

RALIANCE

Ending Sexual Violence in One Generation

How Sport Can End
Sexual Violence in
ONE GENERATION



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

NOVEMBER 2017

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: HOW SPORT CAN END SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN ONE GENERATION

For the purposes of this report and in order to examine sport as a complete system, we define sport as all facets of the sport pipeline: any youth, high school-age, college-age or professional sport organization, league, or association working at the local, state or regional, and national level that implements or supports one or many sport programs.

Sport is uniquely positioned to support and model healthy relationships, values, and norms that can reduce, and end, sexual violence (SV) and domestic and dating violence (DV) within the sport system. Additionally, sport's significant influence on culture could lead to shifts in social norms, attitudes and beliefs about SV/DV. This suggests that by engaging sport as part of the solution, we could create a climate and culture that can end sexual and domestic violence in one generation.

WHY SPORT?

Sport is a system that develops and influences millions of people throughout their lifespan. The sport pipeline starts with children who participate in youth sports and then continues as they move through middle and high school athletics to more competitive collegiate and professional sports, which are also followed by millions of spectators of all ages. Therefore, sport has an important role and powerful opportunity to reflect and shape the values of the greater society, including those related to preventing SV/DV.

CONNECTION TO SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Sexual and domestic violence (SV/DV) is a pervasive problem throughout the United States, with 1 in 3 women and 1 in 6 men experiencing some form of sexual violence in their lifetime.¹ Sport systems can contribute to the problem of SV/DV and can also be part of the solution in preventing SV/DV. Sport can contribute to SV/DV by supporting climates and cultures that accept and condone SV/DV.² Recently, sport has attempted to shift this paradigm by engaging as a powerful part of the solution to prevent SV/DV, including raising awareness and reinforcing positive values.

OUR INQUIRY

Raliance is a national partnership dedicated to ending sexual violence in one generation. Raliance's activities include funding local grants, shifting media messaging on SV, influencing national and state SV policy, and leveraging SV prevention efforts. Given sport's role as a development system and key cultural influencer, Raliance has identified sport as a crucial sector to advance prevention of SV/DV.

Raliance has engaged in a multi-pronged strategy to explore how sport shifts the paradigm from contributing to the problem of SV/DV to being part of the solution to end it. In this inquiry, Raliance identified opportunities for sport to play its most powerful role as both an avenue to prevent SV/DV within its own system and a platform to spread values to end SV/DV in broader society. This report presents findings from those efforts.

LITERATURE REVIEW

We completed a comprehensive review of the peer-reviewed research on sport and SV/DV and concluded that addressing and preventing SV/DV in sport requires organizational change through a multi-level approach to:

1. Promote gender equitable attitudes and behaviors;
2. Build on SV/DV prevention throughout the sport pipeline;
3. Improve response to SV/DV;
4. Develop healthy, respectful people and communities.

ASSET MAPPING

We interviewed 49 experts in or working with sport at the local, state or national level to address or prevent SV/DV and concluded that SV/DV prevention in sport could be advanced by:

1. Engaging in a multi-level approach;
2. Connecting SV/DV prevention efforts throughout the sport pipeline;
3. Aligning around common standards;
4. Tapping into inherent strengths of sport.

KEY FINDINGS

Based on the research conducted, Raliance identified 3 key findings :

1. Sport's role in ending SV/DV is to activate as both an AVENUE and a PLATFORM for change;
2. Sport has internal and external strengths that can be built upon to advance SV/DV prevention;
3. There are specific gaps in sport where opportunities exist to advance SV/DV prevention.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the information gathered and themes that were generated in the content analysis, 4 recommendations emerged:

1. **Strengthen Connections Throughout the Sport Pipeline** – We recommend consistent approaches across sport to shift the culture in and through the sport community to prevent SV/DV.
2. **Team Up** – We recommend alignment across fields (sport and SV/DV) to build credibility and gain insight from both sport and SV/DV experts. We recommend formalized sport-SV/DV partnerships.
3. **Train Champions** – We recommend individuals and role models in sport support a sport culture free of SV/DV. Therefore, training and support for individual champions in the sport community is recommended.
4. **Build On Current Strategies** – We recommend sport and SV/DV prevention experts build on and enhance current SV/DV prevention efforts already being implemented across the sport pipeline.

