



## Debra J. Robbin, Ed.M. Recipient of the Pillar of Hope Award

For more than 35 years, Debra J. Robbin has been a local and statewide leader in MA developing programs at the intersections of gender-based violence and racial equity. Originally from Chicago, Debra moved to MA for college and has worked in several sexual assault and domestic violence organizations including Daybreak in Worcester, as the Executive Director of The Women's Center in

New Bedford and as Director of Education and Public Affairs at Casa Myrna in Boston. Debra has been an advocate for survivors and has designed and directed innovative programming initiatives for providers, the public, and youth reaching diverse communities across the Commonwealth.

A graduate of Clark University and the Harvard Graduate School of Education, Debra has served in several leadership roles at Jane Doe Inc. the MA Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence for the past 20 years. Since 2013, she has been JDI's Executive Director, leading a coalition of nearly 60 community based sexual and domestic violence nonprofit organizations in Massachusetts focusing on expanding resources for survivors, creating responsive public policy initiatives and promoting prevention as a critical response to ending sexual and domestic violence. Debra has been a board member of the MA Governor's Council to Address Sexual and Domestic Violence and the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence.

This fall, Debra leaves JDI as a strong and vibrant coalition in MA to pursue a new chapter in coaching and consulting with a focus on working with leaders and organizations committed to social justice. Her passion for activism, changemaking, and building a world without violence continues.