is that prevention efforts must be supported through funding. In the long run, it is much more cost effective to prevent sexual assault than to respond. The State of California does not provide ANY funding to rape crisis centers for prevention. We must continue to advocate for State prevention funds.

We believe that research on offender treatment should be increased, and that research funded by the state should include participation of victims advocates to assist in evaluating their appropriateness and their effectiveness. We also believe that treatment must never be in lieu of punishment, but that punishment without effective treatment makes no sense.

The barriers which preclude effective prosecution of sexual assault must be addressed. The national average for convictions is less than 3% of crimes committed - California does not exceed this average. These barriers include:

♦ Public education to ensure that we have jurors available who understand the dynamics of sexual assault.

♦ Increased training for District Attorneys. Evidence shows that convictions for sex crimes increase dramatically when three things happen:

1) there is Vertical Prosecution
2) Deputies are trained and specialize in prosecuting sexual assault cases
3) the local DA's office is committed to prosecuting these crimes

♦ Regular training for sexual assault investigators

♦ Support must be available for victims. Experience has shown that a victim who is interested in participating in the Criminal Justice process is much more likely to follow-through when they have the support of an advocate. Rape Crisis Center funding must be stable to ensure this is in place.

Unless the issues outlined above are addressed, thousands of women and children will continue to be victimized through sexual assault in California each year. We can no longer afford the pretense of addressing this issue by spending billions of dollars incarcerating the minority of offenders that are convicted, while the majority are not held accountable for their actions. We must address the social values which allow and perpetuate sexual assault in our communities.
'One Strike' for Rapists Isn't Nearly Enough

Crime: Very few sexual assaults are even reported; the state's crackdown should focus on prevention and encouraging victims to come forward.

Gov. Pete Wilson's "one strike and you're out" bill was initially presented as a simple solution to the complex problem of sexual assault. Mandating a life sentence upon first conviction for all sex offenders, it was part of a wave of repressive laws that promote criminalization of a select portion of our population while diverting billions of our tax dollars towards excessive prison construction. Such laws have everything to do with taking political advantage of the public's well-founded fear of violent crime, but they almost have nothing to do with actually preventing the crimes at which they are directed.

Since the bills introduction, concerted pressure from rape crisis centers and others has resulted in amendments that reflect many of the concerns that caused the greatest alarm. In its current form, the bill doubles most rape sentences. It also allows a 25 year-to-life "enhancement," at the direction of the prosecutor, when the assault was accompanied by certain circumstances such as kidnapping, use of a dangerous weapon or infliction of great bodily injury. However, even if the law were past in its harshest form, it would barely begin to put a dent in the massive and complex social malady of sexual violence in our society.

Studies report that approximately one out of five adult women in the United States has been sexually assaulted—in most cases while a minor. In California, this translates as 3 million female survivors of rape or other forms of sexual assault. (The incidence of sexual assault on boys and men is lower, but significant.) Can Gov. Wilson and his supporters possibly believe that putting convicted sex offenders behind bars for life will stop rape? The California State Coalition of Rape Crisis Centers doesn't.

The fact is that only a tiny percentage of sex offenders will ever be incarcerated. The FBI estimates that 90% of rapes are never reported to the police; of those reported, less than 20% go to court, and of those that go to court, only 50% end in conviction. Usually, the probability of a conviction has more to do with defendant's ability to afford legal representation than with his guilt or innocence.

The vast majority of sex offenders, most of whom are known to their victims, never come in contact with the judicial system. Who are these men? They are the victims' acquaintances and intimates—their fathers, uncles, boyfriends and dates.

Because they are already in relationships of unequal power with their assailants, most survivors of sexual assault bypass the judicial system altogether and attempt to deal with their mistreatment within the context of their existing social network. By bolstering the institutions that empower and assist victims and potential victims of violence, we can reach a far greater number of sexual assault survivors and have a far more positive impact on society as a whole.

If we are really interested in eliminating rape from our culture, we need to find out why so many men believe that it is acceptable behavior. Research shows that most rapists were abused as children. Rather than pouring our tax dollars into the increased incarceration of a symbolic minority, we would do much more to reduce human misery by redirecting our money to programs that provide support and treatment to families in which children are being abused, thereby permanently interrupting the growing legacy of violence. Along the same lines, public education promoting safety, respect and self-defense for children and women offers a much more cost-effective way of reducing sexual assault.