ROADMAP

Based on these recommendations, Raliance has developed a **ROADMAP** – a theory of change that illustrates how ending sexual and domestic violence in one generation can be realized in and through sport and identifies specific steps toward achieving this goal.

PREVENTION DATABASE

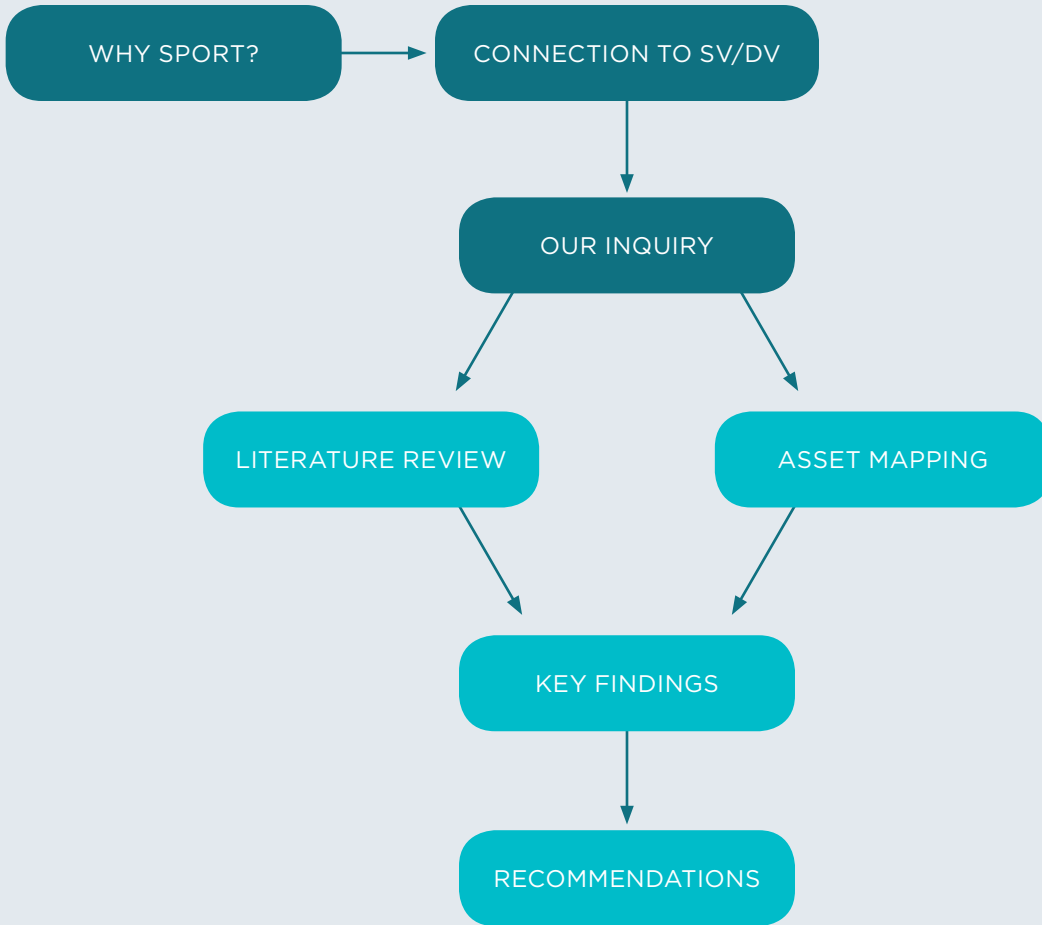
Based on these recommendations, Raliance has developed a **PREVENTION DATABASE** – a catalogue of over 100 strategies currently being implemented throughout the sport pipeline to prevent sexual violence and domestic violence.

