



## Survivor Task Force

Thank you for your interest in CCASA's Survivor Task Force (STF)! Participation in the STF is open to anyone who identifies as a victim/survivor of sexual violence or as the partner or family member of a victim/survivor of sexual violence. Members are not required to publically identify themselves as a survivor. Each person contributes to the Task Force in their own way. Please note that this is not a support group and the STF is not an avenue to change the outcome of a specific case. STF members should be at a place in their healing processes at which they have received supportive services and are able to positively contribute to CCASA's mission.

### CCASA'S MISSION

The Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CCASA) is a membership organization promoting safety, justice, and healing for survivors while working toward the elimination of sexual violence.

### YOUR ROLE

As a member of the STF, you will receive periodic communications from CCASA staff offering opportunities to share your story. These opportunities will vary in nature, from sharing your experiences at an advocacy training to testifying before the legislature, for example. You are not required to respond to every speaking request. Each member of the STF chooses the speaking opportunities that are right for them.

Remember, you represent CCASA when you engage in public speaking opportunities as a member of the STF. Please arrive at your speaking engagements on time and always represent CCASA in a positive and professional manner. Please review [CCASA's mission, vision, and values](#), and be sure that you agree with and reflect those values as an STF member.

### WHAT TO EXPECT

The first step to becoming a member of the STF is to fill out the [STF Application Form](#). After we have received your form, you will be invited to share your story with CCASA staff either in person or via web conference. This provides you with an opportunity to practice speaking on this topic, and allows CCASA staff to get to know you and talk more with you about the STF. Once you've shared your story, discussed the STF with CCASA staff, and reviewed this document, you're ready to get started.

CCASA will keep you posted about upcoming opportunities to share your story. Most opportunities will be sent out to the group via email, though CCASA staff may occasionally contact you directly depending on the nature of the opportunity. Some opportunities may be short notice, while others will be planned well in advance. Please choose those opportunities that best fit your schedule and your needs and goals as a speaker. Directions for responding to various opportunities will be included in those notifications. After your speaking engagement, CCASA staff will follow up with you to talk about the experience, debrief, and discuss self-care.

CCASA will host quarterly STF meetings which can be attended in person or via phone conference. These meetings are a great opportunity to meet and interact with other STF members. CCASA staff will answer questions, provide self-care materials, conduct short trainings, and discuss upcoming STF events and speaking opportunities at each meeting.

### TIPS FOR SPEAKING

Speaking will look different depending on audience and setting. The key to a good presentation is to clarify your goals ahead of time. What is your underlying message? What do you want your audience to know by the end of your speech? Why are organizations like CCASA and our members so important in our community and in Colorado? Ask yourself these questions as you prepare for your speaking engagement, and review these quick tips for specific types of audiences below.

#### Media

Take some time to review this helpful [Survivor Media Guide](#). Remember that what you share will be made public, and take some time prior to the interview to decide where your boundaries are and what you are willing to discuss. Consider how

sharing your story will impact other areas of your life. Remember that other survivors may come across this interview. What do you want them to know?

#### **Community Groups & Professionals**

Keep in mind that some audiences may have little to no background information regarding our cause. Use your speaking engagement as an opportunity to share as well as educate. Wrap up your discussion by providing audiences with information on ways they can get involved.

#### **Middle and High School Students**

These audiences will represent a wide range of maturity levels. Be patient and know your boundaries. This is a good opportunity to educate. Remember that these audiences may not be the best place to share specific details of your story. Instead, focus on educating and inspiring young people to take action to end sexual violence.

#### **Policy Work**

Touch base with Raana Simmons, our Director of Policy, if you are planning to testify before the legislature or speak on matters related to changes in law and policy.

#### **QUESTIONS?**

Contact Neta Meltzer, Communications & Development Coordinator, at [neta@ccasa.org](mailto:neta@ccasa.org).