

# The Urgent Agenda to Address and Prevent Teen Dating Violence

## Our Expert Speakers



**SARAH GONZALEZ BOCINSKI**  
**Associate Director for Workplace & Economic Justice,**  
**Futures Without Violence**

Sarah works on FUTURES' initiatives relating to economic justice and security, safety and gender equity in the workplace, and improving access to quality employment opportunities for survivors of trafficking and gender-based violence. Prior to joining FUTURES, she oversaw the Economic Security for Survivors Project, a national training, technical assistance, and research

project at the Institute for Women's Policy Research and Wider Opportunities for Women. Sarah received her BA from Colgate University and MPP from the McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown University.



**GRETTA GARDNER,**  
**Chief Legal Officer, Ujima Inc., The National Center on**  
**Violence Against Women in the Black Community**

Gretta Gardner, pronouns she, her, hers, serves Ujima Inc., The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community as Chief Legal Officer. Gretta is primarily responsible for managing operations and staff; engaging in state, local, and federal policy discussions impacting Black survivors of gender-based violence; and conducting training and technical assistance

on bias in the civil and criminal legal systems.

Prior to joining the Ujima Inc., Gretta was the Family Violence Director for Travis County Justice Planning in (Austin, TX, where she developed a protocol for the surrender of firearms for offenders; created a supervised visitation and safe exchange center; and designed a prostitution diversion court. Gretta sits on the Board of Trustees for Garrison Forest School; is licensed in D.C., MD, TX, and SCOTUS; is a certified mediator, and belongs to a multitude of national committees that address violence against women and children.



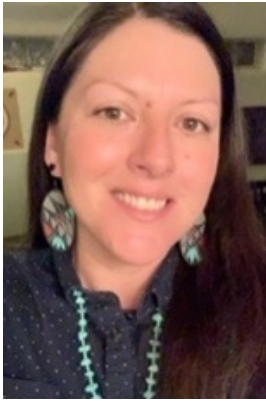
## **SHAN FOSTER**

**CEO, Executive Director, Speaker, Consultant, Board Member, Advisor, AMEND Together**

Shan Foster is the Co-Founder and CEO of Fostering Healthy Solutions, LLC where he cultivates healthy solutions to diversity issues through education, training, and execution. His experience includes work with several sectors, including entertainment, financial services, technology, media, environmental services, and law enforcement. Foster is passionate about diversity and is seen as a visionary amongst leaders. As a strong anti-racist, he has contributed to local and national news, corporate and higher education EDI efforts, as well as local and national non-profits. Foster is the author of “What Hurt Didn’t Hinder.” A story of perseverance, showing that it’s possible to reconstruct what it means to be a man, embrace, diversity, and raise everyone up in the process. He also serves as Executive Director of AMEND Together at YWCA Nashville & Middle Tennessee. AMEND Together is an initiative that engages men and boys to end violence against women and girls. He recruits, educates, and equips men and boys to serve as advocates for violence prevention and cultural change. Under his leadership, AMEND Together has grown to a nationally recognized program with expansion to Texas, Virginia, California, Washington, Ohio, Alabama, and New York. Described as an enthusiastic leader, gifted public speaker, and skilled facilitator, Foster explores the intersections of race, gender, and identity. He is a frequent speaker before national and international corporations, regional and national conferences, local and state government entities, and collegiate and national sports programs, including the National Football League and Major League Soccer.

Shan Foster graduated from Vanderbilt University with a Bachelor of Science in Human and Organizational Development in 2008. Foster was named SEC Men’s Basketball Player of the Year, All-SEC four years in a row, NCAA Division I All-America, and played for the USA Team in the 2007 Pan American games held in Rio De Janeiro, Brasil. He was the Lowes Senior CLASS award winner, an award given to the nations senior leader in community, classroom, character, and competition. Foster finished his collegiate basketball career as the all-time leading scorer in school history and was drafted into the NBA by the Dallas Mavericks in 2008. He was inducted to the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame in 2009, Vanderbilt Athletics Hall of Fame in 2010.

Shan served as a founding member for the Intrepid College Preparatory Charter School in Nashville where he now is a contributing board member. He is a graduate of the 2018 Leadership Nashville class, where he now serves on the board of trust. Foster also serves on the board for the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame, Nashville Sports Council, and The Memorial Magic Collective. Foster is an advisor for Nurture the Next (formerly Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee), 100 Black Men of Middle Tennessee, the Nashville Predators and Vanderbilt University. He most recently was selected to Nashville’s 2019 40 Under 40, 2019 Nashville Emerging Leader Award Winner, Nashville’s 2020 Power 100 Disruptor and Vistage Worldwide’s 2021 Speaker of the Year. Foster is a graduate of Leadership Middle Tennessee, Leadership Nashville, and Leadership Music.



## **JOVITA BELGARDE**

**Native Youth Program Specialist, National Indigenous Women's Resource Center**

Jovita Belgarde is from the Ohkay Owingeh and Isleta Pueblos of New Mexico and the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Nation of North Dakota. She is passionate about working with Native youth and making positive social change in Native communities. Jovita received her B.A. in Criminology from the University of New Mexico and received her Prevention Specialist Certification from the New Mexico Credentialing Board for Behavioral Health Professionals. Jovita is a board member of Breath of My Heart Birthplace. She has worked in the prevention field for eight years prior to coming to NIWRC, working with Native youth doing violence prevention, suicide prevention, substance abuse prevention, and experiential education.

As Youth Program Specialist, Jovita will continue to work from a strength-based perspective that encourages growth, healing, and intentionality. She believes that youth engagement is key to creating strong healthy communities.

"Native youth are our future leaders and they deserve caring support. We should uplift their voices to advocate for their communities and eliminate violence against all of our relatives. Native Love should be a vehicle for Indigenous youth-led advocacy that can drive solidarity, kinship, and anti-violence work for future generations."



## **GRETCHEN SHAW**

**Vice President of Programs, Love is Respect**

Gretchen Shaw is the Vice President of Programs with the National Domestic Violence Hotline. She currently oversees programs and projects of The Hotline, including love is respect, which exists to disrupt and prevent unhealthy relationships and intimate partner violence by empowering young people through inclusive and equitable education, support, and resources. It is the only national web-based and telephone helpline available 24/7/365 to help young people (ages 13-26) experiencing dating abuse. Prior to joining The Hotline, Ms. Shaw served as the Deputy Director of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) overseeing programs and projects, external trainings, partnerships, teams, and organizational operations. She has been working in the domestic violence field for more than 25 years.