



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 Vanita Gupta for Associate Attorney General 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 11-17.¹ Sexual violence at its core is a violation of individual civil rights and may impact a survivor's ability to access and sustain employment, education, housing among other fundamental needs and rights. Survivors of color, and those who are immigrants, have disabilities, are LGBTQ, transgender, or members of other marginalized communities face deep inequities as they seek support and justice. 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 adequately addressed. Survivors and advocates require a Department of Justice (DOJ) that is committed to ending discrimination and violence in all of its forms; that addresses white supremacy and hate violence; and advances racial, gender, disability, ethnic, religious, immigrant, and LGBTQ justice.

With leaders like Vanita Gupta, the DOJ will make great progress to restore these values to the highest law enforcement agency in the United States. Because of her experience, qualifications, and commitment to access to justice for all, she is an excellent candidate for Associate Attorney General. Having been appointed by President Barak Obama in 2014 to lead the Civil Rights Division, Gupta has deep knowledge and understanding of the workings of the DOJ and the many divisions under its jurisdiction, key among those being the Office on Violence Against Women—essential to the federal government's response to addressing gender-based violence. Under her

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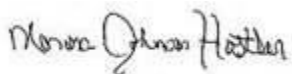
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leadership in this role, the Division expanded the scope of its pattern and practice litigation against law enforcement to actively pursue civil rights enforcement specifically for survivors of sexual violence, most notably demonstrated by consent decrees entered into with the Missoula, MT and Baltimore, MD police departments. As a result of these cases and her leadership in the Department writ large, stakeholders and DOJ came together to draft guidance [Identifying and Addressing Gender Bias in Law Enforcement Response to Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence](#), which provided recommendations, informed by advocates, for improving law enforcement responses to gender-based violence. Grants were also provided through the Office of Victims of Crime and the Office on Violence Against Women to help law enforcement agencies implement these recommendations with technical assistance and training from the sexual and domestic violence field.

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. Under the leadership of Vanita Gupta, the DOJ can seize the opportunity to reach farther in meeting the needs of survivors, preventing sexual violence, providing the leadership necessary to eventually end sexual violence, and achieving equity and justice for all.

Sincerely,



Monika Johnson Hostler
President