VISION

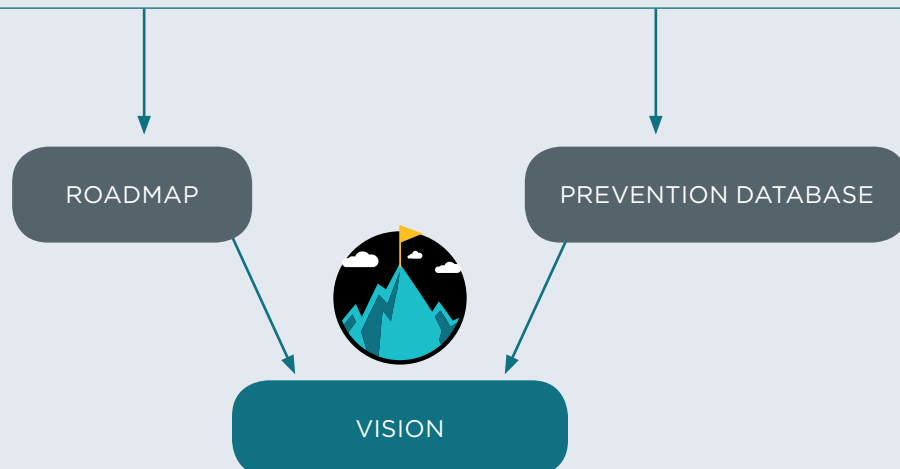
Values, norms, and behaviors are taught and reinforced throughout the sport pipeline to cultivate and support healthy individuals, teams, and communities.

AND THUS, SPORT CULTURE CONTRIBUTES TO ENDING SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN ONE GENERATION

OUR PROCESS



-
- 1
STRENGTHEN CONNECTION THROUGHOUT SPORT PIPELINE
 - 2
TEAM UP
 - 3
TRAIN CHAMPIONS
 - 4
BUILD ON CURRENT STRATEGIES
-



READ THE COMPLETE OVERVIEW REPORT AT [RALIANCE.ORG/OVERVIEWREPORT](https://raliance.org/overviewreport)

ABOUT RALIANCE

Raliance is a collaborative initiative dedicated to ending sexual violence in one generation. As the go-to resource for policymakers, advocates, service providers, prevention practitioners and the media, Raliance boldly and innovatively advances the field nationally. Raliance is comprised of three national sexual violence prevention organizations – the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC), the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA)-PreventConnect and the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence (NAESV) – with over 70 years of anti sexual violence activism. Raliance – be the generation that ends sexual violence.

ABOUT THE CENTER ON GENDER EQUITY AND HEALTH

The mission of the Center on Gender Equity and Health is to improve population health and development by improving the status, opportunities and safety of women and girls, globally. The Center focuses on conducting innovative global public health research, medical and academic training, and development and evaluation of evidence-based policies and practices related to:

- gender inequities (girl child marriage, son preference and daughter aversion)
- gender-based violence (partner violence, sexual assault & exploitation, sex trafficking)

The overarching goal of the Center is reducing gender inequities and gender-based violence, as such reductions are key to improving sexual, reproductive, and maternal and child health. To achieve this mission of creating sustainable and large-scale change, the Center seeks and maintains partnerships with governmental and non-governmental agencies around the globe. A social justice framework is utilized by the Center across these efforts, and innovative technologies are employed to facilitate and accelerate change at individual, community and national levels.

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REFERENCES

1. Smith SG, Chen J, Basile KC, et al. The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010-2012 State Report. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2017.
2. McCray KL. Intercollegiate Athletes and Sexual Violence: A Review of Literature and Recommendations for Future Study. *Trauma, violence & abuse*. 2015;16(4):438-443.

By building on the strong initial efforts to prevent sexual and domestic violence within sport in Raliance's Prevention Database, and using Raliance's Roadmap to guide efforts toward a shared vision, Raliance is providing a foundation to support the next phase of expanding and refining efforts to end sexual violence in and through sport.

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