



**MURIEL BOWSER**  
**MAYOR**

October 22, 2024

The Honorable Phil Mendelson  
Chairman  
Council of the District of Columbia  
John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 504  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

In accordance with section 2 of the Confirmation Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-142; D.C. Official Code § 1-523.01), pursuant to section 204 of the Clemency Board Establishment Act of 2018, effective December 13, 2018 (D.C. Law 22-197; D.C. Official Code § 24-481.04), I am pleased to nominate the following person:

Dr. Indira Henard  
Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20015  
(Ward 3)

for reappointment as the member with a background in victim's rights of the Clemency Board of the District of Columbia, for a term to end February 10, 2029.


Enclosed, you will find biographical information detailing the experience of the above-mentioned nominee, together with a proposed resolution to assist the Council during the confirmation process.

I would appreciate the Council's earliest consideration of this nomination for confirmation. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or Steven Walker, Director, Mayor's Office of Talent and Appointments, should the Council require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Muriel Bowser".

Muriel Bowser  
Mayor

  
Chairman Phil Mendelson  
at the request of the Mayor

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To confirm the reappointment of Dr. Indira Henard to the Clemency Board.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this resolution may be cited as the “Clemency Board Dr. Indira Henard Confirmation Resolution of 2024”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia confirms the reappointment of:

Dr. Indira Henard  
Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20015  
(Ward 3)

as the member with a background in victim’s rights of the Clemency Board, established by section 203 of the Clemency Board Establishment Act of 2018, effective December 13, 2018 (D.C. Law 22-197, D.C. Official Code § 24-481.03), for a term to end February 10, 2029.

Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia shall transmit a copy of this resolution, upon its adoption, to the nominee and to the Office of the Mayor.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.



## Executive Summary

Mission-centric and strategic leader with 20+ years of experience in gender-based violence and a heart for leading and living a life of public service centered around non-profit and advocacy work. A compassionate and committed national thought leader proven to prosper in times of adversity in executive leadership roles, consultative relationships, and corporate board member positions with countless awards for impacting the communities served. Recognized as a trusted advocate dedicated to influencing international organizations that empower and support others.

## CORE STRENGTHS

- Crisis Management
- Social Work
- Organizational & Board Leadership
- Strategic Planning
- Public Policy
- Mentoring & Coaching
- Servant Leadership
- International Consulting
- Fundraising & Donor Relations
- Training & Speaking Engagements
- Program Development
- Community Relations

## EDUCATION

**University of Southern California**, Los Angeles, CA  
*Doctorate of Social Work*

**Catholic University of America**, Washington, DC  
*Master of Social Work*  
• Concentration: Social Change/  
Macro Social Work Policy

**Wheaton College**, Norton, MA  
*Bachelor of Arts, Major: Political Science*  
• Minor: Legal Studies

## Certifications

**Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration**  
*Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment for Substance Abuse Disorders (SBIRT)*

## Notable Honors & Recognition

- Washington Business Journal, *Women Who Mean Business Award, 2021* | *People on the Move, 2020* | *40 under 40 Award, 2019*
- Washingtonian of the Year, 2020
- Wheaton College, *Alumni Social Impact Award, 2021* | *Inducted into the Chad Yowell Athletic Hall of Fame, 2017* | *Athletics All Community Team, 2000* | *Ruth Capers McKay Leadership Award, 2003* | *Patricia King Leadership Award, 2001*
- Presented by Mayor Muriel Bowser, *Washington Women of Excellence Award, 2020*
- RALIANCE Honors, *Community Leader of the Year, 2019*
- The Marquis Who's Who Publication Record, *Who's Who in America, 2019*
- Essence Magazine, *African American Women on the Ground doing Sexual Violence Work, 2018*
- People Issue Washington City Paper, *Named 1 of 20 people in DC making a difference, 2018*
- Catholic Univ., *Alumni Achievement Award, National Catholic School of Social Service, 2018*
- Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, *National "Victim Impact Award", 2015*
- Bishop's Award-Unity Fellowship Church Movement, 2015

## Professional Experience

### DC Rape Crisis Center

*Executive Director*

2008 - Present

*Interim Executive Director/Deputy Director/Director of Policy & Advocacy/Counseling & Advocacy Program Manager, 2008 - 2016*

2016 - Present

Joined the organization as a Counseling Manager after serving as a volunteer, achieved multiple promotions over tenure, and ultimately selected to serve as the Executive Director of the oldest rape crisis center in the country. Fostered an engaging and motivating environment for a team of 25 employees and 65 volunteers.

