

# 2020 Lavinia Masters

## Sexual Assault Advocate & Legislative Trailblazer

Sexual assault survivor, Author, Survivors Coach, and Founder of Hope S.A.V.E.S. (Sexual Assault Victims Empowered 2 Speak), Lavinia Masters has over 25 years of sexual assault advocacy experience. After being sexually assaulted at 13, Lavinia endured an invasive and extensive examination, lasting several hours, only to be told the remnants of her attacker's DNA would be processed. That rape kit remained on police shelves for 21 years.

But not only hers, but hundreds of other sexual assault victims. Partnering with Texas State Representative, Victoria Neave (D), the two worked tirelessly to present House Bill 8 -The Lavinia Masters Act; landmark legislation presented and passing in the 86th Legislature dealing with 'the criminal statute of limitations for certain sexual offenses and the collection, analysis, and preservation of evidence of sexual assault and other sex offenses'.

She's also worked alongside the Dallas Police Department Sexual Assault Cold Case Program, the US Justice Department, and the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA) as well as served with Senator Wendy Davis (D), Senator John Cornyn (R), former Dallas District Attorney Craig Watkins, former Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan (D), State Rep. Ina Minjarez (D) as well as having the honor of serving on the Bipartisan Task Force to End Sexual Violence w/Congresswoman Jackie Speier, Rep. Annie Kuster, Patrick Meehan, David Joyce and Emmy Award winning actress, Mariska Hartigay. She also serves as a volunteer on the Speaker Bureau with the Rape Abuse & Incest Network (RAINN) as well with the Denton County Friends of the Family Speakers Bureau and Sexual Assault Response Team (SART).

She is the recipient of the:  
Real Life Hero Award, Presented by Texas Trailblazers/Family Place, 2019  
Points of Light Award, Presented by Points of Light, 2019

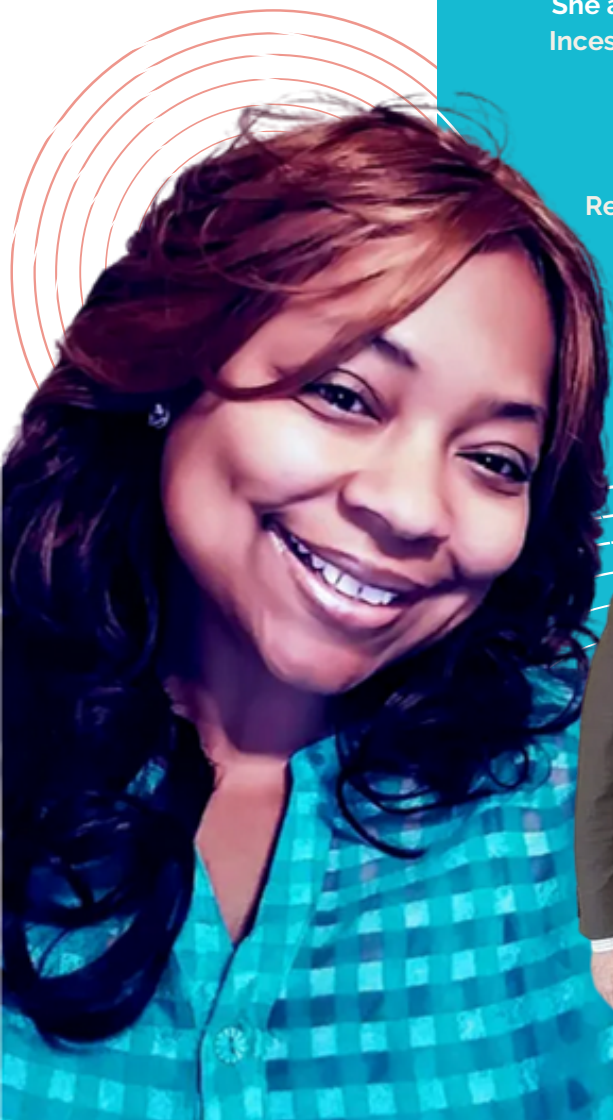
She's written two books:  
'Breathe Again: How Rape Brought A Girl From Misery Into A Woman Of Ministry' and 'Genie In A Bottle: Poetry Inspired By Sexual Assault'

She's the mother of two adorable sons and is happily married to Pastor Ricky Masters.

As Seen On



For speaking, panel, or interviews, visit  
[hopesavesministry.org](http://hopesavesministry.org)



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Texas House Bill 8 - The Lavinia Masters Act