

## Speakers Bureau Newsletter

By Sara Snyder, Speakers Bureau Manager • Feb 29, 2024  
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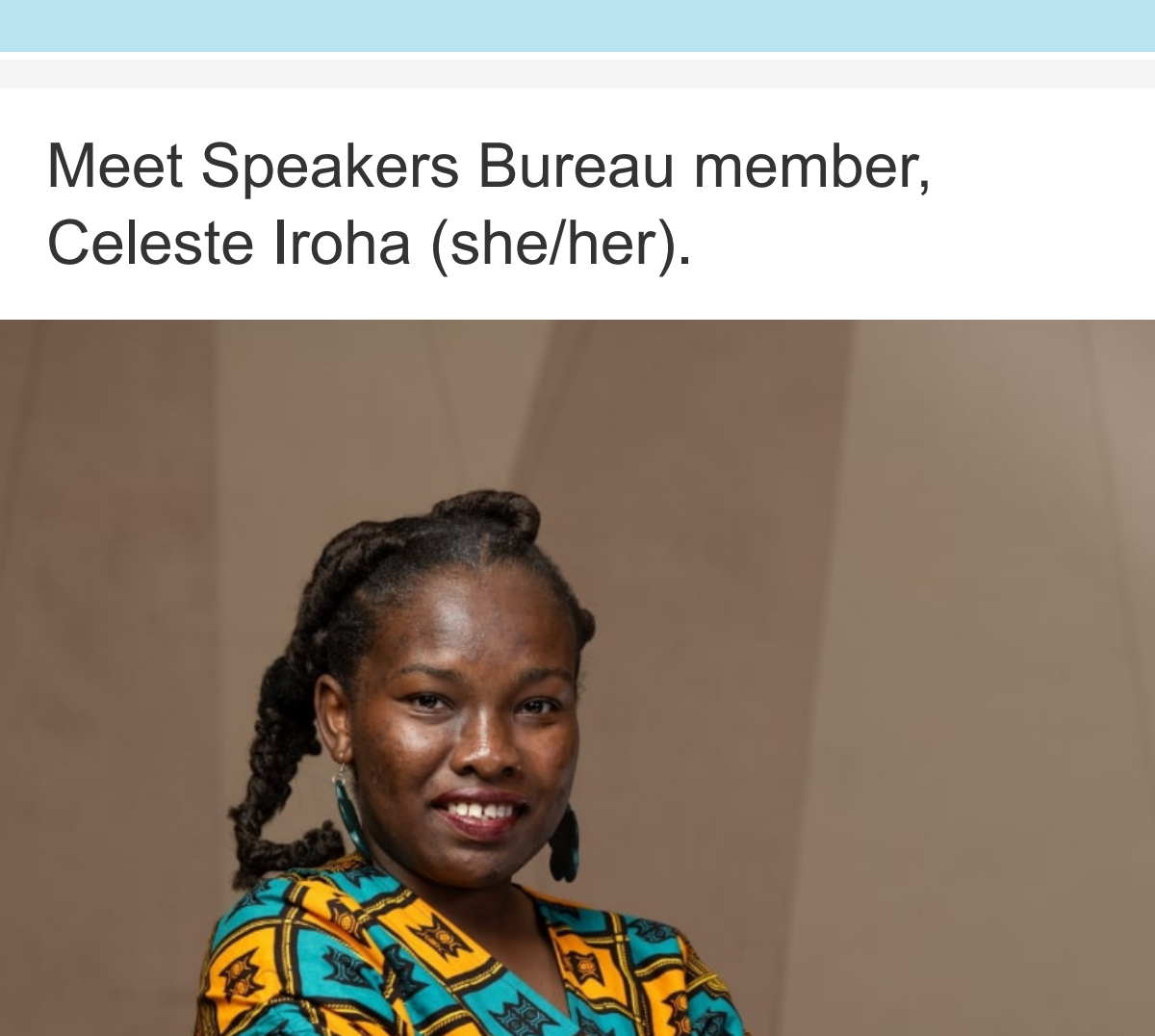
### Speakers Bureau Highlights

#### Black History Month Survivor Summit: Intergenerational Trauma



In honor of Black History Month, we encourage you to [watch our Survivor Summit](#) about Intergenerational Trauma. This is a discussion featuring Speakers Bureau members [Jerome Whitehead](#), [Tracy Green](#), and [Gail Gardner](#) on disclosing sexual abuse, intergenerational trauma, and healing emotionally and mentally through community resources.

#### Thank You, January Speakers!



For the month of January, there were a total of 17 opportunities. We had speaking opportunities in **California, Idaho, Illinois, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.**

If you would like to see a full list of our speaking opportunities, please visit the [Speakers Bureau Portal](#).

