



## Department of Public Safety

COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE &  
SEXUAL ASSAULT  
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### **My Turn/Letter to the Editor**

by Lauree Morton, Executive Director, Council on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault, 907-465-4356.

#### **2015: Make it a year of solutions – Together we can make a difference**

Sally Kohn, a CNN Political Commentator, published an article calling on readers to make 2015 a year of solutions. In the article she cited “the problem of rape culture” as one of the areas in need of national solutions.

“In 2014, we spent a great deal of effort arguing about rape stories. A huge Rolling Stone article about an alleged gang rape at the University of Virginia fell apart. Over a dozen women came forward alleging that Bill Cosby had sexually molested or raped them,” she wrote.

In Alaska the media has also reported on rape allegations being falsely made.

“Regardless of what may or may not have happened in these cases,” Kohn writes, “we know that nationwide, nearly one in 5 women experience rape or attempted rape. This is a huge and troubling crisis. Yet, instead of doing something about the culture of rape, we seem to spend more time talking about whether we believe rape victims. We should spend more of our energy teaching young men and women about sexual consent, and pushing schools and police forces to create safer environments for reporting rape. Overall, we could do more on rape prevention.”

-More-

We couldn't agree more. In Alaska, the Department of Public Safety and the Council on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault have focused on how to change social norms around the acceptance of rape and domestic violence in our communities. Our work, as well as garnering support for victims and making sure help is available for those who need it, has been to look at, implement and evaluate a range of programs and activities aimed at bringing awareness to the issue and helping every Alaskan know what they can do to create change.

From the "Green Dot Alaska" program to school-based curricula to our upcoming Prevention Symposium, we call on every Alaskan to become a part of the solution in 2015. Visit our website at [dps.alaska.gov/cdvs](http://dps.alaska.gov/cdvs) to learn more about how you can help. Together we can make a difference.

-End-

**Attachments: Morton Photo**

**Signature for Permission to Print and Contact Information**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lauree Morton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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