



**VIOLENCE FREE**  
**MINNESOTA**

THE COALITION TO END RELATIONSHIP ABUSE

April 29, 2021

Dear friends and stakeholders of Violence Free Minnesota,

In 2012, when I assumed the executive director role of an organization then called the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women, I thought it would be temporary. I am still in this role a decade later. I am filled with gratitude and awe at all that our coalition has accomplished. We have created a vision plan from the perspectives of over a 100 advocates from across Minnesota; new staff positions to actualize that vision through housing and economic justice; a full 30-year retrospective of our Femicide turned Homicide Report; and rebranded to Violence Free Minnesota.

While leading the coalition for the past decade has been my absolute privilege, I am now choosing to step back and support new leadership at Violence Free Minnesota. My last day as executive director will be June 30th, 2021. I will begin a new journey as Director of Victim Services at the Minnesota Department of Corrections. I look forward to continuing to serve victim/survivors and working with the coalition in a new capacity.

I am working closely with Violence Free Minnesota's board and staff to ensure a smooth transition. In the coming weeks, we will announce an interim management plan while the transition committee begins a search for a new executive director. Our Board Chair, Bree Adams Bill, and the Executive Committee will lead the transition process. We are confident a new executive director will be announced by Violence Free Minnesota's September Annual Meeting.

Violence Free Minnesota is a strong coalition, with a committed board of directors, talented staff, and a diverse and passionate membership. The coalition has an important role in this time of profound societal change. I am excited to see what comes next and certain that Violence Free Minnesota will continue working towards the day we can all live free, without violence.

In coalition,

Liz Richards  
Executive director  
Violence Free Minnesota

A message from Board Chair, Bree Adams Bill, on behalf of Violence Free Minnesota's board of directors:

*Liz has been a thoughtful leader for many years in the movement to end gender-based violence. We are grateful to Liz for carrying forward the mission of the coalition with deep commitment, compassion, and boldness. We applaud her leadership during her tenure and will continue to seek the promise of the future that another world is possible. We are excited to carry Violence Free Minnesota's mission and values forward as we begin the search for a new executive director.*