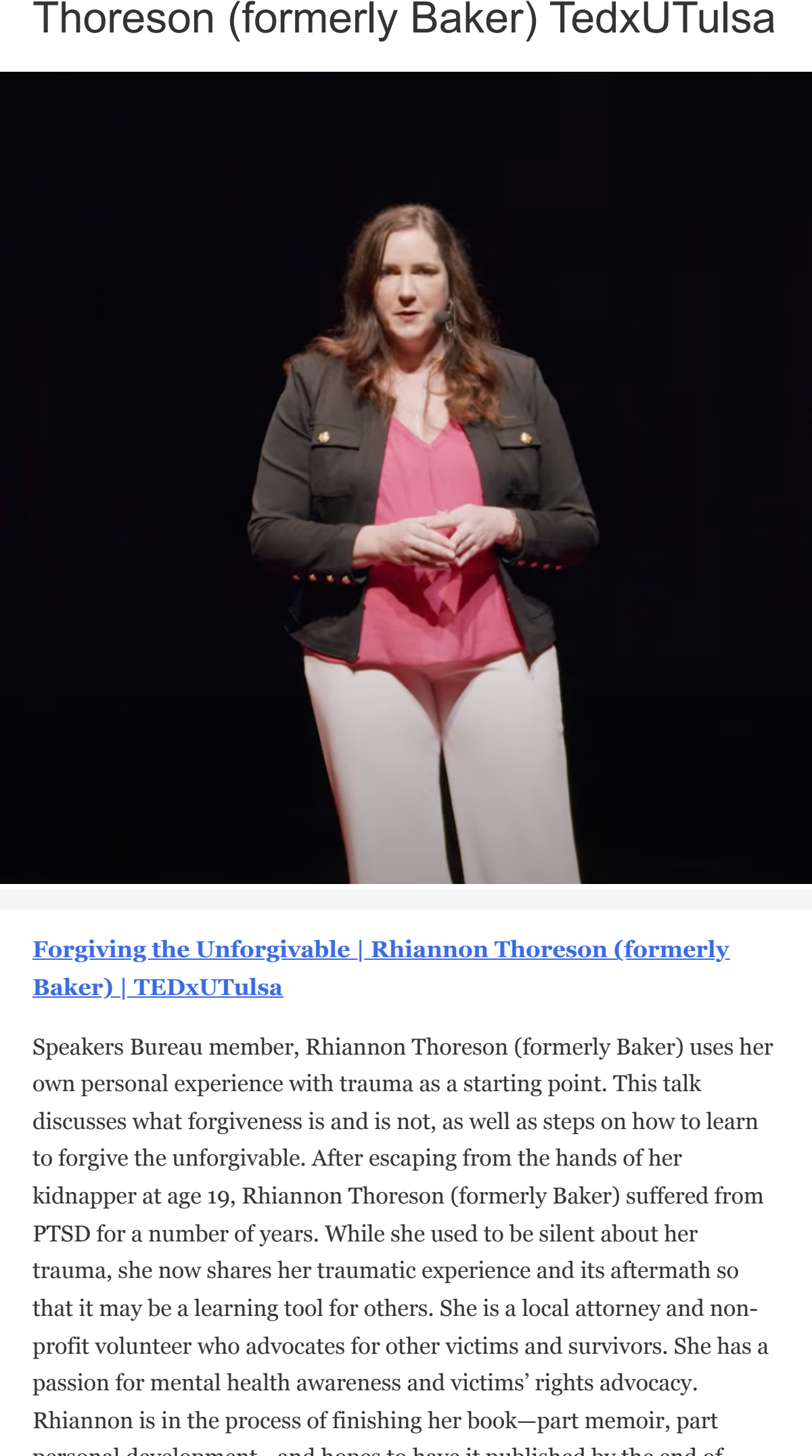
### Speaking Story Highlights

Each month, we want to highlight members from the RAINN Speakers Bureau throughout the country who have participated in speaking opportunities. Would you like your story highlighted?

[Fill out this form!](#)

### Survivor Highlights

#### Meet Speakers Bureau member, Celeste Iroha (she/her).



Meet Speakers Bureau member, Celeste Iroha (she/her). Celeste joined the Speakers Bureau in 2023 because she wanted to be able to share her story and experiences with no judgment from this community. Knowing that RAINN is an organization that allows this, it is where she was meant to be.

**If you were to write a book about yourself, what would you name it?**

“That after all my pain and trauma, I rose up from the ashes and became ME.”

**Can you tell us about your favorite experience through the Speakers Bureau?**

“I Became ME”

**Describe a memory that brings a smile to your face.**

“Declaring my candidacy for Congress this year and being invited to the White House by President Biden.”

