



Advocating to End Sexual and Domestic Violence

Bay Area Turning Point, has for over 29 years, provided services to individuals impacted by family violence and sexual assault. There has never been a wink of time in our history when we believed we weren't doing everything in our power to reach those who needed our services.

For the first time, over the past four months, we have faced unparalleled obstacles. March brought a world pandemic and we were suddenly faced with creating new pathways for those suffering at the hands of an abuser to be able to access all services. We were able to rise to the occasion and swiftly set up work from home protocol that allowed persons reaching out for help to connect with the specific service they needed.

On May 25, the success of maneuvering a pandemic was swiftly overshadowed when the nation watched in horror as George Floyd was murdered. The loss of the life of another person of color cannot and should not be ignored. As an agency we began to try and wrap our minds around what the events unfolding would mean for our clients and our staff.

Bay Area Turning Point stands firmly on the side of justice and stopping violence off all types. We want our communities of color to know we see you, we hear you, we believe you, and we support you. There is no place in the work of BATP or this country for injustices and violence to individuals based solely on the color of their skin.

It is unthinkable that victims of family violence and sexual assault felt a stay home order was a sentence for them to continue suffering at the hands of an abuser and now may feel they cannot access services for fear of racial persecution.

To the clients we currently serve and to those who need to reach out for help and may be fearful to do so, please know that you will be cared for with compassion and you will not experience racial bias. We are supportive of your decisions to either involve police or not to do so and will walk beside you every step of the way. Bay Area Turning Point is on your side, you are safe with us.

As an agency we are having courageous conversations with staff, we are seeking additional education and training and we are committed to increase our awareness and knowledge. Staff works to understand cultural differences so that we can support every individual because no one community is exempt from violence. We believe everyone should be able to access services equally including services provided by law enforcement, criminal justice system and restorative services. Please watch for opportunities in the coming weeks to participate in our conversations and work. All are welcome at BATP.

In Unity,

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"A United Way agency"