

# RAINN

## Speakers Bureau Newsletter

By Sara Snyder, Speakers Bureau Manager • Jun 15, 2023

Smart Brevity® count: 8 mins... 2059 words

### Speakers Bureau Highlights

The Spanish National Sexual Assault Hotline, previously known as "La Línea de Ayuda Nacional de Asalto Sexual," is changing its name to "Línea de Ayuda Nacional de Abuso Sexual" due to the ambiguity of the word "asalto," which can mean robbery or assault in English. Amy Andrades, the National Sexual Assault Hotline Program Director, stated that the change aims to align the terminology with native speakers and to help people find the right resources.

She also discussed the challenges faced by the hotline and the impact of its services on Spanish-speaking communities. The hotline has had difficulty with outreach and engaging Spanish-speaking communities. Cristina Manzur, RAINN's bilingual language outreach coordinator, explained that the hotline is working to connect with marginalized communities and partner with organizations that have more knowledge about the needs of the Spanish-speaking population.

Regarding the impact of the hotline and other initiatives on the broader social issue of sexual assault towards Spanish speakers, Amy highlighted that discussing sexual assault is a taboo subject in many families, and coming to the hotline can educate visitors and change their mindset about the resources and support available. Both emphasized the importance of promoting the hotline and its resources to Spanish-speaking communities, and they plan to launch a campaign that will help them reach more people. The campaign will involve a collaboration between RAINN and Spanish-speaking partners, with a focus on opening up conversations about sexual assault and normalizing discussions about the topic.

The two also discussed the challenges of providing culturally competent resources and finding resources in Spanish. Cristina Manzur stated that the hotline is working to promote resources on their website that are translated into Spanish and support loved ones affected by sexual assault. She emphasized that all services are free and that the Hotline provides services in both English and in Spanish. They stressed the importance of addressing functionality, as many people from the Spanish-speaking community cannot afford to look for help, and it's invaluable to provide resources to them in their native language.

In conclusion, the name change of the Spanish National Sexual Assault Hotline is an effort to better align terminology with native speakers and to reach more people in Spanish-speaking communities. Amy and Cristina emphasized the importance of normalizing the hotline's services and resources, creating a campaign to promote discussions about sexual assault, and working to provide culturally competent resources in Spanish to support survivors of sexual violence.

### Survivor Love Letter Workshop

Earlier this year, RAINN participated in #SurvivorLoveLetter, a powerful social media campaign that flooded the internet with love for survivors on Valentine's Day. This effort was started by filmmaker and activist Tani Ikeda in 2012 on the anniversary of her rape, where she penned a letter to her younger self that ended with the words: "This is my survivor love letter."

Now, we are excited to take this partnership further. We are proud to announce that Tani Ikeda will be teaming up with RAINN to facilitate a series of Survivor Love Letter Workshops. These aren't just ordinary workshops - they are unique meditative and writing sessions designed to foster a deeper connection with our younger selves, serving as a nurturing ground for creative resilience. The first workshop in this inspiring series is slated for Tuesday, June 27th, from 3 pm - 5 pm PST / 6 pm - 8 pm EST.

If you're interested in attending Tani's workshop, please RSVP here. Detailed information for the Zoom session will be disseminated on Monday morning. RAINN will be providing an on-site clinician for support throughout the workshop. To honor and respect the privacy of attendees and those sharing their written pieces, please note that this workshop will not be recorded.