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[Fill out this form.](#)

### Sara's Corner



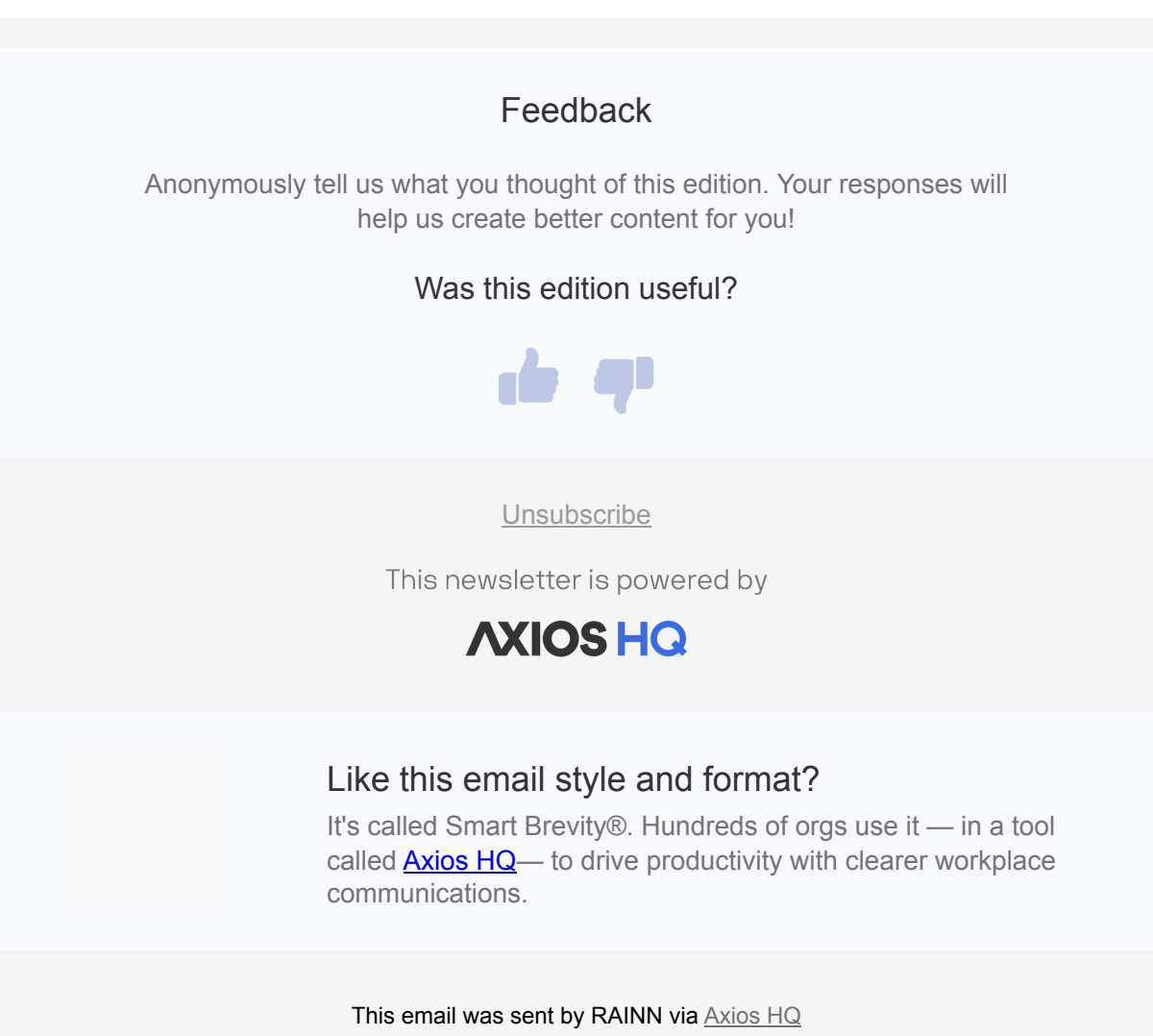
Sara Snyder manages the RAINN Speakers Bureau and cultivates this community.

We're excited to say that there has been a lot of behind-the-scenes work for the improvement of your experience as a Speakers Bureau member. One of our updates is designing a way for you to update your communication preferences so that you're getting more of what you want from the Speaker's Bureau. You can update your communication preferences for the Speakers Bureau [using this form](#).

As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or feedback, please send us an email at [speakersbureau@rainn.org](mailto:speakersbureau@rainn.org).

