

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Women Race Set For June 2, Pre-Registration Opens Monday

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The Women's Coalition of St. Croix (WCSC) will host the 35th Annual Women Race on Sunday, June 2, in Frederiksted, the coalition has announced. Pre-registration for WCSC's annual two-mile race for women and girls will begin at selected locations starting Monday. The Women Race is organized by the V.I. Pace Runners for WCSC.

"We are very grateful to the community for supporting the Women Race for 34 years. This event means a lot to victims and survivors, in our community. Year after year, we've created a safe space for women and girls to participate in healthy activity, with encouragement from the community. It's also important that survivors have this opportunity to see and know that the community supports them in healing," said Clema

Lewis, WCSC's executive director.

Only women and girls may enter the Women Race. "Participants can run, jog, walk and push strollers, so our little future 'Racers' can join the fun," said Carolyn Forno, WCSC's assistant director.

Survivors of violence participate in the Women Race, proudly demonstrating growth and healing from the trauma of abusive relationships, sexual assault and other crimes. Supporters of all gender identities are welcome to join the fun at this festive event. Males and anyone not registered cheer on the Racers as they move through the streets of Frederiksted and the waterfront paths. A lively warm-up session will help participants get ready for the Race, with music by DJ Myron playing throughout the event. Special guest performers will also entertain the crowd during the afternoon.

Pre-registration, starts on Monday, May 20, and is available through WCSC's secure online form and at the following locations:

- WCSC's Main Office/Crisis Center - 45 Fisher Street, Christiansted
- WCSC's Closet To Closet Thrift Store - 15 Peter's Restln

In addition, registration tables will be at the following locations on the two Saturdays listed below, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon:

1. May 25th - Cost-U-Less, Kmart - Sunny Isle Shopping Center, Plaza Extra West
2. June 1st - Cost-U-Less, Kmart - Sunny Isle Shopping Center, Plaza Extra West

The pre-registration entry fee is \$20, and includes a specially-designed t-shirt. Registration on Race Day is \$25. Girls aged 13 and under can register for \$1, t-shirt not included.

Schools, organizations, groups and businesses may enter teams in the Women Race. Teams who pre-register will receive special certificates. The fastest team (minimum of five members) will receive a trophy. The Mary Mingus Trophy will be awarded to the school with the most participants. Awards will be given to "Racers" in several categories, including presentations to overall winners and top age-group finishers.

WCSC said its mission is to support and empower people impacted by violence. Contact WCSC for more information at (340)773-9272, or visit WCSC's website, wcstx.org, for more information on the Women Race and no-cost advocacy, programs and services for victims survivors of violence.