

KEEPIN' IT



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ISSUE 12 OCT - DEC 2024

Advocating
Against Romance
Scammers



THIS YEAR IN REVIEW

Another remarkable year for AARS in the fight against online romance scams! The year kicked off with an invitation from the United Nations to present on the connections between online romance scams and Transnational Organized Crime. AARS was the sole representative from the United States. Co-founder and Executive Director, Kathy Waters, joined other subject matter experts from around the globe at the Expert Group Meeting (EGM) held in Austria, participating virtually alongside five other attendees. On October 14, 2024, the Organized Fraud Issue Paper was prepared by the Conference Support Section of the Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch, Division for Treaty Affairs at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). This document was drafted by Michael Skidmore, incorporating insights from those who participated in the EGM earlier in the year.

From February 1, 2024, to August 31, 2024, AARS launched the "MY VOICE" Campaign. With the support of numerous allies, we successfully collected over 148 cards from various countries worldwide. Each card was sent to a representative of the victims in their respective areas, who are dedicated to ensuring online platform safety. All the collected data (excluding participants' names) will be compiled into a detailed report and shared with the relevant legislative committee members in the United States who focus on online safety, as well as with every participating country that received victim cards. Due to the shifts in power in the U.S., the report will be released at the beginning of 2025 and will be made available on the AARS website and across social media channels.

CONTENTS

- 1 THIS YEAR IN REVIEW
- 2 World Romance Scam Prevention Day was Another Huge Success!
- 3 AARS Website Provides...
- 4 MRS. JANCE HART, CA
- 5 It's What We Do
- 6 Looking for a Few Great Podcasts?

Send any questions or comments to: aars@advocatingforu.com

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World Romance Scam Prevention Day, Was Another Huge Success!



WORLD ROMANCE SCAM PREVENTION DAY

OCTOBER 3RD

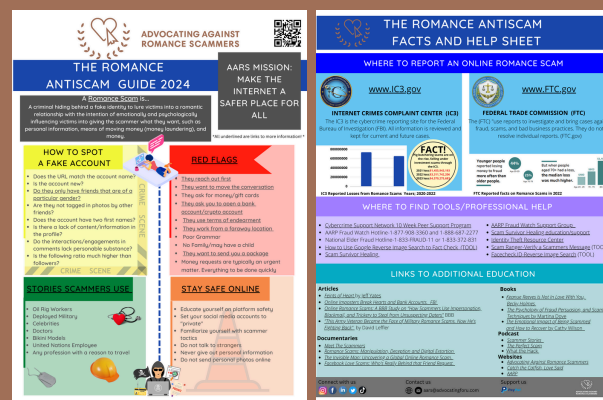
FIGHTING FRAUD AND FUELING EDUCATION

On October 3, AARS celebrated the second annual World Romance Scam Prevention Day. With the help of our Champion sponsors—Mr. Adam Levin from What the Hack with Adam Levin, Match Group, and Electronic Caregiver—we participated in seven meetings from October 2 to October 3, 2024. During these meetings, we presented lawmakers with their constituents' "MY VOICE" cards and discussed securing additional funding for law enforcement to tackle fraud cases. We also educated them about CDA 230 and its negative impacts on online users while sharing our personal experiences with this crime and exploring future steps. Those present included AARS Co-founders Kathy Waters and Ret. Col. Bryan Denny, board members Ret. SA Roger Campbell, Julie Golub, April Helm, and our valued friend and supporter, Adam Levin. Behind the scenes, AARS board member Janice Hart from CA collaborated with Sinate Media to ensure victims received real-time information.

AARS WEBSITE PROVIDES...

