



DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION

SIGNATURE PROGRAM

ADVOCATING for Victims... EDUCATION for All

“All advocacy is, at its core, an exercise in empathy.” – SAMANTHA POWER

“An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.” – BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

The goal of the GFWC Signature Program is to increase awareness of and help prevent the widespread occurrence of domestic abuse in communities across the Nation by working with national domestic violence networks, supporting existing activities, working with various established programs, and initiating educational opportunities for club members and local citizens. GFWC aims to be a powerful voice for those who have no voice.

In partnership with GFWC and community members, we pledge to work together with passion and purpose to **advocate** for survivors of domestic and/or sexual violence and **educate** the public on the prevalence of domestic and sexual violence in our local communities and how informing members can improve outcomes for survivors.

The Signature Program has eight areas of focus:

Campus Sexual Assault

Campus sexual assault is any type of sexual contact or behavior that occurs on a school campus without the explicit consent of the recipient.

Child Abuse

Child abuse includes all types of abuse and neglect of a child under the age of 18 by a parent, caregiver, or another person in a custodial role that results in harm, potential for harm, or threat of harm to a child.

Elder Abuse

Abuse later in life includes the physical, sexual, or psychological abuse, neglect, financial exploitation, or stalking of an adult age 50 years or older.

Human Trafficking for Sexual Purposes

Sexual human trafficking is any act that has been induced by recruitment, harboring, transporting, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for purposes of a sex act in which anything of value is given to or received by any person.



2022-2024

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Intimate Partner Violence

Intimate partner violence (IPV) includes physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, as well as sexual coercion and stalking by a current or former intimate partner. An intimate partner is a person with whom a person has or had a close personal or sexual relationship.

Military Sexual Assault

Military sexual assault is the use of force, threats, intimidation, or abuse of authority during sexual contact. It also includes instances where the survivor is unable to consent. Survivors of military sexual assault include both men and women.

Teen Dating Violence

Teen dating violence (TDV) — also called intimate relationship violence or intimate partner violence among adolescents or adolescent relationship abuse — includes physical, psychological, or sexual abuse; harassment; or stalking of any person ages 12 to 18 in the context of a past or present romantic or consensual relationship. For more information about teen dating violence, visit <https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/crimes/teen-dating-violence>

Violence Against Native American Women

American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) women and two-spirit people in tribal communities are disproportionately affected by sexual and gender-based violence in the United States. Research and advocacy have brought attention to the unique nature of victimization in our AIAN communities.



COMMUNITY CONNECTION INITIATIVE: RAISE AWARENESS TO HOPE AND HELP



Anthony Blankin, Secretary of State, wrote in a January Press Release, *“Human trafficking erodes the rule of law, the safety of our communities, the security of our borders, and the strength of our economy.”* <https://www.state.gov/working-together-to-address-human-trafficking/>

Human trafficking is a horrific crime that affects an estimated 14,500 to 17,500 in the Nation according to the U.S. Department of State, involving 16,658 individual victims annually. Your club’s involvement will be critical to our educating communities and offering avenues of assistance.

To raise awareness among employees, community and industry partners, and the public, we encourage clubs to provide the following materials in communities:

- Information cards recognizing signs of human trafficking for all DOT vehicles.
- Wallet cards that include details on what to look for and how to report suspected trafficking.
- Large posters for restaurants, gas stations, and other public areas.
- Restroom stall signs for roadside rest areas and Travel Information Centers in surrounding communities.

These materials raise public awareness and provide victims of human trafficking with critical information on how to reach out for help. Partner with DOT, local businesses, and other Human Trafficking Advocacy groups in the community to provide information cards and install bathroom stickers, large signage, and hotline information throughout your community. <https://www.state.gov/reports/2021-trafficking-in-persons-report/>



TEEN DATING VIOLENCE PREVENTION

The GFWC AI Brown Junioettes (NC) focused on Break the Cycle, a website for teen dating violence prevention, in February for Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. Members made posters and displayed them throughout their school. As a way to promote healthy teen relationships, they organized special emphasis days at school, including "Wear Orange," to spread awareness; "It's Time to Talk;" and "Thunder Clap for National Awareness."



SHOE CARDS

The GFWC Village Improvement Association of Rehoboth Beach (DE) distributed 500 "shoe cards" in July and August 2020 to six beauty salons with hotline numbers for women needing help related to domestic violence. Obtained from the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence at no cost, the cards are small enough to hide in a woman's shoe.



WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY

GFWC Sylvania Junior Woman's Club (GA) members placed a purple ribbon display outside the front of the public library on June 15, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. Pictures of the display were featured on their club's Facebook page and on the state's Facebook page.



PURPLE PUMPKIN PROJECT

The GFWC Princeton Junior Woman's Club (IL) helped a local orchard with a project to raise funds for Freedom House, a domestic and sexual violence agency, during October, National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Club members and five teens painted pumpkins purple, which were sold to provide a monetary donation to the agency. The club also obtained permission from the city to provide a drive-thru pumpkin pick-up in the park. Members used Facebook and other social media to spread the word.

CONNECT WITH GFWC AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS

Under Development

AWARDS

GFWC recognizes State Federations for outstanding projects and clubs for creative projects in implementing effective Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention projects and Affiliate Organization projects as follows:

- Certificate to one State Federation in each membership category
- \$50 award to one club in the nation for project creativity

Award winners will be determined by entries into the Award Program. Each State Federation may submit one State Award Entry and one Club Creativity Award Entry for the Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention projects. Clubs do not submit entries directly to GFWC.



Refer to the Awards section of the *Club Manual* for more information, including the Award Entry Cover Sheet guidelines.

