



## Babylon Alumni & Allies for Change (BAAC)

Est. November 1st, 2021

May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022

The partnership announced today between the Babylon School District, Suffolk County, and Crime Victims Center (CVC) to pilot a program that provides students and parents with a dedicated CVC Advocate at BHS is a positive step forward in addressing the abuses brought to light by the brave BHS survivors who came forward publicly with their traumas.

BAAC is cautiously optimistic about the pilot and looks forward to learning greater details about the program. However, we feel strongly about the necessity of centering survivors in any strategic response to outcries of sexual violence and hope that the institutions organizing such will include the victims themselves to inform any strategy going forward.

To that end, in recent months BAAC has begun to work directly with the Board of Education Policy Committee and members of the parent community to help revise the Staff-Student Relations (formerly Fraternization) Policy. In sitting at this table, it has become abundantly clear that the perspective of survivors is integral to the adequate and effective shaping of preventative policies. Without the inclusion of the intimate knowledge of these crimes, along with the specific context of having walked the halls of BHS, efforts to affect meaningful change risk falling short of their ultimate goals.

BAAC is ready and willing to step up and support the implementation of the pilot, a move that would demonstrate the allyship of the Babylon School District, Suffolk County, and CVC. In the meantime, our collective lead by survivors will continue to chip away at the institutional issues which allowed for these abuses to go unaddressed for too long through our educative efforts aimed at alumni, parents, and current students, as well as advocating for policy change at the local level.

Our vision is for Babylon to become a beacon of hope for other survivors across Long Island and the nation as a whole, as an example of how a group of brave women came forward to speak their truths, demanded change, and played a direct role in affecting that change.

Please learn more about how you can support our efforts on our website at [wegotyourbaac.org](http://wegotyourbaac.org)

**For questions about the information contained within this press release or about BAAC and its goals, please contact the team at [wegotyourbaac@gmail.com](mailto:wegotyourbaac@gmail.com).**

### **ABOUT BAAC**

The Babylon Alumni and Allies for Change are a collective who believe that the past abuses revealed by survivors who have come forward deserve to be reckoned with and prevented in the future. We are working to provide healing safe spaces for survivors, while seeking justice and accountability for their experiences, and establishing preventative policies and practices in the Babylon School District.

Learn more at: [wegotyourbaac.org](http://wegotyourbaac.org)