Towards this end, California would do well to adopt a policy that balances punishment with prevention by mandating that every dollar spent on incarcerating rapists be matched by two dollars devoted to programs aimed at preventing sexual assault. Such a policy, in conjunction with a more judicious application of punitive laws, would mark the beginning of a sensible, effective and compassionate approach to ending rape.

Susan Quinlan is a rape survivor who volunteers with the California State Coalition of Rape Crisis Centers.
WOMEN OF COLOR CAUCUS NEWS

The Color of Violence: A Multi-cultural Perspective on Violence Against Women

On October 14 and 15, 1993 the Women of Color Caucus-South, presented the Color of Violence Conference. The conference was held in Los Angeles and was the first of its kind to be held in California. This event focused on violence against women from a multi-cultural perspective. The conference received widespread support within two powerful women's anti-violence movements. The conference was actually co-sponsored by the Southern California Coalition on Battered Women (SCCBW) and the California Wellness Foundation. It also received a good amount of media attention, on both radio and television and has been recognized across the country. For those interested, tapes of the entire conference are available through the Coalition. The two days were a huge success, with over 200 people attending each day. Our goal was to bring to the forefront issues of violence against women as they affect communities of color and other oppressed groups. With much of the conflict that exists among diverse racial groups, we felt it was critical to create a forum in which difficult issues could be discussed. We believe we were very successful in achieving our goals. The planning of the Color of Violence event provided an opportunity for women of color, who work towards the elimination of violence against women, to work collectively on such an important event.

The Reformation of the Women of Color Caucus North

The Women of Color Caucus North is active again. The caucus has held three meetings at which time members have been working very diligently to come with an agenda for the year. Our first task was to elect officers and our representative to the State Board. Alice Washington from Highland Sexual Assault Center was elected Chair; Andrea Calderon, Vice-Chair; Jean Ringo, Secretary. Reina Sandoval-Beverly from Solano County Rape Crisis Services was elected to represent the Caucus on the State Board. When she is unable to attend the Chair if the Caucus will be her alternative. Ringo works at West Oakland Health Center and is a member if The Oakland Consortium on Sexual Assault. Calderon works at San Francisco Women Against Rape.

The Caucus came up with a mission statement which is "to advocate/educate and effect social change around issues and concerns impacting people of color as it relates to sexual assault.

With this purpose in mind members of the caucus researched and made a careful analysis of the "One Strike" Anti-Crime bill which is being introduced by Marlan Bergeson, Republican. We have several concerns which will be passed on to the State Board. One of our major concerns is that if passed this bill will disproportionately impact minorities.

The Caucus encourages agencies in the North to send a minority representative to the regularly scheduled meetings of the Women of Color Caucus North. For more information around dates of meetings contact Washington at 510-437-4866 or Sandoval-Beverly at 707-422-7345.

Tabetha Tobias

Tabetha Lynn Tobias departed this life on Monday June 6, 1994. For the past several years Tabetha had dedicated her time to working in the fight to end violence against women. During this time, Tabetha made endless contributions through her work at the Project Sister Sexual Assault Crisis Center in Pomona and the Pasadena YWCA Rape Crisis Center. In addition, Tabetha was an active member of the Women of Color Caucus-South and was a key participant in the planning and implementation of the Color of Violence Conference. Her work and concern for others touched many. For those of us who had the privilege to know and collaborate with her, we will miss her energy and wisdom. Our deepest sympathy goes out to her family and close friends.
September 13th

Summary: This newsletter contains updates about changes in the Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CASA) and information about the Coalition Annual Meeting. The new name for the Coalition will be announced at the meeting, and attendees are asked to share their suggestions for a new name. The newsletter also includes updates on ongoing projects and upcoming events.

**Coalition Name Change**

The Coalition Against Sexual Assault is undergoing a name change. The new name will be announced at the Coalition Annual Meeting on September 13th. Attendees are encouraged to submit their suggestions for a new name. The Coalition is also celebrating the adoption of a new logo, which will be unveiled at the meeting.

**Upcoming Event**

The Coalition will host an annual meeting on September 13th. The meeting will feature updates on ongoing projects and provide an opportunity to discuss potential changes to the Coalition's mission and objectives.