### Member Projects

#### “Forgiving the Unforgivable” Rhiannon Thoreson (formerly Baker) TedxUTulsa



[Forgiving the Unforgivable | Rhiannon Thoreson \(formerly Baker\) | TEDxUTulsa](#)

Speakers Bureau member, Rhiannon Thoreson (formerly Baker) uses her own personal experience with trauma as a starting point. This talk discusses what forgiveness is and is not, as well as steps on how to learn to forgive the unforgivable. After escaping from the hands of her kidnapper at age 19, Rhiannon Thoreson (formerly Baker) suffered from PTSD for a number of years. While she used to be silent about her trauma, she now shares her traumatic experience and its aftermath so that it may be a learning tool for others. She is a local attorney and non-profit volunteer who advocates for other victims and survivors. She has a passion for mental health awareness and victims' rights advocacy. Rhiannon is in the process of finishing her book—part memoir, part personal development—and hopes to have it published by the end of 2024. You can find her on [LinkedIn as Rhiannon K. Thoreson \(formerly Baker\)](#).

This talk was given at a TEDx event using the TED conference format but independently organized by a local community. Learn more at <https://www.ted.com/tedx>

Have you recently published a book, participated in a fundraiser, or completed some other project having to do with RAINN or your survivor story and would like to share it with members? Please email [speakersbureau@rainn.org](mailto:speakersbureau@rainn.org)

### Policy Corner

We are excited to announce RAINN's Congressional Day of Action, and we want to invite you to come along!

#### What is RAINN's Congressional Day of Action?

**During the week of April 15**, Speakers Bureau members are invited to join RAINN team members to participate in a day of meetings on Capitol Hill asking Congress for bills that help survivors, prevent sexual violence, and open options for justice. In small groups, you'll speak in person with Senators and Representatives, and share your commitment to ending sexual violence.

We will follow up in the coming weeks on the specific date we will lobby on Capitol Hill.

#### Where is the Congressional Day of Action taking place?

The advocacy activities will occur on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, with a closing reception at RAINN headquarters at 1220 L Street NW Washington, DC 20005.

#### Is there anything else I should know about the Congressional Day of Action?

Ahead of the Congressional Day of Action, RAINN Policy Staff will host virtual advocacy training sessions to prepare participants for their time on the Hill.

Participating in legislative advocacy is powerful but can be exhausting, especially for individuals who choose to share their personal experiences of sexual violence. RAINN will have support options present on the advocacy day.

#### How do I sign up?

If you are interested in participating in the Congressional Day of Action, [please complete this form](#). We'd love you to join us on Capitol Hill to create change! We will contact everyone who fills out the form with more details and information in the next two weeks.

For more in-depth information about the Congressional Day of Action, [please visit this email](#).

### Updates & Reminders

#### Speakers Bureau Applications are Closed

As of October 1, 2023, we have closed applications for new Speakers Bureau members. Applications will re-open in the **Spring of 2024**.

#### RAINN News Newsletter

Get more RAINN news and resources in your inbox when you sign up for RAINN's eNewsletter. [Subscribe today!](#)

### Self-Care

#### Safer Tips: Online Dating and Dating Apps

What is a “safer tip”? RAINN's “Safer Tips” provide useful, actionable guidance for safer interactions. We say “safer” because no sexual violence “safety” tip is ever a promise of safety, and the only one responsible for sexual assault is a perpetrator. Full stop.

Online dating and dating apps can be a great way to make meaningful connections with people you may not have met otherwise. But connecting online or meeting up in real life with someone new comes with its own risks. RAINN serves on the advisory council for Match Group, which runs Tinder and other dating platforms, and we developed these “safer” tips to help you navigate online dating and dating apps. Share graphics below to spread awareness and [read more about safer online dating tips](#).

### RAINN Job Openings

If you are looking to become more involved with RAINN, please view [our current job openings](#):

[Safe Helpline Staffer \(Friday through Tuesday: 11a.m. to 7p.m. EST\)](#)

[Safe Helpline Staffer \(Sunday through Thursday - 7a.m. - 3p.m. EST\)](#)

[DoD Safe Helpline Staffer \(Part Time\)](#)

[Senior Web Manager](#)

[DoD Safe Helpline Morning Shift Manager \(Thursday-Monday: 7am-3pm EST\)](#)

[John and Lauren Marciano Legal Fellowship](#)

[NSAH Hotline Services Manager](#)

[NSAH Bilingual Evening Coaching Shift Manager](#)

### Communication Preferences

As we continue to make enhancements to the Bureau, we want to update our communications preferences for all members.

As a Speakers Bureau member, you receive the **Speakers Bureau Newsletter** (which provides highlights of the Bureau, member stories/projects, events, policy updates, RAINN job openings, and more) and email communications about **opportunities to speak and share your story**.

Please [complete this form](#) to update your future communications and membership status preferences.

#### Feedback

Anonymously tell us what you thought of this edition. Your responses will help us create better content for you!

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