1. Where to report a romance scam
2. Educational Resources
3. Social Media safety tips
4. How to identify a romance scammer
5. Stories from Identity Theft Victims
6. The latest advocating from AARS
7. Photo library of pictures used in scams
8. Option of how you can help the cause

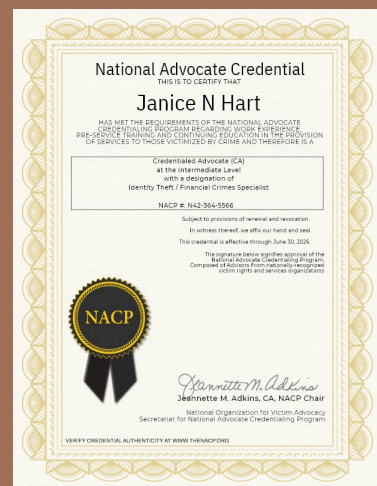
Check us out and download your free 1 page UPDATED 2024 "help sheet" on romance scams!



This trip was remarkably successful, and we eagerly anticipate what next year will bring, along with the individuals we can assist and educate during that time.

Mrs. Janice Hart, CA

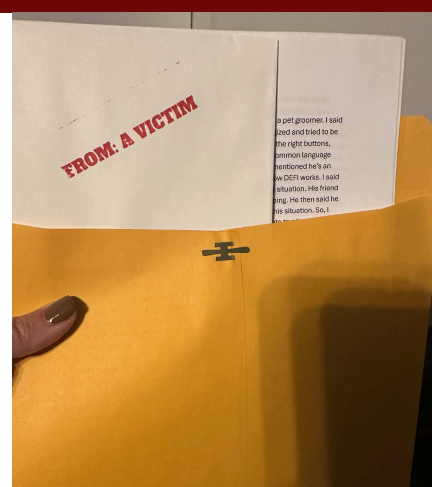
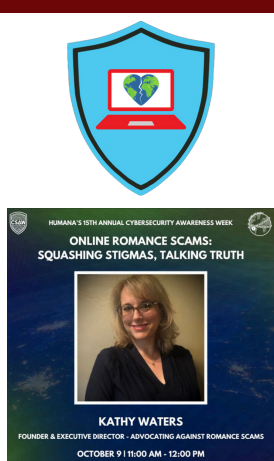
In June, Mrs. Janice Hart, CA, achieved certification as an Intermediate Level Certified Advocate with a specialization in Identity Theft and Financial Crimes through the National Organization for Victim Advocacy (NOVA). In addition to her full-time role as Reputation Manager for Electronic Caregiver, under CEO Anthony Dohrmann, Jan dedicated her time to volunteering with AARS while pursuing her certification. We are immensely grateful to have Jan as a valued member of the AARS family.



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It's What We Do!

AARS also had their hands in a few different educational pieces. Mrs. Janice Hart, CA was an expert guest on AARP's podcast The Perfect Scam, Mrs. Kathy Waters spoke at the National Center for Victims of Crime Conference, for the UNODC, and for Humana's 15th Annual Cybersecurity Awareness Week.

Material-wise, we created a new tool for family and friends of victims called, "A Loved One's Guide on Romance Scams." We also revamped our brochures just in time for our meetings in Washington, D.C.

In March of 2025, Roger Campbell was invited by Chain Abuse and will be a moderator at the SXSW Conference held in Austin, TX for speakers from both Chain Abuse and Match Group! We also look forward to our new website launch sometime next year! And finally, AARS will be working on a comprehensive report based on the "MY VOICE" Campaign, with the goal of distributing to those mentioned above in the previous section, "This Year in Review."

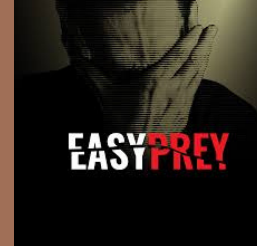
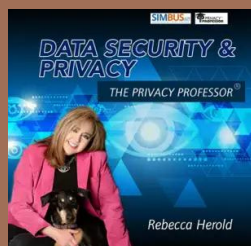
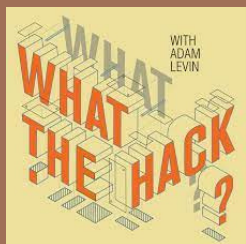
We would also like to acknowledge all of the other anti-scam advocates and groups that continue to help victims (those scammed, identity theft, and their friends and families) on a daily, hourly, and minute-by-minute basis.



"MY VOICE"
Campaign



LOOKING FOR A FEW GREAT PODCASTS?



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