### Thank you, May Speakers!

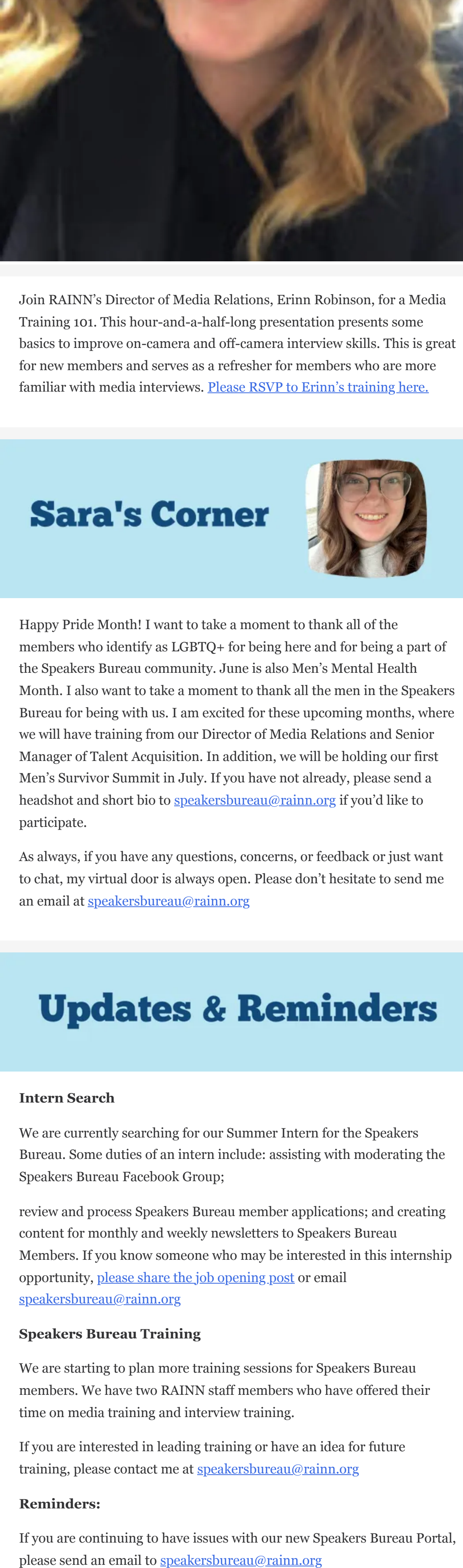
For the month of May, there were a total of 8 opportunities. We had speaking opportunities in Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Texas, Washington, and Washington, DC. We also had one research opportunity provided to all Speakers Bureau members.

If you would like to see a full list of our speaking opportunities, please visit the [Speakers Bureau Portal](#).

Forecasting when and where speaking opportunities will come from can be difficult. We have just recently started our outreach and will continue to post announcements of upcoming speaking opportunities. We plan to do more marketing and outreach in 2023, so stay tuned!

[If you have ideas on how we can expand our marketing efforts to promote our RAINN Speakers Bureau, please fill out this form.](#)

### Cyndy Etlar (she/her) was interviewed by TIME Magazine during Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.



**What was most rewarding about sharing your story?**  
The opportunity to shed light on the root causes of child sexual assault media, of which many adults are not aware.

