

SAFE SPACES ANNUAL REPORT

2018



SUPPORTING

SURVIVORS

UPLIFTING

EACH OTHER

OPPOSING

GENDERED HARASSMENT

CHALLENGING

STIGMAS AND STEROETYPES

BUILDING

SAFE SPACES FOR ALL



WE WILL FIGHT FOR ONE ANOTHER.

We won't stop showing up for one another, because we know that gendered harassment and violence harms those of us at the intersections of multiple marginalized identities differently, and with more frequency and severity. And we are *not* here for it.

Ten years ago, two DC metro area residents created Hollaback DC, an online forum for individuals to submit their public sexual harassment and assault experiences in order to raise awareness. As the number and severity of stories shared grew, so did the community's outrage at this widespread, everyday sexism. Hollaback DC's founders moved quickly to catalyze this outrage into concrete, real-life strategies to help end public gendered harassment and assault - more commonly known as street harassment - and founded Collective Action for Safe Spaces.

Today, we work to honor and support survivors of public gendered harassment while also challenging current institutional frameworks that diminish their voices and experiences, especially the voices and experiences of people who are marginalized by layers of structural oppression. We believe in the power of communitydriven, action-oriented solutions to spark the individual, community, and societal culture changes that will create a world free of public gendered harassment. In 2018, our community was put to the test, but together we rose to the challenge.



MY COWORKERS GAINED SKILLS TO BECOME WILLING AND ABLE TO INTERVENE ON BEHALF OF ME AND OUR GUESTS IN SAFER WAYS.

- SAFE BAR COLLECTIVE TRAINING PARTICIPANT

99







Here's a look at what we accomplished through collective action this year.

WE PASSED THE STREET HARASSMENT PREVENTION ACT (SHPA)!

In an enormous victory for DC's #MeToo movement, driven by your stories and our collective advocacy, we moved the DC Council to pass SHPA in August — a first-of-its-kind, landmark legislation that will bring us closer to a vision of a city free from harassment. SHPA uses a community-based and non-criminal approach that recognizes the harms that the criminal legal system inflicts on DC's most marginalized communities, especially women and LGBTQSTGNC* people of color. Once SHPA passed, we turned to making sure the law was implemented effectively.

800+

Reached for #DECRIMNOWDC — we organized our community and centered queer and trans people of color as we conducted sex worker speak-outs, canvassed all across the city, and advocated with the DC Council in an effort to decriminalize adult, consensual sex work in the District.

Decriminalization will allow sex workers to stay safer from interpersonal and state violence while reducing barriers that sex workers face in accessing alternative opportunities and resources.

20+

Men and masculine-identified people were trained through our Rethink Masculinity (RM) program.

RM is a partnership between CASS, ReThink, and DC Rape Crisis Center and aims to build nurturance culture, make connections between gender norms and gendered violence, and create an environment where everyone feels responsible for making our communities safe.



1000+

People were equipped with strategies to respond directly to harassment and violence, using community-based alternatives to police. From workplace harassment to harassment on our public transit system, CASS is taking our bystander intervention to new audiences, and making DC safer for all of us.

60+

Monthly sustainers supported our vision for a DC that is made safer by communities, not by prisons or police.

18+

New bars joined the Safe Bar Collective (SBC) — our program that trains nightlife staff to respond to harassment and prevent assault. We're also working to support marginalized workers in accessing employment.

8

Trans people of color got trained in front-of-house restaurant skills through our SBC Jobs Program.



OUR POWER IS IN EACH OTHER

CASS's work is grounded in the belief that communities already have the tools we need to keep one another safe. Every day that we show up for one another, we prove this to be true. CASS works to make DC safer for everyone by using comprehensive, community-based solutions through an intersectional lens to eliminate public gendered harassment and assault in the DC metropolitan area.

In 2018 we hired two part-time staff members to help push our work forward: a training coordinator and a communications coordinator. We are supported by a full-time executive director, three part-time staff, a strong board, and over 30 incredible volunteers who help us manifest the world we are all dreaming of. We are small but mighty; our people are our greatest gift.

And we couldn't do it without you. **You are our people**. Thank you for all of the ways you've supported us — connecting us to bars, bringing us to train your staff and volunteers, speaking out at rallies, offering your resources, canvassing with us, amplifying our work, and more. We're proud of what we've been able to build together over the past year — and we're prepared for a strong future. In the coming year you can expect to see us:



Deepening our practice of solidarity with our partners and soon-to-be partners, ensuring that our work is intersectional, survivor-centered, coalition led, and people-powered;



Expanding our training to new partners; taking our bystander intervention training, Safe Bars Collective work and our ReThink Masculinity programs to more people across DC;



Continuing to organize around work that centers queer and trans folks of color, including our DecrimNow campaign, which aims to decriminalize sex work in DC and provide resources and support to people in the sex trade;



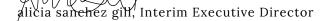
Shoring up internal policies, procedures, data and evaluation, and infrastructure, so that we can continue to meet the high demands of our work, and sustain our work and our people for the long haul; and



Strengthening our practice of transformative justice for survivors of gendered violence with survivor safety and anti-carceral praxis at the center or our work.

In the words of Gwendolyn Brooks, "We are each other's harvest; we are each other's business; we are each other's magnitude and bond." We have a strong foundation, incredible supporters, amazing volunteers, a highly engaged board, and we have **you**. Thank you for being partners on this journey.

Until all of us are free.





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A special thank you to **Jessica Raven**, former CASS executive director, visionary, and radical creator. We are so grateful for your leadership and wish you love and power on your journey to change each pocket of the world that you touch.

QUICK LIST OF HELPFUL RESOURCES

Share your story: bit.ly/CASSblog

Report harassment on public transit: WMATA.com/harassment
Request a workshop on responding to harassment: bit.ly/CASSworkshops
Stay in the loop about CASS's work: bit.ly/CASSemail

Donate: bit.ly/SupportCASS

Twitter: @SafeSpacesDC
Facebook: /CollectiveActionDC
Instagram: @SafeSpacesDC
Email: info@collectiveactiondc.org

