



# ADVOCACY MATTERS

COLLABORATE. ADVOCATE. EDUCATE. EMPOWER

GEORGIA COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

## Highlights

Last month our social media posts highlighted Black History Month and Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.



Check out our Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to learn more about these posts and follow us for future content!



## Event Updates



6th Annual GCADV Race for Empowerment 5K and Wellness Expo! Sunday May 3, 2020 - Wellness expo begins at 8:00am and race starts at 9:00am Piedmont Park, Atlanta.

This race is a USATF certified and Peachtree Road Race qualifying race with chip timing for all runners. This is a family friendly event and all levels of runners and walkers are welcome!

Register now at [www.tinyurl.com/RFE2020](http://www.tinyurl.com/RFE2020) before prices increase April 1st!

Email [cchea@gcadv.org](mailto:cchea@gcadv.org) for a member program

discount code

## 5 Ways to Meaningfully Engage with Black History Beyond Black History Month

Below are some excerpts of an article written by Stacy Oden. [Click here to read the full article.](#)

"February is a time to explore Black history, examine our own biases, empower African Americans through support, celebrate through diversifying our views and encourage our circles to use windows to view into other cultures. We as a society are able to move forward together when we know where we came from, what contributions Black culture has made, what current issues we face and how we can effect change going forward. Black History is an integral part of the past, the present and OUR future."

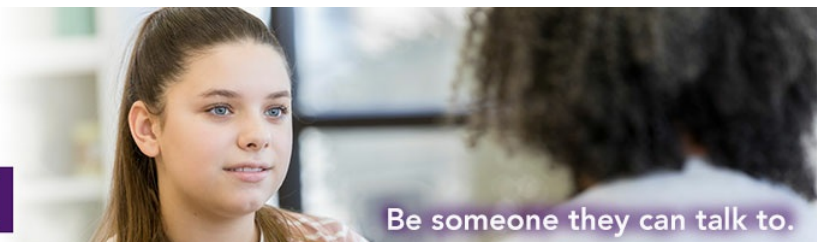


1. **Explore** - Research and educate yourself! As an adult, make your own effort to learn something new about the black community and their experiences. I know it may be really enticing to ask your friends of color everything there is to know about their respective culture but it's also A LOT. Taking initiative to check out the World Wide Web (is that super 1995?) and search for a myriad of information, for free, is a great way to learn and grow your understanding of African American culture.
2. **Examine** - Understand how important the need for representation is. It's crucial to have a voice or feel supported in a community of people. It is just as important to look through your "window" to gain a better understanding of how other groups socially and culturally might navigate the world differently than yourself. Awareness of others begets wisdom and change.
3. **Exalt** - We collectively have to be intentional about diversifying our news feed, friend groups and shared spaces. Use your "window" to observe and your platform to share your findings with others. Want to know how else you can celebrate Black culture? Make sure to visit African American museums, attend local African American events/festivities, and support local racial equity organizations!
4. **Encourage** - Have meaningful conversations with your circle of influence around African-American culture, contributions and opportunities. Have those hard conversations with your family about race and equity. It's not about trying to politicize, convince or demonize differences of opinions. It's about challenging beliefs that may perpetuate problematic and biased behavior. Use social time to discuss and challenge those around your community!
5. **Challenge your own implicit and explicit biases** - Ask yourself open-ended questions about bias, stereotypes and microaggressions. We all have preconceived notions of individuals, groups and cultures so we must do the intentional work of examining and challenging ourselves regularly. Let's think of this exercise as your community service project, like a contribution to your society.

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### Askable Adult Campaign

**ASKABLE  
ADULT  
CAMPAIGN**



In a 2017 survey, Vermont's children and youth identified an array of concerns that cause them stress in their everyday lives—including drug and alcohol use; poverty; sexism and harassment; body shaming and bullying; and homophobia and transphobia.

When asked what would help, young people said that **the number one solution would be more adults they can confide in their lives.** Children and youth are more resilient to

stress and adversity when in meaningful relationships with at least one trusting affirming adult. This is especially critical for young people working to develop a positive sense of self in a culture that often devalues them based on their identity, ability, background or status.

### WHAT IS AN ASKABLE ADULT?

An askable adult is one who is approachable and easy for children and youth to talk to about anything that is on their mind. Askable adults are committed to having strong, effective, and affirming relationships with youth using positive communication to develop trust and connectedness.

Qualities of adults who are "askable" include patience, consistency, respectfulness, honesty, kindness, attentiveness, trustworthiness, lightheartedness, open-mindedness, non-judgment, and knowledgeability. Askable adults often have a similar racial/ethnic or sexual identity as the young person, or common background experience.

Youth want to talk to adults about their everyday lives and school and family struggles. They are eager to connect about drugs and alcohol; sexuality and gender; relationships, love and sex; abuse and divorce; college, jobs, money, cars and life skills.

For resources including an askable adult skill building toolkit visit:  
<https://vtnetwork.org/askableadult>

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### It's Not Violent - Interactive Website Resource



This interactive dating violence prevention campaign is a resource which teaches about the subtle forms of intimate partner violence. The website guides visitors through a choose your own adventure style platform replicating "textversations" with dating partners.

An explanation is given at the end of the scenarios to give an understanding of the unhealthy dynamics in each of the presented dating relationships.

[View the website here.](#)

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### GCADV Resource Updates

Check out GCADV's new resource materials!

[Building Resiliency: Children Exposed to Domestic Violence - Fact Sheet](#)

[Building Resiliency: Youth Exposed to Domestic Violence - Fact Sheet](#)

**African American/Black Women and Intimate Partner Violence - Fact Sheet**  
**African American/Black Women and Intimate Partner Violence - Tip Sheet**  
**Disabilities Project - Findings from the Field**  
**Disability Action Plan**  
**Disabilities Project - Evaluation Report**

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**Policy Updates**

**[Read the GCADV's January 31, 2020 Legislative Report Here](#)**

**[Read Reporting on the February 4, 2020 Stop Violence Against Women Day!](#)**

## Member Highlight



#membermonday

*Fair Haven*

### Fair Haven

On December 9<sup>th</sup>, we highlighted Fair Haven. Fair Haven serves Wayne, Appling, and Jeff Davis Counties and provides comprehensive emergency services to survivors of domestic violence and their families. They believe that preventive education, community awareness, and promotion of survivors' rights are the keys to ending domestic violence. Learn more about their work:

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#)



*Envisioning a Georgia Free of Domestic Violence*

Visit our website

