



Dr. Valerie R. Ekue

Dr. Valerie R. Ekue is currently the Director of Member Support and Community Justice for the South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. She provides expert training and technical assistance for 22 member organizations, affiliate members, statewide community partners and allies. Dr. Ekue is passionate about educating service providers and grassroots leaders on the intersections of domestic and sexual violence, particularly for marginalized communities in South Carolina. Dr. Ekue has researched a typology of barriers preventing African American women from self-reporting abuse to formal support service providers in South Carolina. She believes domestic and sexual violence thrives in silence; therefore having a community collaborative response that takes an intersectional approach and addresses these and other intersecting issues from a cultural perspective and a trauma-informed lens is vital to reducing all forms of domestic and sexual violence in our state. Dr. Ekue is also passionate about social justice issues impacting communities of color and serves on the Race Equity and Inclusion Collaborative. She is also a collaborative partner with the Domestic Violence Coordinating Councils, S.C. Workforce Collaborative and Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board. Dr. Ekue also chairs the Women Empowerment Network and Women and Gender Study Council collaborative and co-chairs the DSS Liaisons roundtable. She manages the Communities of Color Engagement Initiative at SCCADVASA.

Dr. Ekue serves on the Board of Kindred Hearts of South Carolina and is very passionate about centering the diverse and intersecting needs of kinship caregivers.

Dr. Ekue is married and has four amazing children and three wonderful grandsons. She is an avid reader and a lifelong learner and researcher who enjoy traveling, music and spending time with family and close friends. She also loves working with youths with complex trauma histories and other vulnerable populations.