



November 20, 2022

Dear Senator:

On behalf of YWCA USA, a network of nearly 200 local associations in 45 states and the District of Columbia, I write today to express our **support for the nomination of Rosemarie (Rosie) Hidalgo to serve as the next Director of the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) at the U.S. Department of Justice and urge you to vote yes when this vote comes to the Senate floor.**

For over 160 years, YWCA has been on a mission to eliminate racism, empower women, and promote peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. From our earliest days providing housing and child care to working women in the 1860s, YWCA has been at the forefront of the most pressing social movements — from voting rights to civil rights, from affordable housing to pay equity, from violence prevention to health care reform. Today, we serve on average as many as 2.3 million women, girls, and family members of all ages and backgrounds in more than 1,200 communities.

The Director of OVW plays a critical leadership role on preventing and addressing domestic and sexual violence and all forms of gender-based violence which sits at the heart of YWCA's programmatic and policy priorities. As the largest network of domestic and sexual violence service providers, YWCAs across our network are proud to provide women, children, and families with trauma-informed domestic violence and sexual assault programs and services. YWCAs are on the frontlines providing gender-based violence services — including safe and secure housing, crisis hotlines, counseling, court assistance, family justice centers, and other community and safety programs—to more than 500,000 women, children, and families.

Informed by our long history of providing domestic and sexual violence services, **we believe that Rosie Hidalgo has the practical experience, commitment to serving survivors, and understanding of policy to effectively lead OVW as it administers the many Violence Against Women Act of 2022 programs.** In her current capacity, Ms. Hidalgo serves as Special Advisor on Gender-Based Violence at the White House Gender Policy Council but harnesses over 25 years of experience as a national policy advocate and attorney. She also previously served as the Deputy Director for Policy at OVW and on the American Bar Association's Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence building out her depth, experience, and qualifications to carry out the responsibilities of this position. Most notably, through these roles, Ms. Hidalgo has always championed the unique needs of survivors, particularly women of color and marginalized communities, and worked to ensure their voices and needs are heard. Combine, we believe that Ms. Hidalgo has the practical experience, integrity, and commitment to pressing needs of survivors to effectively lead the Office on Violence Against Women and are proud to support her nomination.

In fulfilling its duty to provide advice and consent on presidential nominations, YWCA encourages the Senate to ensure that nominees have professional expertise in the areas for which they are nominated, a

deep familiarity with the breadth of programs overseen by the agency they are nominated to lead, and a strong commitment to the agency's mission. YWCA believes that Rosie Hidalgo meets this standard and that she has the knowledge and commitment to lead OVW. We urge the Senate to quickly consider her nomination and move to confirm before the end of the year so OVW can robustly carry out the new priorities set out by Congress in the Violence Against Women Act's reauthorization, which was passed into law this spring.

YWCA USA has confidence that Ms. Hidalgo understands these issues and, upon confirmation, look forward to working with her to ensure that all survivors and their families are protected. **Accordingly, we urge you to confirm Rosie Hidalgo's nomination as Director of the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice.**

Thank you in advance for your support and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact Pam Yuen, YWCA USA Senior Director of Government Relations, at pyuen@ywca.org or 202-559-7022 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Margaret Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Margaret Mitchell
Chief Executive Officer