**Contact Information**

For more information, please contact the Coalition office at 555-1234. The address for the Coalition is 123 Main Street, Suite 456, Anytown, USA.

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**Board of Directors**

- [List of Board Members]

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**Volunteer Opportunities**

- [List of Volunteer Roles and Responsibilities]

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**Next Steps**

If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about the Coalition, please contact the Coalition office at 555-1234.
CLOTHESLINE PROJECT

What is the Clothesline Project? It is a visual display that bears witness, in a personal and touching fashion, to the effects of violence against women. During the public display, a clothesline is hung with shirts. Each shirt has been decorated to represent a particular woman's experience, by either the survivor herself or by someone who cares (or cared) about her. Started by the Cape Cod Women's Agenda in the fall of 1990, the concept has begun to spread throughout the country, and even internationally. The purpose of this project is twofold: to bear witness to survivors as well as victims of the violent war currently being waged against women, and to raise societal awareness of the extent of this problem. As such, the project should be considered to be one component of what should be a coordinate response of individuals, support service organization, police and government in stopping the violence. As a program which assists survivors of sexual assault in their recovery, your agency has a unique opportunity to encourage survivors to participate in this healing action. Whenever possible, a shirt should be submitted by the survivor herself; a shirt submitted on behalf of a survivor should be sent only with her permission. Women are asked to send shirts, blouses or T-shirts decorated to reflect their personal experience. Meaningful decorations may include: a name, a date, symbols of interest or tools of the trade. Some suggestions to increase durability include: using a natural fabric, sewing rather than using glue, photocopying photographs onto iron-ons, and using acrylic or textile paint, color-fast dye or indelible ink. A suggested color code helps viewers to make sense of the Clothesline. These colors are not mandatory, however, if a different color or pattern has a special significance, a woman should feel free to use instead.

- Red, Pink or Orange - for women who have been raped or sexually assaulted
- Blue or Green - for women survivors of incest or child sexual abuse
- Purple or Lavender - for women attacked because of their sexual orientation
- Black - for women who have been gang raped.

If you wish to memorialize a woman has been killed, you may want to submit a shirt that belonged to her. Please show on the shirt the woman's name, dates of birth and death, what she meant to you and how you think she should be remembered. Include a photograph, if you are willing to part with one. Photographs and mementos become part of the exhibit and cannot be returned. California NOW is sponsoring the statewide project and plans to display shirts on clotheslines at the capitol and other events and conferences around the state, to remind Governor Wilson and the legislators that women's lives should be remembered when the state spends its money. We encourage programs to contact their local NOW chapter for assistance and joint support of the Clothesline Project. Please join the CSCRCC in participating in this worthwhile and powerful statement. Help us surround the capitol with shirts! For more information contact Jamie Lee at (805) 654-8141.

NICOLE SIMPSON

Nicole Simpson's murder has brought national attention to Domestic Violence. The murder of a celebrities wife residing in a well to do community has pushed many to question their beliefs or misconceptions about the battering and abuse of women. Although many are shocked by the possibility that a loved one can hurt or murder their wife, ex-wife, partner or significant other, those of us who work to eliminate violence against women are not. The plight of Nicole Simpson is all too familiar to women working in the anti-violence movement.

This murder has sparked massive media attention. Many centers who work with both sexual assault and domestic violence have been inundated by calls from the media for interviews. Those individuals and centers who have been interviewed have used this opportunity to once again debunk myths and reiterate the reality of violence directed at women everywhere.

We are saddened that it has taken the loss of another woman's life to focus societies attention on the seriousness and reality of domestic violence. Our deepest condolences go out to Nicole's family.
A Priority

Women should be a priority
Respected and upheld in society
Given all the proper notoriety
Never used or abused by authority figures
Like the media that trashes us
Lay down the hype that
constantly bashes our image
TV movies and the video
Use women's bodies to create a sick sideshow
Too many times seen as a sex symbol
No real intelligence —
just a brainless bim-bo
Not taken seriously for who she need to be
A human being with the right to be free
Women should be a priority
Respected and upheld in society...

From the rap song - "A Priority"
by
Sweet Honey in the Rock

Lyrics & Music by
Aisha Kahili
&
Nitanju Bolade Casel