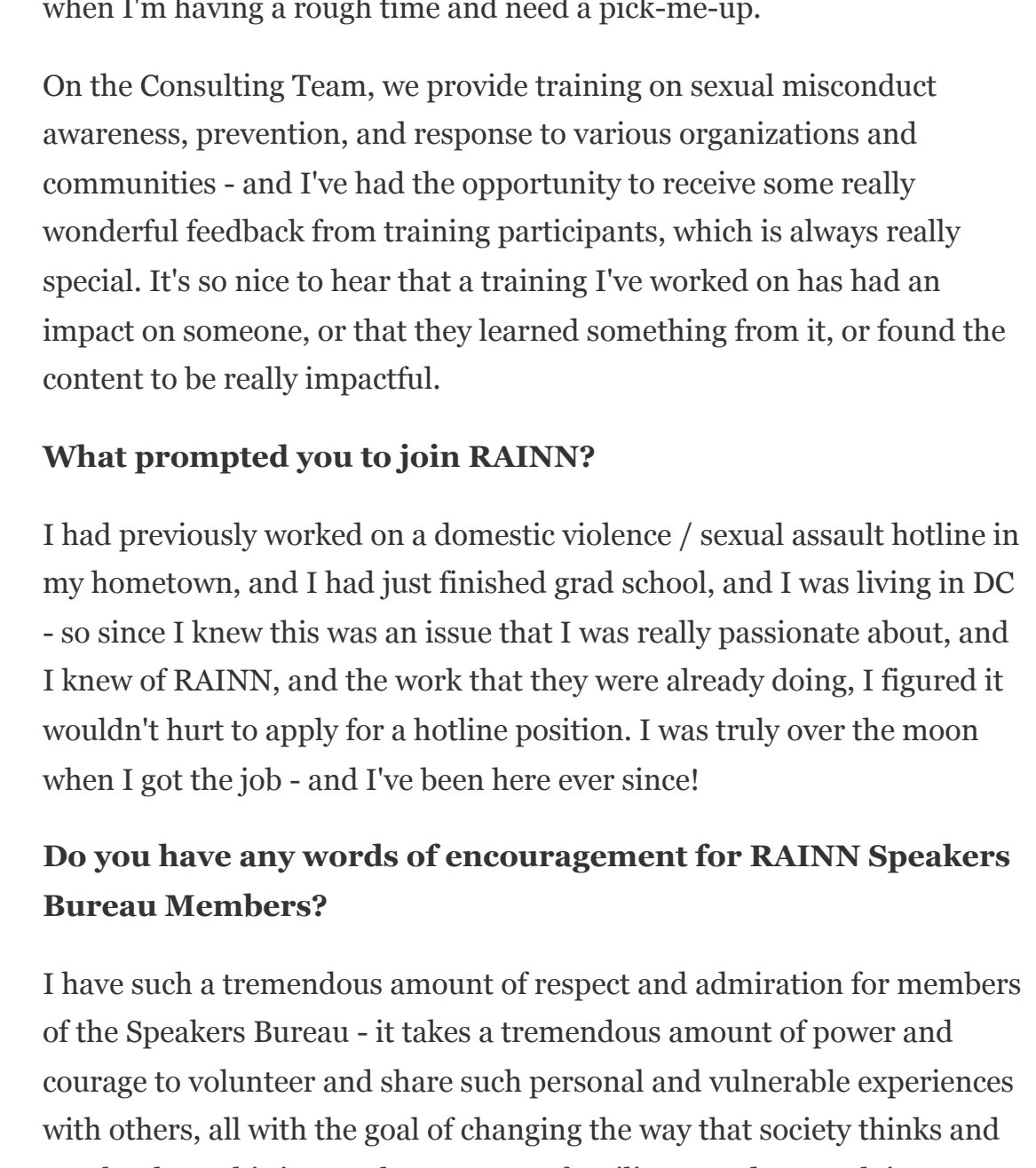
**Can you tell us about how you felt after your event?**  
I felt empowered. If Time Magazine is interested in hearing my insights, I know I am doing the work I want to be doing in the world.

**What do you want to tell other survivors interested in telling their stories?**  
If you're interested in sharing your experience and knowledge, it can be cathartic and empowering. For media interviews, getting the questions beforehand and making notes to organize the message you'd like to deliver beforehand is very helpful.

Have you recently had a speaking opportunity? Would you like to share a bit about it with members via the newsletter?

### Survivor Highlights

#### Meet Sandra Avila (her/they). They just joined the Speakers Bureau in June!



**Can you tell us about the first time that you felt heard, validated, or accepted by someone?**  
When I met my advocate Monica from the YWCA, she heard me, she believed me, and she pushed me to keep fighting and didn't allow me to give up!

**What did your healing journey look like?**  
Healing is a roller coaster to this day, but ever since I was heard in a courtroom and my story was heard, and I did get some kind of justice, I feel a huge relief. Having a day in court has helped me immensely with my healing journey.

**If you could meet any person, living or dead, who would you choose and why?**  
Rmean - Rmean makes music that has helped me out so much! I wouldn't be here if it weren't for him and his music.

Have you recently published a book, participated in a fundraiser, or completed some other project having to do with RAINN or your survivor story and would like to share it with members? Please email [speakersbureau@rainn.org](mailto:speakersbureau@rainn.org)

### Media Tips



Join RAINN's Director of Media Relations, Erin Robinson, for a Media Training 101. This hour-and-a-half-long presentation presents some basics to improve on-camera and off-camera interview skills. This is great for new members and serves as a refresher for members who are more familiar with media interviews. [Please RSVP to Erin's training here.](#)

### Sara's Corner



Happy Pride Month! I want to take a moment to thank all of the members who identify as LGBTQ+ for being here and for being a part of the Speakers Bureau community. June is also Men's Mental Health Month. I also want to take a moment to thank all the men in the Speakers Bureau for being with us. I am excited for these upcoming months, where we will have training from our Director of Media Relations and Senior Manager of Talent Acquisition. In addition, we will be holding our first Men's Survivor Summit in July. If you have not already, please send a headshot and short bio to [speakersbureau@rainn.org](mailto:speakersbureau@rainn.org) if you'd like to participate.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or feedback or just want to chat, my virtual door is always open. Please don't hesitate to send me an email at [speakersbureau@rainn.org](mailto:speakersbureau@rainn.org)

