



www.haven-oakland.org

Thank you for your interest in becoming part of HAVEN's *Survivor Speakers' Bureau*. This is an opportunity to use your story of survival to help change perceptions about sexual assault and domestic violence. The Survivor Speaker training will allow you to learn how to counter myths and misconceptions, create a dialogue and field questions. You will also learn how to create safety for yourself before, during, and after a speaking engagement.

Enclosed is an application as well as our Speaker Guidelines and Common questions about the Survivor Speakers Bureau. Please review all materials and return the completed application form. Upon review of your application we will contact you to schedule an interview.

I look forward to meeting with you in the near future.

Yours in partnership,

Jennifer Pasquale

Jennifer Pasquale, B.A.
Speaker's Bureau Coordinator
HAVEN
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*Raising Our Voices Against Domestic & Sexual Violence
Awareness, Empathy, Actions
Voices of Victory*



HAVEN Survivor Speakers' Bureau Speaker Guidelines

The *Survivor Speakers' Bureau* has been established to engage survivors of domestic and/or sexual violence by giving them an opportunity to share experiences and testimonies of hope and healing.

The purpose of the *Survivor Speakers' Bureau* is to increase awareness, build empathy and engage community involvement in the work of preventing sexual assault and domestic violence through public speaking and education. We have prepared the following guidelines to assist you:

- We ask that you be at least 18 years old.
- We ask that you be able to receive messages from HAVEN on your answering machine regarding the details of a speaking engagement.
- Speaking should not be considered counseling or a substitute for counseling. We ask that you be at a place of healing prior to undertaking public speaking.
- We ask that you be in attendance of two one-day training sessions per year to keep your status active. This provides the speaker with a variety of educational and growth opportunities to expand your public speaking knowledge and experience and also provides a point of connectedness to HAVEN's current work in the field each year.
- The goal of the Speakers Bureau is to educate the community, not to get even with a perpetrator or to seek revenge or retribution. We ask that you consider your motives before considering public speaking.
- There are many people affected by domestic and sexual violence, but the SSB is currently only for those victimized by dv/sa or non-offending family members affected by dv/sa. HAVEN has an Intervention in Battering Group for batterers.
- If you are currently struggling with a mental illness or substance abuse problem we ask that you wait to participate until these things become manageable.

- We ask that you not speak if you have been sexually assaulted or sexually abused within the last year.
- We ask that you not speak if you are currently in an abusive relationship or have been in an abusive relationship within the last year.
- Speakers are ultimately responsible for their own health and well being before, during, and after speaking engagements. We ask that you be honest with yourself about your limitations and safety.
- We ask that you not portray yourself as a HAVEN staff or volunteer (unless you have been through the volunteer training or are currently on staff). If any questions about the agency come up please defer them to a staff person or volunteer.
- We ask that you not use the last name of your perpetrator when telling your personal story.

For Non-Offending Loved Ones

- If your loved one is still alive, we ask that you inform them of your intention to take this training and your reason for doing so.
- We ask that if the survivor is opposed to you speaking publicly about the violence that you respect their wishes and not take the training. We ask that you consider another form of volunteerism.
- We ask that you establish guidelines with the survivor about what they would like you to share and what should be kept confidential.
- We ask that you not use the last name of the perpetrator or survivor even if they give you permission.
- We ask that you review the *Speaker Guidelines* and your completed *Speaker Form* (which you will receive *after* completing the training) with the survivor so that they understand the program and can give their input on your choice of speaking engagements.

Thank you for helping us end violence in all its forms.



Raising Our Voices Against Domestic & Sexual Violence
Aurora, Chicago, Dallas, Atlanta
Voices of Victory

COMMON QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS FOR SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE CONSIDERING PUBLIC SPEAKING

"I want to speak but I'm not sure I'm ready"

There are a variety of ways that you can determine your readiness. Talk to your friends and family as well as the coordinator of the speaker training that you are interested in taking (they should already have the guidelines). Also consider how much time has elapsed since your last incidence of violence. A minimum of one year is necessary (and often times much longer) before considering public speaking. Allow yourself plenty of time to heal before putting yourself in front of an audience.

"I want to share my story to educate others about how to avoid becoming a victim"

As a survivor, it is common to think about other victims' safety. One thing we educate speakers on is how to avoid "victim-blaming" statements and how to share your story without minimizing someone else's story which might be very different from your own. One of HAVEN's primary prevention pieces is about teaching people how not to abuse rather than how to avoid abuse. The trainings will assist the speaker in navigating questions from the audience on this subject.

"I would speak but my perpetrator is out of jail and I am afraid of him. Should I speak or not?"

Always err on the side of caution. If you think speaking publicly could jeopardize your safety or the safety of your friends or family – don't do it. There are many ways to be an activist that don't include putting your story out to the public.

"I need to speak because my perpetrator deserves for people to know what he did to me and my family."

This is not an appropriate reason to speak. In order to be truly effective your main goal must be to educate others. If you go into public speaking to seek revenge or retribution or because you have a lot of anger to work out, your audience will have a hard time connecting with you and the issues you want to address.

"I think speaking would help me heal."

As a speaker you need to be at a place of healing *prior* to speaking publicly. There are healing aspects to speaking, but there can be painful parts as well, particularly if you are not fully prepared.

"I want to speak but there are parts of my story that I don't want to share."

You have control over what you say during a speaking engagement. You can simply leave out parts of your story (there is no way you could tell your entire story anyway). If you are asked a question you don't want to answer, simply say that you would prefer not to talk about that piece of your story. There is also information that is not appropriate to share in a speaking engagement. Training and practice will help you make these decisions.



HAVEN Survivor Speakers' Bureau Application

The purpose of the *HAVEN Survivor Speakers' Bureau* is to train survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence and their non-offending family members to use public speaking as a tool for creating social change. Please thoroughly review the enclosed *Speaker Guidelines*. **Completing the training does not necessarily mean you will be a speaker for HAVEN.**

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Street Address _____ Apt/Unit _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Day Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

E-mail _____ Fax _____

Why do you want to participate in the Survivor Speaker Training?

Briefly explain the experience you are interested in speaking about.

What public speaking experience do you have? (Previous public speaking experience is not necessary)

What are the ways that you take care of yourself when you are under stress?

For non-offending loved ones who want to join the Survivor Speakers Bureau:

Is your loved one still alive? Yes No

If yes, do you have permission from them to speak about this experience?

Yes No

Please explain:

References

Please list two people who we may contact to assess your readiness for this training. You may only include one family member. Also, if you have a previous relationship with HAVEN, let us know that as well.

Name	Relationship	Years known	Phone#
1)			
2)			

Have you ever been convicted of a felony? Yes No

If yes, please give date, name of court, nature of offense and disposition of case:

Felony conviction status may not necessarily preclude you from participating in the Speakers Bureau.)

Please give a brief bio that you would want used to introduce you at a speaking event:

What audiences would you be willing to speak to?
Circle or highlight all that apply

Children Youth/Teens Church Groups Educational Corporate

Print Media Television/Radio LGBT

Latin Arabic Chinese

Please indicate which day is better for training?

Saturday morning or afternoon	Monday evening	Tuesday evening	Wed evening	Thursday evening
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I represent that my answers to the questions and all other information furnished are a correct and complete disclosure of the subject matter.

Signed: _____ (Signature of applicant) _____ (Date)

Return your completed application to:

HAVEN
Attn: Jennifer Pasquale
P.O. Box 431045
Pontiac, MI 48343-1045
Fax: 248.334.3161
Tel: 248-334-1284 x351
Email: jpasquale@haven-oakland.org