



National Alliance to
End Sexual Violence

United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

February 11, 2021

Dear Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Grassley, and Committee Members:

The National Alliance to End Sexual Violence (NAESV) is the voice in Washington, DC for the 56 state and territorial sexual assault coalitions and over 1500 local programs working to end sexual violence and support survivors. The local programs we serve see the widespread and devastating consequences of sexual violence for survivors every day. On their behalf, I write to express our strong support of Kristen Clarke for Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the US Department of Justice (DOJ).

Twenty-one percent of women and three percent of men reported completed or attempted rape ever in their lifetime; among victims of rape, 43% (11 million) of females and 51% (1.5 million) of males reported it occurred for the first time between the ages of 11-17.ⁱ Victims and survivors often encounter further injustices that impact access to housing, healthcare, education, employment, and safety as well as challenges with the civil and criminal legal response to their victimization. Survivors of color, and those who are immigrants, have disabilities, are LGBTQ, transgender, or members of other marginalized communities face even greater inequities as they seek support and justice.

The Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division is critical to advancing fair and impartial justice and ensuring civil rights for everyone in this country. Sexual violence is at its core a violation of individual civil rights and can impact a survivor's ability to access and sustain employment, education, housing among other fundamental needs and rights. Institutions must be held responsible for preserving and protecting these rights so that sexual violence and all forms of discrimination are not tolerated and are intentionally addressed. Survivors deserve leadership in the Civil Rights Division that is committed to ending discrimination in all of its forms; addressing white supremacy and hate violence; and advancing racial, gender, disability, ethnic, religious, immigrant, and LGBTQ justice.

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In her previous positions, Kristen Clarke has time and again been a leader and advocate for justice and equity for all and is therefore an excellent candidate to lead the Civil Rights Division.

- At Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Clarke has worked to promote fair housing and community development, economic justice, voting rights, criminal justice, and judicial diversity. She has demonstrated a commitment to safety and educational opportunity for all students, including women and girls of color, particularly as it pertains to Title IX protections and the proper investigations of sexual misconduct in educational settings.
- Kristen Clarke led broad civil rights enforcement as the head of the Civil Rights Bureau for the New York State Attorney General’s office, including the issues of criminal justice, education and housing discrimination, fair lending, barriers to reentry, voting rights, immigrants’ rights, gender inequality, disability rights, reproductive access, and LGBTQ equality.
- At the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF), she led the organization’s work in the areas of voting rights and election law.
- Prior to joining LDF, she worked at DOJ as a federal prosecutor in the Criminal Section of the Civil Rights Division, handling police misconduct, police brutality, hate crimes, and human trafficking cases.

Our nation has experienced a deep reckoning with the devastating depth and breadth of the problem of sexual violence both inside and outside of the judicial system and law enforcement. With Kristen Clarke, the DOJ has an opportunity to reach farther in meeting the needs of survivors, preventing sexual violence, and providing equity and justice for all survivors regardless of their circumstances.

Sincerely,



Monika Johnson Hostler
President

i <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/2015data-brief508.pdf>