

## February Newsletter: Community-building



**Los Angeles  
Center for  
Law and Justice**

## February 2023 Newsletter

Dear LACLJ Supporter,

Did you know that about 1 in 12 U.S. high school students experience dating violence? February is National Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month and, unfortunately, teen dating abuse is common\*, especially for girls and LGBTQ youth. It can be scary for a teen to come forward about abuse or identify abusive behaviors in their relationship. Check out [loveisrespect.org](http://loveisrespect.org) for information on how to help your teens navigate relationships and identify the warning signs of abuse.

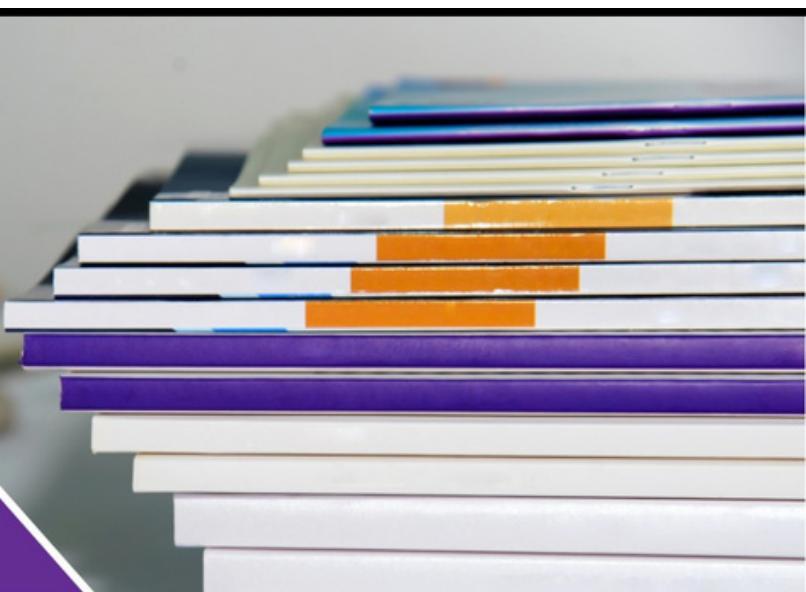
In this month's newsletter, I am happy to share [two recent reports](#) highlighting our work in the field and pictures from our latest [staff retreat](#). I'm also excited to share we've extended the race deadline for our [Empower Run](#) through this Sunday, March 5th! You still have time to register and join me and other supporters [on Saturday as we walk together in support of securing justice for survivors](#). [Visit our website to sign up today!](#)

All my best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carmen McDonald".

Carmen McDonald  
Interim Executive Director

**Recent  
Reports**



We are proud to share our team was invited to contribute to recent reports on best practices for serving immigrant survivors.

Thank you to the USC Dornsife Equity Research Institute for sharing about our work with the LA VAWA Network to advocate for U-visa accessibility for immigrant survivors. The U-visa is a non-immigrant visa provided to non-citizens and their families who have been victims of violent and exploitative crimes, such as domestic violence, sexual assault, felonious assault, and other “qualifying crimes”. It is an important avenue towards immigration relief and stability for survivors. This report highlights our collective advocacy to ensure U-visa access for survivors in Los Angeles, serving as a model for other communities looking to expand on our success.

### Working for Survivors: Building on the L.A. Model to Universalizing the U-visa

We are also excited to share a new guide sharing our service model for integrating social work into the legal team. Our model is designed around trauma-informed care and comprehensive, holistic services that empower survivors to address intersecting needs along with their legal matters. This guide highlights the benefits and steps to implementing this model for immigration teams representing unaccompanied minors. Thank you to the Vera Institute of Justice for inviting us to contribute to this guide!

### Integrating Social Service Staff into Immigration Legal Teams in California

## Staff Retreat



On February 13th, LACLJ staff participated in our annual staff retreat. This year's retreat was a great time for us to learn from one another, receive training on our new case management system, and stay connected as a community of passionate advocates effecting change for survivors.





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# Empower Run



**RACE WEEKEND EXTENDED**  
Extra time to complete your distance!

**VIRTUAL RUN/WALK**  
**FEBRUARY 25 - MARCH 5**



Due to the weather in LA, we have extended our race weekend until March 5th! You can still sign up and join us from the comfort of your home, your neighborhood or at one of our team's meet-ups in Los Angeles or Whittier.

[Sign Up!](#)

 Los Angeles  
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# Celebrating Survivors

HOLLYWOOD, CA



Save the Date  
**MAY 17, 2023**

*An evening supporting survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault*