

# ***2024***

# ***IMPACT REPORT***

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# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Community,

As President of The Army of Survivors®, I am honored to reflect on a year of incredible progress and meaningful impact. Together, we have worked tirelessly to ensure that sports remain a safe, inspiring, and empowering environment for all athletes.

This past year, we advanced our mission to end sexual violence in sports through advocacy, education, and the development of impactful resources. Notably, we introduced the bipartisan Safer Sports for Athletes Act, a groundbreaking piece of federal legislation designed to create more trauma-informed processes for responding to abuse in sports and increasing prevention efforts. Our advocacy efforts have also led to additional legislative achievements that improve protections for athlete-survivors and strengthen institutional accountability.

Our work has garnered national recognition. We were honored to be invited by President Biden to the White House to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act and by the Office of Violence Against Women to present as one of only two technical assistance providers at its anniversary celebration. These opportunities highlight the growing momentum behind our mission and the critical role we play in shaping the future of sports safety.

One of our proudest accomplishments has been the continued growth of our Compassionate Coach® program. This transformative initiative equips coaches with trauma-informed tools to recognize the effects of trauma and foster inclusive, supportive environments. By integrating these practices, we are shaping sports communities that prioritize the well-being of every athlete.

We have also made strides in research, partnering with the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine to begin a groundbreaking study on the prevalence of sexual violence in sports across the United States. Additionally, we expanded our presence in the endurance sports community, establishing ourselves as charity partners for three major marathon races.

To better serve survivors and their allies, we enhanced our online presence, transforming our website into a comprehensive resource hub with position statements, educational materials, and support tools. By amplifying survivor voices and shedding light on the realities of abuse in sports, we are driving critical conversations that inspire change.

As an organization led by athlete-survivors, we remain steadfast in our commitment to creating a safer future for athletes worldwide. The strength and resilience of our community continue to inspire us in this work. Your support enables us to move closer to a world where every athlete feels valued, protected, and empowered.

Thank you for standing with us on this journey. Together, we are not just imagining a better future—we are building it. We look forward to continuing this vital work alongside you in the year ahead.

With gratitude and hope,

**Grace French**

Founder & President, The Army of Survivors®

# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Valued TAOS Community,

As I reflect on the year that was, I am filled with immense gratitude for the unwavering support of our community. Thanks to you, The Army of Survivors® (TAOS) was able to advance its mission of bringing awareness, accountability, and transparency to the issue of sexual violence in sport. Together, we have made meaningful strides in our ongoing work to protect athletes, elevate the voices of athlete survivors, and create systemic change within the sporting world.

As Grace shared, we helped to introduce critical bipartisan legislation at the federal level, successfully piloted the Compassionate Coach® program, and developed meaningful tools and resources to help sports organizations become more athlete-centered and trauma-informed.

In 2024, we had the honor of participating in the 13th edition of the Play the Game conference, which brought together athletes, athlete survivors, experts, journalists, and academics from around the world to address some of the most pressing issues facing international sport today. This year's conference, held in Trondheim, Norway, in February, provided a platform to amplify voices of athletes and survivors, share insights, and collaborate on strategies for change. Conversations highlighted some of the most pressing issues in the realm of sports and safeguarding. Notably, we explored building evidence to strengthen safeguarding mechanisms on an international scale and the need for remedies and solutions that are created in partnership with those impacted by abuse.

At the forefront of these discussions, I had the honor of presenting on the importance of centering the voices of athletes with lived experiences of abuse in efforts to prevent further harm. As we know, those who have survived abuse within the very systems meant to protect them hold invaluable knowledge that can guide our collective efforts to create meaningful and lasting change. This message was shared and welcomed by not only attendees, but also by the many other allied organizations we were fortunate to forge partnerships with this past year.

As we look ahead to the coming year, we remain committed to creating long-term systems change within the world of sport and, we are excited to continue this important work alongside you.

We invite you to continue partnering with us as we strive for even greater impact. Whether through a donation, volunteerism, or spreading the word, your involvement makes all the difference. On behalf of the entire TAOS team and the communities we serve, thank you for your unwavering support and belief in our mission. Your dedication is what makes our work possible.

With deep appreciation,

**Julie Ann Rivers-Cochran, MSW**

Executive Director, The Army of Survivors®

# ***BOARD OF DIRECTORS***



## **GRACE FRENCH**

### **PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER**

*Grace French is the President and Founder of The Army of Survivors® and a marketing professional dedicated to athlete safety and survivor advocacy. A survivor of abuse at Michigan State University, she works to reform sports culture, consent policies, and institutional accountability.*

*She has testified before Congress, spoken at the UN General Assembly, and advised organizations like FIFA and the IOC on athlete protections. Her advocacy has led to the passage of nine Michigan laws and the 2020 Empowering Olympic, Paralympic, and Amateur Athletes Act.*

*Grace's work has earned honors including the Arthur Ashe Courage Award, Glamour Woman of the Year, and induction into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame. She holds a BBA from the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business.*

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Dr. Danielle Moore**

**Vice President**

Dr. Danielle Moore, a founding board member of The Army of Survivors®, advocates for athlete safety and survivor rights. A Nassar survivor, she works to improve the judicial process for others facing similar trauma. An adjunct professor at The Chicago School, she holds a doctorate in clinical and forensic psychology and a master's degree in clinical and forensic psychology. Her expertise in trauma and mental health informs her advocacy. Honored with the Arthur Ashe Courage Award and Glamour's Women of the Year, Dr. Moore remains committed to systemic change and survivor support.



**Mary Cain**

**Board Director**

Mary is a medical student at Stanford University School of Medicine. After her groundbreaking 2019 NY Times Op-Ed, Mary has dedicated her career to driving change in sport, with an emphasis on athlete well-being. She is the founder of the nonprofit, Atalanta NYC, and serves on the board of The Army of Survivors®, a nonprofit working to end sexual violence against athletes at all levels. Mary also had a record-breaking professional running career that included becoming the 2014 World Junior Champion in the 3000m and a 2013 World Championships finalist in the 1500m.



**Dwight Hicks**

**Board Director**

Dwight Hicks is a former professional football player, winning two Super Bowls (1981, 1984) with the San Francisco 49ers and appearing in four consecutive Pro Bowls (1981-84). Hicks also competed at the University of Michigan, where he received All-Big Ten Conference recognition and All-American Honors. Hicks now works in the entertainment industry and does motivational speaking engagements.



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Alexander S. Rusek**

**Board Director**

Alexander S. Rusek is a Shareholder at Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, P.C., specializing in complex litigation, business law, and criminal defense. He has represented over 100 survivors in high-profile abuse cases and a defendant in the Flint Water Crisis (charges dismissed). A cum laude graduate of Michigan State University College of Law, Rusek serves on multiple boards, including The Army of Survivors, Inc., and is President-Elect of the Ingham County Bar Association. Recognized with numerous legal and community awards, he is also a published author and advocates for trauma-informed legal practices.



**Devi Jags**

**Board Director**

Devi Jags is an Entrepreneur, Writer, and Activist. She is co-founder of an Indian food brand, Sambar Kitchen. Her work can be seen through her endeavors: Chatty Monks Brewing, The Sparkle Community, and much more. Devi holds an MFA in Creative Nonfiction Writing from Sarah Lawrence College and has been published in The Washington Post, Vogue India, Teen Vogue, Women's Health, and Bon Appétit. She was a 2023 Winter Resident of the Tin House Publishers Workshop and has been interviewed by The Washington Post, Unit3d Podcast, and Newsy for her advocacy work in sexual violence prevention.



**Janelle Hill**

**Board Secretary**

Janelle Hill, APRN, PMHNP-BC, is a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner. She is the owner/founder of Refuge Mental Health Services and has over 12 years of experience in psychiatry. Janelle obtained her Bachelor's Degree of Science in Nursing from the College of Saint Mary in 2012 and her Master's Degree in Science from the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) in 2016. Janelle served as the legislative liaison for UNMC during her college career and has remained involved and an avid advocate against sexual abuse and violence on the local and national levels since that time.

# TAOS STAFF



## Julie Ann Rivers-Cochran, MSW

### Executive Director

Over 25 years ago, Julie Ann began her career in the field of the prevention and intervention of domestic violence and sexual assault by providing direct services and advocacy at local programs throughout the U.S. Prior to TAOS, Julie Ann worked for the National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma & Mental Health. As a survivor of childhood trauma, Julie Ann is a fierce advocate, whose personal experiences have translated into a lifelong goal of listening to, then advocating for survivors while holding perpetrators and the systems that support them accountable.



## Kacey Long, MSW

### Director of Programs

Kacey Long brings over a decade of experience in sexual violence prevention and survivor advocacy. A survivor and former athlete, she has focused on policy development, athlete protections, and trauma-responsive best practices. Before joining TAOS, Kacey oversaw 16 child advocacy centers in Georgia, assisting nonprofits in addressing child exploitation. She has served on Georgia's Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force and multiple nonprofit boards dedicated to ending sexual violence. She holds a Master's in Social Work from the University of Michigan.



## Dominique Davis

### Executive Assistant

Dominique is a mother of three, former elite gymnast, and athlete survivor dedicated to making sports safer. Her advocacy began after experiencing abuse as a young gymnast, fueling her passion for athlete safety and systemic change. She holds a degree in Exercise Physiology and Nutrition from the University of Missouri-Columbia and is a certified yoga instructor. An avid climber, she serves on the Board of the Southeastern Climbers Coalition. She is dedicated to creating a welcoming sports environment where all athletes can thrive.



# INTRODUCTION

**THE ARMY OF SURVIVORS® (TAOS) IS A GLOBAL ADVOCATE FOR ATHLETE-SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND ABUSE IN SPORTS, WORKING TO AMPLIFY THEIR VOICES AND CHAMPION THEIR RIGHTS. WE ARE COMMITTED TO ENSURING THAT ALL ATHLETES CAN COMPETE IN A SAFE, SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT—FREE FROM HARM, FEAR, AND SYSTEMIC FAILURES. THROUGH ADVOCACY, EDUCATION, AND SURVIVOR-LED INITIATIVES, TAOS STRIVES TO CREATE A SPORTS CULTURE WHERE PROTECTION, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND JUSTICE ARE PRIORITIZED.**

*Founded in 2018 by survivors of sexual abuse by the now-defamed and imprisoned Michigan State University (MSU) sports medicine physician whose crimes were enabled by MSU, USA Gymnastics, the U.S. Olympic Committee, and the FBI, The Army of Survivors® (TAOS) remains athlete-survivor-led and survivor-centered. Our community is made up of advocates, athletes, and athlete-survivors, united by the mission to end abuse in sports. Our lived experiences shape everything we do, ensuring that survivors remain at the forefront of efforts to raise awareness and drive meaningful change.*

*TAOS is committed to raising public awareness about sexual violence and other forms of abuse in sports at every level. We work to hold perpetrators and the institutions that protect them accountable while prioritizing transparency in reporting and independent investigative processes. By advocating for survivor-centered policies, we strive to empower survivors to speak out, should they choose to do so, without fear of retaliation or dismissal.*

*TAOS is dedicated to challenging harmful norms, demanding institutional change, and fostering a sports culture built on safety, respect, and justice. Our advocacy extends beyond individual cases, we strive for systemic reforms that ensure every athlete, regardless of age, level, or background, can participate in sports free from harm. Through survivor-led initiatives, education, and policy advocacy, we are transforming the landscape of sports to prioritize athlete well-being and safety.*

# MISSION

**TAOS' mission is to bring awareness, accountability, and transparency to sexual abuse against athletes at all levels, from elite to non-elite, since the culture of sports that tacitly supports sexual abuse against athletes does not discriminate based on an athlete's ability.**

**Our work is athlete survivor-founded, survivor-led, and trauma-informed, and we carry out our work through three pillars that support TAOS' mission: education, resources, and advocacy.**

***ADVOCACY***

# Advocating for Changes in Systems

The Army of Survivors® continued to advocate for systemic changes that better support athlete-survivors. Through legislative engagement, testimony, and trauma-informed training, TAOS worked to improve investigative processes, ensure survivor-centered policies, and hold governing bodies accountable for athlete safety.

In March of 2024, Founder and President Grace French testified before the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on “Promoting a Safe Environment in U.S. Athletics.” This hearing focused on evaluating the effectiveness of the U.S. Center for SafeSport, addressing gaps in athlete protections, and exploring legislative solutions to improve safeguarding policies.

Grace’s testimony contributed to congressional discussions on the Safer Sports for Athletes Act and other safeguarding reforms developed to improve athlete safety nationwide.

TAOS also worked closely with the Bipartisan Congressional Commission on the U.S. Olympics & Paralympics. TAOS played a pivotal role in shaping the final report on the U.S. Olympics and Paralympics, ensuring that athlete-survivor voices were central to its recommendations. This comprehensive report outlines critical reforms to enhance athlete safety and accountability within the Olympic and Paralympic Movement. TAOS’ insights were cited throughout the report, further solidifying our role as a leading survivor-led organization.

## ADVOCACY



# ADVOCACY



## Legislative Action

In 2024, The Army of Survivors® made significant progress in advancing legislative reforms and championing survivor protections on both state and federal levels:

Michigan's SB 1187-1192, a groundbreaking six-bill legislative package that enhances protections, ensures accountability and extends the statute of limitations for childhood sexual abuse survivors from age 28 to 52 passed. This package strengthens protections for whistleblowers and ensures abusers face accountability, representing a landmark victory for survivors seeking justice.

TAOS's advocacy efforts culminated in the bipartisan introduction of the Safer Sports for Athletes Act in Congress. This legislation addresses systemic failures in safeguarding, enhances investigative processes at the U.S. Center for SafeSport, provides survivor support, and allocates funding for abuse prevention. The bill reflects over two years of coalition-building, survivor-informed recommendations, and TAOS's commitment to amplifying survivor voices in Congress.

Through these initiatives, TAOS continues to drive meaningful change, ensuring survivors are supported, and their voices are heard.

OVER THE PAST YEAR, TAOS HAS CHAMPIONED THE VOICES OF ATHLETES WORLDWIDE, LEADING IMPACTFUL ADVOCACY INITIATIVES AND CRAFTING INFLUENTIAL POSITION STATEMENTS THAT HAVE RESONATED GLOBALLY. THESE STATEMENTS, DEVELOPED IN COLLABORATION WITH ALLIED ORGANIZATIONS, HAVE PLAYED A CRITICAL ROLE IN DRIVING AWARENESS, FOSTERING ACCOUNTABILITY, AND PUSHING FOR SYSTEMIC REFORMS TO PROTECT ATHLETES AND UPHOLD THEIR RIGHTS.

THIS YEAR'S POSITION STATEMENTS ADDRESSED:

- KEY ISSUES IN SAFEGUARDING AND GOVERNANCE.
- THE URGENT NEED FOR ACCOUNTABILITY IN GLOBAL SPORTS.
- SURVIVOR-CENTRIC REFORMS ACROSS INSTITUTIONS.

EACH STATEMENT REINFORCED OUR COMMITMENT TO AMPLIFYING ATHLETE VOICES AND CREATING SAFER SPORTS ENVIRONMENTS.

# Position Statements

**Content Warning:** The following statements discuss sexual abuse, institutional betrayal, and failures in athlete safeguarding. The content may be distressing, especially for survivors.

**04/24/24**

TRAUMA WARNING\* DOJ Settles with Nassar Survivors, Concluding Final Legal Case Over FBI Misconduct

**07/08/24**

Olympics: Sex Offenders Have No Place at the Games

**09/12/24**

The Army of Survivors® Statement on Michigan Attorney General's Decision to Close MSU Investigation of Now Imprisoned Former MSU Doctor



# ADVOCACY



## International Reach

*In February 2024 TAOS Executive Director Julie Ann Rivers-Cochran represented the organization at the Play the Game Conference in Trondheim, Norway. She presented on "Preventing Abuse in Sports by Fostering Institutional Courage and Amplifying Athlete-Survivor Voices," emphasizing the global importance of centering survivor perspectives in safeguarding strategies.*

*Julie Ann highlighted how sports institutions often fail athlete-survivors, either by actively covering up abuse, failing to act on reports, or re-traumatizing survivors through ineffective policies.*

*She encouraged sports leaders to take proactive steps toward survivor-centered reforms, ensuring that athlete voices are not only heard but actively shape policies and protections.*

*The session provided actionable recommendations for building trauma-informed, athlete-centered environments.*

*TAOS's presence at Play the Game 2024 reinforced its role as a global leader in survivor-centered advocacy and institutional reform.*

# ADVOCACY



## International Reach

TAOS continued to strengthen its global advocacy efforts as a core partner of the Sport and Rights Alliance (SRA), participating in the SRA Annual Summit in Switzerland. This event brought together leaders from international sports organizations, human rights bodies, and athlete-survivor advocacy groups to address the intersection of sports, human rights, and survivor leadership.

TAOS used this opportunity to amplify athlete-survivor voices on the global stage, ensuring that safeguarding, trauma-informed practices, and survivor-led reforms were prioritized in international sports governance.

Meeting with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), TAOS joined discussions on the role of sports organizations in upholding human rights protections, particularly in preventing and addressing sexual abuse in athletic environments.

During the summit TAOS met with International Olympic Committee officials to prioritize greater survivor involvement in Safe Sport policymaking, reinforcing the need for transparent and trauma-informed investigative processes within Olympic sports.

TAOS also engaged in discussions with the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) representatives on enhancing safeguarding measures within European football.

# International Partnerships

The Army of Survivors® reinforced its partnership with Safe Sport International (SSI) by taking a leading role in the Parks + Podiums Conference in December, a global event focused on safeguarding in sports, athlete human rights, and survivor-led advocacy.

As a recognized expert in athlete safety and trauma-informed advocacy, TAOS Executive Director Julie Ann Rivers-Cochran, in her role as Chair of SSI's Athlete Voice in Safe Sport Group, led critical discussions on institutional accountability, survivor-centered reform, and global safeguarding best practices.

She was joined by TAOS leaders and international athlete-advocates, including:

- Kacey Long, MSW (Director of Programs, TAOS)
- Emily Austin, JD (Senior Policy & Advocacy Associate, TAOS)
- Joanna Maranhão (Network Coordinator, Sport & Rights Alliance)
- Renata Falcão, MSc (Criminology Expert & Athlete Advocate)

Together, they explored the systemic barriers to athlete safety and the urgent need for survivor-driven policy reforms in sports organizations worldwide.

By engaging directly with global policymakers and sports federations, TAOS is ensuring that the movement to end abuse in sports extends beyond national borders—creating a lasting impact on international safeguarding policies and survivor protections.



***EDUCATION +  
RESOURCES***

# Compassionate Coach® : A Transformative Program for Safer Sporting Environments

The Army of Survivors® (TAOS) is proud to have launched the pilot of the Compassionate Coach® program in 2024, an innovative initiative co-designed with athletes, athlete-survivors of abuse, and leading experts in trauma-informed care, institutional courage, and player-centered coaching. This groundbreaking program equips coaches with the tools to create trauma-informed, athlete-centered environments that prioritize safety and healing.

The 8-week virtual interactive course provides comprehensive education on key topics, including understanding trauma, recognizing its effects on athletes, and adjusting coaching methods to ensure safe and supportive sporting environments. Coaches learn to identify signs of trauma and respond appropriately, fostering spaces where athletes can thrive without the risk of re-traumatization.

## Program Structure and Objectives

The Compassionate Coach® curriculum includes eight meticulously crafted modules:

1. Compassionate Culture
2. Creating a Compassionate Culture
3. Trauma 101
4. Developmentally Appropriate Coaching
5. Dismantling Myths About Survivors
6. Trauma-Informed Responses & Disclosure
7. Institutional Betrayal, Cowardice, & Courage, & Your Role
8. Define Your Compassion

These modules provide a robust foundation for learning objectives such as articulating the scientific understanding of trauma's immediate and lasting impacts, addressing myths surrounding survivors, and learning about how to be institutionally courageous. The program culminates in actionable strategies for fostering inclusive, safe, and trauma-informed sporting environments.



## **Compassionate Coach®: Plans for Expansion**

Following the successful launch of the pilot, TAOS plans to expand the Compassionate Coach® program in 2025 to reach broader audiences, including youth sports leagues, collegiate programs, and international athletic organizations. Adaptations are also being explored to tailor the curriculum for sport and region specific audiences, as well as translating to multiple languages.

### **Feedback from Participants**

The feedback from the inaugural cohort of coaches has been overwhelmingly positive. Participants have praised the program's interactive approach, actionable insights, and its immediate impact on their coaching practices. Many reported feeling empowered to address trauma within their teams and expressed a deeper commitment to fostering compassionate and secure environments.

One participant shared,

"This program completely reshaped how I view my role as a coach. I now understand the power I have to make a real difference in athletes' lives."

TAOS remains committed to building on this momentum, ensuring that the Compassionate Coach® program continues to set the standard for trauma-informed coaching education worldwide.



# *Training & Technical Assistance*

In 2024, TAOS continued its work under the two-year training and technical assistance grant awarded by the Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women (OVW). This initiative has allowed TAOS to expand its education, outreach, and survivor-centered training for OVW grantees and their subcontractors, ensuring that service providers, advocates, and sports organizations are equipped with trauma-informed strategies to support athletes with lived experiences of abuse.

## **Key Activities in 2024**

- *Listening Sessions:* Throughout 2024, TAOS conducted listening sessions with OVW grantees and stakeholders to gather critical insights into the challenges faced by survivors and service providers. These sessions informed the development of tailored educational materials and highlighted the unique needs of athletes impacted by abuse.
- *Presentation in Washington, D.C.:* As part of the initiative, TAOS representatives presented at the OVW Technical Assistance meeting. The presentation focused on the intersection of abuse in sports and how trauma-informed practices can support athletes seeking justice.

## **Upcoming Initiatives**

- *Regional Town Halls:* TAOS will host regional town halls in 2025. These sessions will bring together OVW grantees, service providers, and survivors to discuss best practices, identify gaps, and enhance their capacity to support athletes affected by abuse.
- *Educational Opportunities:* The grant supports the development of a comprehensive toolkit, a webinar series, and a white paper to equip service providers with practical tools to implement trauma-informed practices while serving athletes in their work.

This grant has also enabled TAOS to share best practices at national conferences, ensuring that its expertise reaches a wide audience and continues to drive systemic change in the way abuse in sports is addressed. By fostering collaboration and advancing education, TAOS is empowering OVW grantees to create safer, more supportive environments for survivors.

## ***SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS***

**TAOS continued its presence as a leading voice in athlete safety, trauma-informed education, and survivor advocacy, participating in numerous national and international events, conferences, and summits.**

**TAOS team members served as keynote speakers, panelists, and moderators, advocating for the prevention of abuse and sexual violence in sports while calling for systemic reforms to prioritize athlete well-being over financial gains and medals.**

**These engagements provided critical opportunities for TAOS to promote trauma-informed practices, strengthen global partnerships, and drive cultural change in sports governance.**

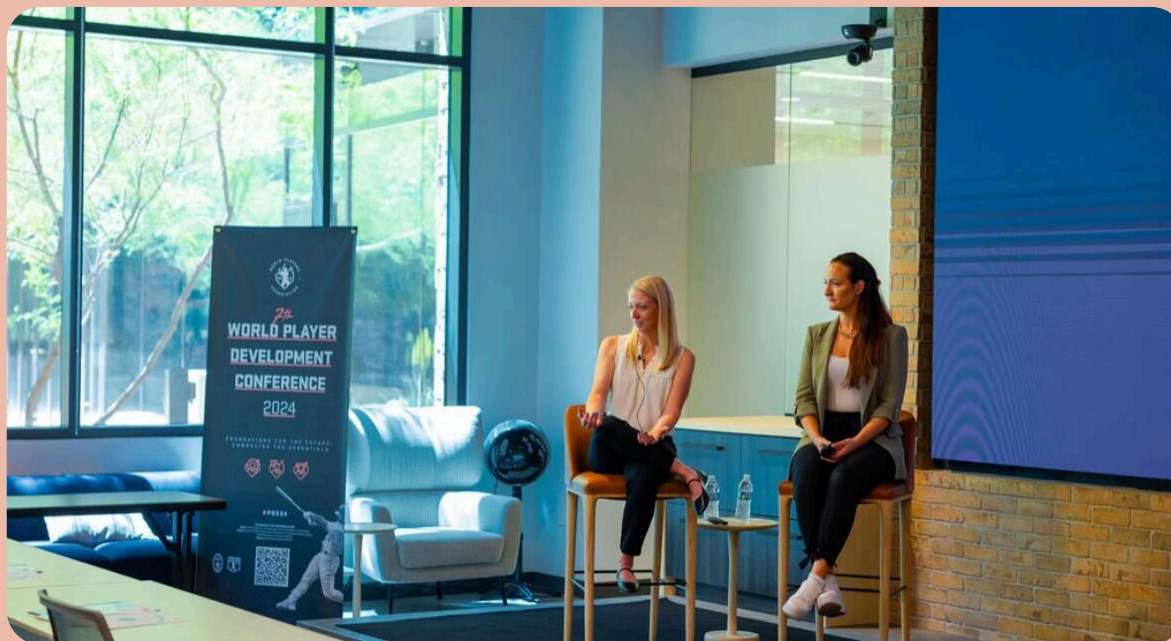


# 2024 KEY EVENTS

## **Presented at the World Players Association Conference:**

*Dr. Danielle Moore represented TAOS with a presentation on “How to Create Safe and Brave Spaces for Reporting Abuse.” She educated Player Development Managers on trauma-informed practices, equipping them to handle abuse disclosures sensitively and effectively across professional sports organizations globally.*

*The session was well received, with sports professionals from multiple countries acknowledging the urgent need for improved athlete safeguarding measures. Player Development Managers reported that they felt more confident in identifying signs of trauma and responding to athlete disclosures with care and sensitivity. Several organizations expressed interest in adopting TAOS’s trauma-informed training as part of their ongoing education for coaches, administrators, and athlete welfare teams, ensuring that these principles become standard practice in professional sports environments worldwide.*



# 2024 KEY EVENTS

## **Supported the Refuse To Do Nothing Virtual Summit:**

*In October of 2024, The Army of Survivors® played a key role in supporting the Refuse To Do Nothing: A Virtual Global Summit hosted by The Stanford Center for Sports Equity & Tirop's Angels. This was a global event dedicated to addressing gender-based violence, safeguarding, and athlete protection in sports.*

*The 2024 Refuse to Do Nothing Summit was created in direct response to the tragic murder of Olympian Rebecca Cheptegei, honoring her strength and, resilience. This event served as a powerful call to action, shedding light on the often overlooked issue of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in sports.*

*Bringing together athlete-survivors, advocates, policymakers, researchers, and safeguarding professionals, the summit facilitated critical discussions on the intersection of domestic abuse, coercive control, and athlete safety, reinforcing the urgent need for systemic change and stronger protections for athletes.*

## **Delivered Department of Justice Training on Abuse in Sports:**

*In October 2024, Kacey Long (Director of Programs) and Julie Ann Rivers-Cochran (Executive Director) led a specialized webinar for the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Civil Rights Division. This critical training provided DOJ attorneys, investigators, and civil rights enforcement officials with a comprehensive understanding of the systemic abuse patterns within sports and how to apply trauma-informed responses when handling cases of athlete abuse.*

***RESEARCH***

# NATIONAL RESEARCH

In 2024, The Army of Survivors® continued its transformative partnership with the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine (AMSSM), furthering efforts to address sexual violence in elite sports. This collaboration, overseen by AMSSM's Collaborative Research Network at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, focuses on developing a groundbreaking trauma-informed questionnaire to measure the prevalence and dynamics of sexual abuse among U.S. elite athletes.

The study takes a formative and representational approach to ensure the questionnaire accurately captures the varied experiences of elite athletes, including their definitions of justice, hope, and wholeness as survivors. These insights will guide the development of meaningful prevention strategies and survivor support systems. The study received Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval, marking a critical step toward the ethical and trauma-informed collection of data. This milestone underscores the partnership's commitment to maintaining the highest standards of research integrity and survivor safety.

TAOS has begun and is continuing to work closely with athlete-survivors to encourage participation in interviews and focus groups, while providing crisis support to participants, ensuring the research captures a wide range of perspectives and lived experiences and reducing retraumatization to the extent possible.

## Looking Ahead

This research is expected to fill critical data gaps, offering unprecedented insights into the prevalence and impact of sexual violence in elite sports. By fostering an evidence-based understanding of these issues, the collaboration will inform the development of more effective prevention strategies, survivor support systems, and policy reforms.

Together, TAOS and AMSSM are advancing the conversation around athlete safety, ensuring that data-driven solutions are rooted in the experiences and needs of survivors, and creating a roadmap for a safer future in sports.



***SOCIAL +***  
***WEB PRESENCE***

# ***SOCIAL MEDIA***



**INSTAGRAM**

**4,169**

**FOLLOWERS**

---

**4.7%**

**ENGAGEMENT RATE**

---

**209,741**

**POST IMPRESSIONS**



**FACEBOOK**

**1,393**

**FOLLOWERS**

---

**4.1%**

**ENGAGEMENT RATE**

---

**34,300**

**POST IMPRESSIONS**



**LINKEDIN**

**823**

**FOLLOWERS**

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**8.2%**

**ENGAGEMENT RATE**

---

**40,375**

**POST IMPRESSIONS**

# MEDIA + MENTIONS

IN 2024, THE ARMY OF SURVIVORS® CONTINUED TO GAIN NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEDIA RECOGNITION, WITH BOARD MEMBERS, STAFF, AND SURVIVOR-ADVOCATES EMERGING AS LEADING VOICES IN THE MOVEMENT TO END ABUSE IN SPORTS. TAOS REPRESENTATIVES WERE FEATURED IN MAJOR NEWS OUTLETS, PRESS RELEASES, PODCASTS, AND OP-EDS, CONTRIBUTING TO CRITICAL DISCUSSIONS ON SAFESPORT REFORM, ATHLETE SAFEGUARDING, SURVIVOR ADVOCACY, AND TRAUMA-INFORMED POLICY CHANGES.

"Runestad, French: Give sex assault survivors pathways to justice" | The Detroit News

"Devi Jags' mission to fight sexual violence & mental health stigma in sports" | CBS KCAL

"Courage as a Disruptor with Grace French" | Breaking Schemas Podcast

"The Army of Survivors®: Grace French on Empowering Athletes" | A Little Bit Culty Podcast

"U.S. Center for SafeSport to overhaul handling of abuse cases" | ESPN

"The Army of Survivors®: Creating Safe Spaces for Athletes" | Breaking Silence Podcast

"2024 Olympics: Why Young People Don't Care About the Olympics" | Teen Vogue

"Chasing the Unicorn" | East Lansing Portrait

"Founder and President of The Army of Survivors® reacts to Nasser developments" | WXYZ-TV Detroit

"Michigan legislature attendance problems leave justice for survivors package in jeopardy" | Michigan Advance

"At 15, she skated for Team USA. At 42, she's still fighting it." | Washington Post

***SUSTAINABILITY +  
GROWTH***

# SUSTAINABILITY + GROWTH

**We are deeply grateful for your unwavering support in our mission to end sexual violence in sports. The progress we've made at The Army of Survivors® is only possible because of the generosity of our organizational donors, individual supporters, partners, and advocates. Your commitment empowers us to continue our work, amplify survivor voices, and drive meaningful change in sports culture.**

## Increased Fundraising Initiatives

*In 2024, we were selected by TCS NYC Marathon, United Airlines NYC Half Marathon, and Bank of America Chicago Marathon to be an official charity partner. These partnerships not only raised critical funds, but also spread awareness about our mission to support survivors and promote safe sports.*

- At the TCS NYC Marathon, TAOS runners surpassed their fundraising goals while representing The Army of Survivors on the world stage.
- The United Airlines NYC Half Marathon showcased the strength of our community as five dedicated runners carried our mission forward.
- At the Bank of America Chicago Marathon, board member Devi ran on our behalf, amplifying our message through her powerful advocacy and media appearances.



# ***SUSTAINABILITY + GROWTH***

## **2024 MAJOR DONORS**

**THE OAK FOUNDATION**

**DEPT. OF JUSTICE, OFFICE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

**CRANE CHARITABLE FUNDS**

### **FOLLOW US**

Facebook: @TheArmyofSurvivors

Instagram: @TheArmyofSurvivors

X : @SurvivorsArmy

LinkedIn: /The-Army-of-Survivors

### **TO DONATE**

Make a tax-deductible donation by  
visiting [TheArmyofSurvivors.org/donate](https://TheArmyofSurvivors.org/donate)  
or mailing a check to The Army of  
Survivors, Inc. ® to 428 W. Lenawee St.,  
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