- Lead a transformational effort for an underperforming agency, developing and executing strategy for the repositioning efforts across finance, operations, diversity funding, and community relations.
- Cultivated a positive workplace culture and led the organization to be recognized as a 2019 and 2020 recipient of the Best Places to Work by the Washington Business Journal, Best of Washington Award in 2019, 2020, and 2021, including the Business Hall of Fame, and the 2019 Agency of the Year Award by the National Association of Social Workers.
- Spearheaded the vision, strategy, and execution to achieve success in ongoing program, policy, and project initiatives, annual and ongoing fundraising development, project planning, program planning, capacity building, sustainability, and change management.
- Influenced decisions on Capitol Hill by monitoring and analyzing activity, disseminating it across similar organizations, developing and implementing strategies for advancing policy goals, and issuing briefs and policy papers.
- Promoted awareness through advocacy and community development by enhancing relationships with civic, social, and community organizations aligned with the Center's mission and values.
- Participated in events and built brand engagement through digital marketing tools, and social.
- Leveraged strong social work expertise to provide individual and group counseling to sexual abuse survivors, including hotline and hospital advocacy to support women in crisis.



## Professional Experience *(continued)*

**National Catholic School of Social Service, Catholic University, Adjunct Faculty** 2018 - Present

Collaborated with university leadership to support programs in the School of Social Work. Developed curriculum and facilitated courses and discussions to students in a higher-education classroom setting in classes focused on Diversity and Social Work Response to Trauma.

**Independent Executive Consulting, Gender-Based Violence Consultant, International Program Development** 2016 - Present

Provided advisory services, including training, program development, and capacity building for clients to create the foundation to effectively respond to the needs of gender-based violence victims.

- Selected to serve and advise Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III and the US Office of the Secretary of Defense, as a highly qualified expert, through an independent review commission on military sexual assault ordered by President Biden.
- Led international engagements in collaboration with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to develop programs for gender-based violence.
- Orchestrated the strategy and execution of the efforts to open the first rape crisis center in Lagos, Nigeria.
- Guided a coalition of international NGOs, alongside Code Innovation, in developing a mobile application to aid refugee workers supporting sexual assault victims.
- Played an integral role in developing the USAID Bersama Program in Papua, Indonesia, as part of the Winrock International initiatives.
- Contributed to the Odyssey Impact as a consultant for the Recy Taylor Film, a documentary production exposing the legacy of physical abuse of black women.

**Office of the Honorable John R. Lewis, US Rep., Georgia 5th District, Congressional Social Work Fellow** 2015 - 2016

Provided support to constituents in correspondence response, informational tours, and legislative inquiries at the state and national levels.

- Developed policy papers, briefings, and other documents for congressional staff.
- Conducted legal research, developed, and issued briefs on varying policy topics.

**United States Senate Office of Barack Obama D-IL, Special Assistant to the Deputy Director & Chief Counsel Obama for America Presidential Campaign** 2007 - 2009

Liaised across multiple levels of government, including the Legislative, Judicial, and Executive branches, on various research, projects, meetings, and policy issues.

- Collaborated with senior officials in various inter-governmental affairs offices in the development and implementation of special projects.
- Researched legislation and provided briefing papers to the Senator on topics of interest.
- Articulated the Senator's position on policy issues on his behalf at meetings and events.

**Executive Office State of Illinois, Federal and State Liaison** 2004 - 2005

Served as a Member of the National Governor's Association Education, Early Childhood and Workforce Committee. Oversaw policy development, legislation monitoring, and federal appropriations processes.

