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The New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault

I had interviewed Jeenie Yoon, LMSW (Licensed Master Social Worker), Senior Campus Sexual Assault Coordinator of New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault. The New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault is an umbrella non profit organization which spreads awareness about sexual violence through knowledge regardless of their situation. Despite having only 11 workers in this organization, they have many programs, courses, and events, they also see therapy clients, do policy work with the Mayor, and Politicians to influence how laws are made the city and state. They practice in a Micro, Mezzo, Macro scale, meaning that depending on the situation of the client, they may use different strategies to cater to them. In a micro level, the social workers are talking directly to the individuals and their family about the situation. In a mezzo level, the social worker deals with medium sized groups including schools. In a macro level, the social worker deals with communities and changing or creating laws with the help of the government. Jeenie states “We do more referrals out to other agencies. One thing we definitely do a lot is referring out to appropriate agencies, a lot of the time people don’t know where to go when they need help.” If they’re not able to help the individuals directly, they’re always certain to give someone another resource because they don’t want anyone to feel like they are without support. A couple of their programs and courses they offer are the Campus Training Institute (CTI) and Project DOT (Dream Own Tell). The Campus Training Institute is a program that work with college campuses and students in the city to provide education on sexual violence. Project DOT is a program working in partnership with other organizations for youth, and LGBTQ from different communities to have focus groups about consent, relationships, and to end sexual violence. According to Jeenie, they’re proud of their Project DOT program because the organization gather more information from the youth. The youth inform others about the program by leading conversations themselves instead of the adults leading, like how other programs are structured. The organization’s overall goal is to end gender based violence and specifically sexual violence. Their short- term goal is for people to be familiar with their services and to know where to reach them when they are in that type of crisis. Jeenie states that “Their long term goal is to contribute to cultural change, from a rape culture to a consent culture and for the idea of cultural change to spread from New York to the rest of the United States.” In this interview, I learned that despite the amount of workers, an impact can still be made in someone’s life.