



2025 Recap; an illustration of 3 women wearing dresses; The SOAR Collective logo

HIGHLIGHTS

1 KEYNOTE SPEAKER

In May, we were honored to be the keynote speaker at DCADV's Advocates' Training & Networking Event.

2 FOCUSING ON THE POSITIVE

We continued our collaboration with RAFT, uplifting "what works" at thriving and sustainable anti-violence organizations.

3 GROWTH OF WDBP

The We Deserve Better Project team grew both in members and exciting new projects, including a podcast & Talk It Out Together.

4 #WITHFEDERALFUNDING

We launched a social media campaign to showcase the impact of anti-violence orgs when they are properly funded.

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- 2) Focusing on the Positive: We continued our collaboration with RAFT, uplifting "what works" at thriving and sustainable anti-violence organizations.
- 3) Growth of WDBP: The We Deserve Better Project team grew both in members and exciting new projects, including a podcast & Talk It Out Together.
- 4) #WITHFEDERALFUNDING: We launched a social media campaign to showcase the impact of anti-violence orgs when they are properly funded.

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We presented our signature training, **Building Thriving & Sustainable Anti-Violence Workplaces'** to a full room of 125 advocates.

The presentation highlights data about the challenges advocates face, as well as "what works" at thriving anti-violence organizations.

We are grateful for the kind words a participant shared about the presentation:

"I loved this presentation; it was better than I expected. I appreciated how courageous the speakers were to do this presentation and this work, it is needed and every nonprofit executive director needs to watch this presentation."

Keynote Speaker

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Photo of SOAR presenting at DCADV event. We presented our signature training, Building Thriving & Sustainable Anti-Violence Workplaces' to a full room of 125 advocates.

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FOCUSING ON THE POSITIVE

In 2024, RAFT and The SOAR Collective began collaborating to learn more about the elements, characteristics, and norms that allow anti-violence organizations to thrive.

Using an appreciative inquiry approach, we focused on what *does* work at anti-violence organizations, identifying strengths and opportunities for others to learn from.

In December 2024, we launched our first joint report, and then spent the first half of 2025 conducting more interviews.



At the end of 2025, we released a second report, **“Small Actions, Big Impact: Transparency & Communication”** which provides 8 easy-to-implement ideas to encourage better communication and transparency.

Visit the link in our bio to download a copy.

In 2026, we have plans to release at least 3 additional reports which will include more realistic strategies and practices for you to utilize with your team!

Focusing on the Positive

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GROWTH OF WDBP

The We Deserve Better Project is a group of current and former anti-violence workers who are committed to creating better working conditions that mutually benefit survivors and advocates.

In 2025, we welcomed **two new cohorts of volunteers** to join the collective, doubling our membership!

Talk It Out Together launched in February, which is a space for anti-violence workers to connect, share challenges, and support each other. Since April, TIOT has been offered on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

In June, the first podcast episode of **RE:Imagining Anti-Violence Work** aired! New episodes drop on the 1st Monday of the month, uplifting advocates' stories.

The **Unionizing Project Team** has been developing a survey to learn about anti-violence workers' unionizing efforts and experiences; it will launch in 2026.

The WDBP team is excited to continue these projects, plus start a few new initiatives that will bring even more resources and support to advocates and survivors.

Learn more at www.wedeservebetter.work

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#WITHFEDERALFUNDING

In response to federal funding cuts, we launched the **social media campaign, #WithFederalFunding**.



The goal of the campaign was to showcase the impact of anti-violence orgs when they are properly funded.

Because most people don't know how the movement to end violence is funded—or what's at risk when that funding is threatened—we wanted to **educate the public while advocating for funding to support the life-saving work advocates do every day**.

Multiple organizations joined us in sharing their own examples, all leading up to the National #DayofAction on June 5, where organizations rallied together to demand federal funding for sexual assault and domestic violence services.

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Images of campaign social media posts.

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For many reasons, 2025 was a challenging year for the anti-violence field. We saw many of our colleagues lose their jobs due to funding cuts, downsizing, and elimination of positions at federal agencies. The amount of expertise and institutional knowledge lost is hard to calculate. Even though it was a year marked by profound grief and loss, we saw some of our colleagues take this administration to task and demand accountability. It's a reminder that we still have power and can fight back even if it seems like the odds are against us.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Please reach out to us if you are interested in working together this year! We know budgets are tight and that training or consulting might not be your first priority right now, but we're still here to support you in making your organization a better place to work for advocates.



Thank you for all of your support. **We can and we will create change together.** - T, D, & J

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