



PO Box is 92766, Austin, TX 78709

April 17, 2024

United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

**Support for the Nomination of Sparkle Sooknanan to the
United States District Court District of Columbia**

On behalf of Survivor Justice Action (SJA), I respectfully make this submission to urge swift confirmation for an outstanding judicial nominee – Sparkle L. Sooknanan – to a seat on the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

Survivor Justice Action is a survivor-led advocacy organization dedicated to ending domestic violence (DV) in the United States. It works to establish a national ecosystem of holistic and inclusive support, policies, education, and resources for survivors of domestic violence, the advocates who work closely with them and those creating laws and legislation related to DV. Prior to SJA, I served as the former CEO of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Given the mission of SJA to serve DV survivors, we are honored to provide the Senate with our views regarding judicial nominees and other nominees who might be under consideration for Senate-confirmation. And with this backdrop, I am pleased to make this submission on behalf of SJA in support of Ms. Sooknanan due to her outstanding credentials and experience, and due to the fact that Ms. Sooknanan’s service to the country – particularly within the Justice Department – has had profound impacts on survivors throughout the country.

Beginning in 2021 until 2023, Ms. Sooknanan served as an official within the Office of the Associate Attorney General, which oversees some of the most impactful components with direct impacts on survivors, including the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW). While Ms. Sooknanan served in the Associate Attorney General’s office, Congress, on a bipartisan and bicameral basis, reauthorized the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) in 2022, which provided many necessary updates to grant programs for DV survivors. Ms. Sooknanan with the OVW team worked tirelessly on the reauthorization efforts.

Both before and after reauthorization, OVW, and the Associate Attorney General’s office which oversees OVW, helped implement and update numerous new grant programs that support direct service providers to DV survivors across the country. These include grant programs that impact survivors in communities across the country – from Illinois to Missouri to South Carolina to Texas to Puerto Rico. For example, late last year in FY23, a comprehensive federal grant funds package was awarded to the Puerto Rico’s Department of Justice, the Puerto Rico Forensic Science Institute, and to Community Response to Gender-Based Violence Stakeholders in excess of \$28.8 million. These included awards to service providers in Puerto Rico providing domestic

violence/dating violence/sexual assault survivors in need of transitional housing assistance, direct health and other services, and legal services.

Ms. Sooknanan is not simply an outstanding nominee for her work, however. Her life story has been an inspiration – she is someone throughout her life who has shown character and grace and reflects the type of committed service that would serve her – and the people of the District of Columbia – extraordinarily well if she is confirmed as a federal judge. She immigrated to this country on her own from Trinidad and Tobago as a teenager to attend college. She supported herself in law school, attending school at night and working during the day. And growing up and living in Brooklyn, she saw firsthand the challenges that so many individuals and families face. We believe her experiences, as well as her credentials and professional record, equip her to be an outstanding judge.

Thank you again for considering SJA's views. We urge you to support Ms. Sooknanan's confirmation to the bench.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ruth M. Glenn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ruth" being the most prominent part.

Ruth M. Glenn
Survivor Justice Action