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# Rise Up Against Abuse Rally held at Andrews University

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## Rise Up Against Abuse Rally held at Andrews University

BERRIEN SPRINGS, Mich.—The first-ever Rise Up Against Abuse Rally was held on the campus of Andrews University March 7–10. Sponsored by the offices of University Wellness and Diversity & Inclusion, this rally was the official launch of the new Rise Up Against Abuse initiative, designed to help people use awareness, education, intervention and prevention to take decisive actions against all forms of abuse. More than 225 people registered for the three-day rally, which featured numerous abuse survivors, advocates and inspirational presenters, including two-time Grammy nominee Sarah Kelly and Emmy-winning writer and filmmaker Chris Silber. There were workshops, trainings, presentations and expert panels, as well as a concert, Zumba party, photo exhibition and a Solidarity Wall project.

The rally began Thursday at University Forum in the Howard Performing Arts Center with Sarah Kelly. Following Kelly's poignant presentation and mini-concert, attendees were invited to visit the Solidarity Wall, a temporary wall erected outside of the Campus Center for people to write messages of empowerment and support. This was the first time the Solidarity Wall, founded by Ty Gibson, has been brought to an Adventist campus.

On Thursday evening, a photo exhibition premiere and reception were held for "Unredacted," a violence against women photo exhibition created by Clarissa Carbungco, senior Photography major at Andrews University.

The rally continued Friday, March 8, International Women's Day, with a number of presentations. Jennifer J. Schwirzer, a private counselor, writer, TV program host and presenter from Orlando, began a topic which mirrored the goals of the overall rally — to educate, listen, prevent and confront.

Clarissa Carbungco



▲ The Rise Up Against Abuse Rally was held March 7–10 on the campus of Andrews University. Lead organizers were Dominique Gummelt, director for University Wellness, and Michael Nixon, vice president for Diversity & Inclusion.

Sarah McDugal, Andrews alum, author, speaker and co-founder of Bucket Brigade Against Abuse and WILD (Women in Leadership Development), stressed the importance of being equipped with knowledge and truth in her presentation, "Truths About Abusers." She emphasized that abuse is not a set of isolated mistakes but rather a systemic pattern of beliefs and actions. "You can believe some of what they say and everything they do," she stated.

The Psalm 82 Initiative, a ministry team helping churches identify and deal with abuse for more than 15 years, shared about patterns of abuse. The goal was to equip people to recognize abuse patterns and offer help. Judith Fisher, director of the Counseling and Testing Center at Andrews University, and Nicole Parker, bestselling children's author and biblical counselor, talked about recognizing abuse, focusing specifically on emotional and sexual abuse. Following their presentation, Tanya Asim-Cooper, director of the Restoration and Justice Clinic and assistant clinical professor of law at the Pepperdine School of Law, used true stories and statistics to address interpretations of the Christian Bible as it applies to intimate partner violence (IPV).

The second day of the rally ended Friday evening at Proximity Vespers in Pioneer Memorial Church. Sarah Kelly performed and also shared more of her story. She invited the audience to understand the power of worship and how it can help someone going through

the pain of abuse. "Worship is an awesome place to find the rest of your life," she said.

After a moving song service, Latoya Wright, an MDiv student at the Seminary, read the story of Tamar in 2 Samuel 13, and discussed how the ugliness of that story still happens today. She told her story of being a victim of sexual abuse and how that impacted her life for years. In her poignant, raw testimony, Wright explained what she calls "the power of the ugly," stating, "When God's power overrides the ugly, that's when it becomes the power of the ugly." She implored the audience to let God take the ugly out of their lives and let Him write their stories.

On Sabbath morning, Sarah McDugal spoke at One Place in Newbold Auditorium while Ty Gibson spoke at Pioneer Memorial Church. Then, Saturday afternoon, Ty Gibson and Tacyana Nixon, assistant to the vice president for Campus & Student Life at Andrews University, hosted a discussion panel in the PMC Youth Chapel. Part 1 of the panel dealt with questions and concerns related to the church's involvement with abuse. Part 2 addressed the effects of abuse. Some of the questions raised included how to talk to children about abuse and how to minimize their chances of being abused. ■

For the full article, please visit: [www.andrews.edu/agenda/52531/](http://www.andrews.edu/agenda/52531/).

Hannah Gallant, University Communication student writer (with contributions from Nehemiah Sittler and Laura Fierce)

# MAY

## ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

### GENERAL EVENTS

**May 3, 8 p.m.:** Graduation — Consecration, PMC

**May 4, 9 and 11:45 a.m.:** Graduation — Baccalaureate Services, PMC

**May 4, 8 p.m.:** Graduation — Vespers, PMC

**May 5, 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.:** Graduation — Spring Commencements, PMC

**May 17–18:** SABOR Camp meeting

**May 22–25:** Andrews Research Conference 2019: Early Career Researchers and Creative Scholars in the Arts and Humanities

**May 24–26:** Andrews Academy Graduation Weekend

**May 30:** Ruth Murdoch Elementary School 8th-grade Graduation

Happy  
Mother's Day

## HOWARD PERFORMING ARTS CENTER EVENTS

For more information on the following events and to purchase tickets, call 888-467-6442 or 269-471-3560, or visit [howard.andrews.edu](http://howard.andrews.edu).

**May 7, 7 p.m.:** Andrews Academy Vocal and Orchestra Spring Concert

**May 9, 7 p.m.:** Andrews Academy Band and Bells Spring Concert

**May 12, 4 p.m.:** Lake Michigan Youth Orchestra

**May 14, 7 p.m.:** Ruth Murdoch Elementary School Band and Bells Spring Concert

**May 16, 7 p.m.:** Ruth Murdoch Elementary School Vocal and Orchestra Spring Concert

**May 20, 7 p.m.:** Berrien Springs High School and Middle School Concert

## ILLINOIS

**May 1, 4 and 5:** "The Music Man," Hinsdale Adventist Academy

**May 3–5:** Pathfinder Spring Camporee, Camp Akita

**May 10–21:** Young Adult Mission Trip with ShareHim to Cuba

**May 23–26:** Hinsdale Academy Graduation Weekend

## INDIANA

**May 3–5:** Pathfinder Fair, Timber Ridge Camp

**May 17–19:** Adventurer Family Weekend, Timber Ridge Camp

**May 24–25:** Indiana Academy Graduation Weekend

## LAKE REGION

**May 3–5:** Illiana Youth Federation, Capitol City Church, Indianapolis

**May 4:** Touch 10K Challenge, Capitol City Church, Indianapolis

**May 4–5:** Impact Kids for Ministry, Capitol City Church, Indianapolis

**May 17–19:** Michiana Youth Federation, Camp Wagner

**May 31–June 3:** Adventurer Fun Escape, Camp Wagner

## MICHIGAN

**May 3–5:** Jesus on Prophecy UP Rally/ Training, Camp Sagola

**May 17–19:** Pathfinder Fair, Camp Au Sable

**May 24–26:** Great Lakes Adventist Academy Graduation Weekend

**May 24–26:** Hispanic Camp Meeting, Camp Au Sable

## WISCONSIN

**May 5:** Adventurer Fun, Camp Wakonda

**May 11:** Hispanic Brotherhood, Milwaukee School Gymnasium

**May 17–24:** Pathfinder Fair, Camp Wakonda

**May 24–26:** Wisconsin Academy Graduation Weekend