- Drafted the policy and legislation for the No Child Left Behind Act in collaboration with other agencies to develop state policy positions.
- Monitored legislation on immigration, welfare reform, disability, women's health, healthcare, and education.
- Aided in the procurement of \$200M in funding for NGA's education programs and the overall federal investment in education.

## Board & Commission Leadership

UBER Safety Advisory Board, *Board Member*, 2021 - Present

Leadership Greater Washington, *Board Member*, 2021 - Present

Wheaton College Norton, MA, *Board of Trustees*, 2020 - Present

National Catholic School of Social Service-Catholic Univ., *Board Member*, 2018 - Present

National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, *Board Member*, 2018 - Present

DC Anti Sexual Harassment Commission, *Member*, 2018 - Present

President's Commission, Wheaton College Norton, MA, *Member*, 2018 - 2020

DC Crime Victims Compensation Advisory Commission, *Member*, 2017 - Present

DC Crime Victims Compensation Appeals Board, *Board Member*, 2017 - Present

Women at Risk International Fdn., Lagos, Nigeria, *Advisory Board Member*, 2016 - Present

## Affiliations

Member, Chief (private network that supports and connects other women executive leaders)

Leadership Greater Washington, Class of 2021

Washington, DC Executive Circle

Movement Maker, Move to End Violence

National Association of Social Workers (NASW)



Executive Office of the Mayor – Mayor’s Office of Talent and Appointments  
John A. Wilson Building | 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 600 | Washington, DC 20004

### **Dr. Indira Henard**



Dr. Indira Henard is the Executive Director of the District of Columbia Rape Crisis Center (DCRCC). Dr. Henard has been involved in the violence against women movement for 20 years. Her expertise in gender-based violence is rooted in an anti-oppression, feminist theory and survivor centered model. Dr. Henard’s direct service experience in various gender-based violence programs has helped to inform her policy analysis that has led to coordinating public policy initiatives, organizing and planning space for survivor-led advocacy and educating local and international communities around civic participation within the violence against women movement.

Prior to joining the DCRCC, Dr. Henard served as a Senate Aide for Senator Barack Obama (D-IL) on Capitol Hill, as well as Special Assistant on his Presidential Campaign. Additionally, Dr. Henard has deep ties within the policy sector having served as a Ralph Bunche Institute Fellow at Duke University, a Congressional Truman Fellow on Capitol Hill, and a Charles Hamilton Houston Fellow at Georgetown Law Center.

Dr. Henard’s high-level training and technical assistance provided to local nonprofits and international NGOs has resulted in the repositioning of the sexual assault coalition in the District of Columbia, opening the first rape crisis center in Lagos, Nigeria, as well as a coalition of international NGOs developing a mobile app to aid refugee workers who are working with sexual assault victims. Dr. Henard has been recognized locally, and nationally, for her contributions to the violence against women movement to include, but not limited to receiving the 2020 Washington Women of Excellence Award presented by Mayor Muriel Bowser of Washington, DC.

A Ward 3 resident, Dr. Henard earned her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Wheaton College, her Master of Social Work degree from Catholic University of America, and her Doctorate of Social Work from the University of Southern California.



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Executive Office of Mayor Muriel Bowser

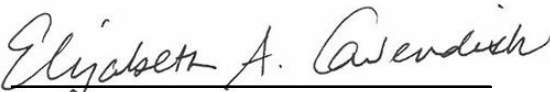


Office of the General Counsel to the Mayor

**To:** Kimberly A. Bassett, Steve Walker  
**From:** Betsy Cavendish  
**Date:** October 7, 2024  
**Subject:** Legal sufficiency review of a resolution reappointing Dr. Indira Henard as a member of the Clemency Board

---

**This is to Certify** that this office has reviewed the above-referenced Order and found it to be legally unobjectionable. If you have any questions in this regard, please do not hesitate to call Michael Porcello, Deputy General Counsel, Executive Office of the Mayor, at 202-727-0872, or me at 202-724-7681.

  
Elizabeth Cavendish