



United States Department of Justice

Office on Violence Against Women

Working Together to End the Violence

Dear Attendees:

As Director of the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), I am pleased to welcome you to the **The Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Regional Summit II**. The purpose of this Summit is to bring together core partners who are responding to the crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking in the greater metropolitan, Washington, D.C. area. Violence against women is wrong and must not be tolerated.

Our mission, at OVW, is to lead the national effort to respond to violence against women by supporting local and community –based initiatives. Many of us cross jurisdictional and state lines each day, traveling to jobs, school, recreation, or home. Crossing jurisdictional boundaries can pose challenges for victims seeking protection orders, shelter, or other services. By working together and sharing information we can more effectively adapt to our unique environment and develop best practices for responding to the needs of victims in the metropolitan area.

I am confident the next two days will be productive and informative for all participants and observers. OVW is committed to building strong relationships as we work together to address violence against women, support law enforcement, and create safe communities in the Washington, D.C. area. I encourage you to forge new relationships, share information, and learn from each other to find solutions to combat these serious crimes. Thank you for taking the time to be with us as we move forward in our combined effort to better serve those victimized by violence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cindy Dyer".

Cindy Dyer
Director