### Updates & Reminders

**Intern Search**  
We are currently searching for our Summer Intern for the Speakers Bureau. Some duties of an intern include: assisting with moderating the Speakers Bureau Facebook Group;

review and process Speakers Bureau member applications; and creating content for monthly and weekly newsletters to Speakers Bureau members. If you know someone who may be interested in this internship opportunity, [please share the job opening post](#) or email [speakersbureau@rainn.org](mailto:speakersbureau@rainn.org)

**Speakers Bureau Training**  
We are starting to plan more training sessions for Speakers Bureau members. We have two RAINN staff members who have offered their time on media training and interview training.

If you are interested in leading training or have an idea for future training, please contact me at [speakersbureau@rainn.org](mailto:speakersbureau@rainn.org)

**Reminders:**  
If you are continuing to have issues with our new Speakers Bureau Portal, please send an email to [speakersbureau@rainn.org](mailto:speakersbureau@rainn.org)

**RAINN Newsletter**  
If you are currently not subscribed to our RAINN Monthly Newsletter and would like to start receiving them, [please subscribe here.](#)

### RAINN Staff Highlights

#### Meet George Castro (he/him/his), he is a Support Specialist on the National Sexual Assault Hotline. George has been with RAINN for 8 years!



**What does your self-care look like?**  
When I have time to squeeze in a self-care day, I can be found either playing Xbox, reading a book, or getting a good workout! I highly favor self-care days because they are very important for our well-being and psyche due to the great work we put in when talking with visitors and survivors.

**Can you tell us about a time you felt appreciated doing the work that you do?**  
I feel very appreciated when I hear the visitor tell me that I have been very supportive and helpful and that they are feeling better after our conversation. These instances remind us of the great work we do on the OHL. Although it's just words and a sentence, those words make me highly appreciate my role with RAINN and make me appreciate that RAINN is here for those in need.

**Do you have any words of encouragement for RAINN Speakers Bureau Members?**  
Keep up the great work, and thank you for all you do for the survivors and staff! The survivor stories the Speakers Bureau presents are very helpful and encouraging for both staff and survivors! Thank you for giving the survivors a voice and a platform!

#### Meet Rebecca Cásarez (she/her/hers), she is RAINN's Senior Consultant in our Consulting Services Department. Rebecca has been with RAINN since October 2018, about 4.5 years!

**Can you tell us about a time you felt appreciated doing the work that you do?**  
While I worked on the hotline, I used to write down feedback that I received from chats - either from hotline visitors or even from my fellow staff. I still have the notebook that I kept that feedback in, and I look at it when I'm having a rough time and need a pick-me-up.

On the Consulting Team, we provide training on sexual misconduct awareness, prevention, and response to various organizations and communities - and I've had the opportunity to receive some really wonderful feedback from training participants, which is always really special. It's so nice to hear that a training I've worked on has had an impact on someone, or that they learned something from it, or found the content to be really impactful.

**What prompted you to join RAINN?**  
I had previously worked on a domestic violence / sexual assault hotline in my hometown, and I had just finished grad school, and I was living in DC - so since I knew this was an issue that I was really passionate about, and I knew of RAINN, and the work that they were already doing, I figured it wouldn't hurt to apply for a hotline position. I was truly over the moon when I got the job - and I've been here ever since!

**Do you have any words of encouragement for RAINN Speakers Bureau Members?**  
I have such a tremendous amount of respect and admiration for members of the Speakers Bureau - it takes a tremendous amount of power and courage to volunteer and share such personal and vulnerable experiences with others, all with the goal of changing the way that society thinks and speaks about this issue. That amount of resilience and strength is inspiring - and I hope that you all are able to recognize that strength within yourself.

### RAINN Job Openings

If you are looking to become more involved with RAINN, please view our current job openings:

- [PART-TIME NSAH SUPPORT SPECIALIST \(Overnight\)](#)
- [PART-TIME NSAH SUPPORT SPECIALIST \(Evening\)](#)
- [PART-TIME NSAH SUPPORT SPECIALIST \(Morning shifts\)](#)

[Speakers Bureau Interns](#)

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