



## **Trauma Response and the Criminal Justice System: A Virtual Summit on Knowledge, Healing, and Resilience**

### **The Moment Moving To Transformative Action in Our Communities**

Trauma is often viewed as an interpersonal experience, but we continue to bear witness as the pandemic of racial injustice, systemic oppression, and exploitation continues to rage across the country, causing ongoing harm to traditionally marginalized communities. Recent events highlight significant and long-standing disparities among African Americans and other racial and ethnic groups. This moment calls upon us to reexamine policies and practices that reinforce racism and patriarchy and consider how we boldly pivot “our” work moving forward. The presenter will share lessons learned from the current pandemic and the impact and connection to our work to end gender-based violence.

How do we pivot our advocacy work to meet this moment? How do we support survivors and advocates, create brave spaces and thriving communities, and dismantle biased systems? The presenter will introduce participants to an advocacy model grounded in equity, resilience, healing and hope. A practical framework for creating interventions and programs that are welcoming and inclusive.

### **Presenter: Arlene Vassell**

Arlene is the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence’s (NRCDV) Vice President of Programs, Prevention & Social Change. She supervises NRCDV’s Programs & Prevention and Communications Teams and oversees several key initiatives, including the [Domestic Violence Awareness Project](#) and [PreventIPV](#). Arlene joined NRCDV as staff in 2015. Prior to joining staff, she served as the Vice-Chair of NRCDV’s Board of Directors from 2011-2015. Arlene has over 20 years of multi-faceted experience within the movement to end domestic and other forms of gender-based violence. She previously worked for the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance and the YWCA Women’s Advocacy Program in Chesterfield, Virginia.