RESOLUTIONS

To be Reviewed after Convention





HOW YOUR CLUB CAN ADVOCATE AND EDUCATE:

CAMPUS SEXUAL ASSAULT

Campus sexual assault is any type of sexual contact or behavior that occurs without the explicit consent of the recipient.

More than 1 in 4 women attending college are survivors of campus sexual assault. Women are not the only survivors. About 7% of college men and 23% of gay/lesbian/transgender students are also survivors.

It is not just other students that present a risk; sometimes it is a member of the faculty or staff.

As a college student, the first step in prevention is believing it could happen to you and that it will most likely be by someone you know. The second step is thinking ahead of time how you can safeguard yourself. Decide on boundaries before going on a date, to a party, or other activity.

Colleges must take responsibility for the environment on campus. They should facilitate open discussions with students and employees about the issue and have policies in place for handling reports of sexual assault in a sensitive, compassionate, and professional manner.

It is estimated that less than 5% of campus sexual assaults are reported.

Survivors often do not file a report or seek help or counseling because they are too embarrassed or ashamed or believe they can handle it on their own. Having a supportive environment on campus and with friends can make filing a report easier to do. Staff and campus police need to be fully trained on how to handle reports as well as understanding survivor impact and behavior. Supportive services from a crisis advocate are invaluable in helping survivors navigate the reporting and subsequent legal process.

Survivors of campus sexual assault may need immediate assistance to locate safe housing, obtain counseling, and, if necessary, file a civil restraining order.

If someone you know is assaulted, these are things you can do to help:

- Help get them to a safe location.
- Keep reminding them it was not their fault.
- Be a supportive listener.
- If you observed any part of the assault, take detailed notes about what you saw.
- Go with them to medical and other appointments.
- Continue to follow up with them and encourage them to seek counseling.

WHAT CAN GFWC DO?

- Ensure that your campus has appropriate policies and procedures in place to address incidents of sexual assault and follows federal requirements under the Clery Campus Safety Act and Title IX, as well as applicable state and local laws.
- Ensure that resources like safe housing, advocates, counseling, and medical care are available to help survivors.
- Use social media to spread awareness and advocate for social change.
- Hold a bystander intervention session to teach bystanders how to intervene in situations that involve sexual violence.
- Get involved in national campaigns.
- Organize or participate in public awareness initiatives:
 - ø It's on Us - An initiative through the American Association of University Women that reframes sexual assault in a way that inspires everyone to see it as their responsibility to do something, big or small, to prevent it. <https://itsonus.org>
 - ø The Clothesline Project - Have people affected by violence decorate a shirt and hang it on a public



clothesline as a testimony to the problem of sexual violence. (www.theclotheslineproject.org)

- ∅ Take Back the Night - Take part in an after-dark march on a college campus and make a statement about women's right to be in public at night without the risk of sexual violence.
- Volunteer at your local rape crisis center.
- Sponsor a door-decorating contest or art contest at your local middle and high schools about healthy relationships/dating abuse/domestic violence and have the winning entry made into a poster to distribute.

RESOURCES

National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC) www.nsvrc.org

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 www.justice.gov/crt/overview-title-ix-education-amendments1972-20-usc-1681-et-seq

Clery Center for Security on Campus www.clerycenter.org

Victim Rights Law Center www.victimrights.org

Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network (RAINN) www.rainn.org





HOW YOUR CLUB CAN ADVOCATE AND EDUCATE:

Child Abuse

Child abuse includes all types of abuse and neglect of a child under the age of 18 by a parent, caregiver, or another person in a custodial role that results in harm, potential for harm, or threat of harm to a child. Children and even infants witnessing or experiencing abuse can exhibit negative behavior years later. There are four common types of abuse and neglect:



- Physical abuse is the intentional use of physical force that can result in physical injury. Examples include hitting, kicking, shaking, burning, or other shows of force against a child.
- Sexual abuse involves pressuring or forcing a child to engage in sexual acts. It includes behaviors such as fondling, penetration, and exposing a child to other sexual activities.
- Emotional abuse refers to behaviors that harm a child's self-worth or emotional wellbeing. Examples include name calling, shaming, rejection, withholding love, and threatening.
- Neglect is the failure to meet a child's basic physical and emotional needs. These needs include housing, food, clothing, education, and access to medical care.

Child abuse and neglect are common. At least 1 in 7 children have experienced child abuse and/or neglect in the past year, and this is likely an underestimate. Children living in poverty experience more abuse and neglect. Rates of child abuse and neglect are five times higher for children in families with low socioeconomic status compared to children in families with higher socioeconomic status.

National Child Abuse Prevention Month, also known as Child Abuse Prevention Month in America, is an annual observance in the United States dedicated to raising awareness of and preventing child abuse. April has been designated Child Abuse Prevention Month in the United States since 1983.

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are potentially traumatic events that occur in childhood (0-17 years). For example:

- Experiencing violence or abuse.
- Witnessing violence in the home or community.
- Having a family member attempt or die by suicide.

ACEs can have lasting, negative effects on health, wellbeing, and opportunity. These experiences can increase the risks of injury, sexually transmitted infections, maternal and child health problems, teen pregnancy, involvement in sex trafficking, and a wide range of chronic diseases and leading causes of death such as cancer, diabetes, heart disease, and suicide.

Hotline numbers are a valuable resource for those who are mandated by law to report suspected abuse. Most hotlines staffed by professional crisis counselors are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. These professionals can offer crisis intervention, information, literature, and referrals to thousands of emergency, social service, and support resources. All calls are confidential. Calls can come from children at risk for abuse, distressed parents seeking crisis intervention, and concerned individuals who suspect that child abuse may be occurring. Most states have a division of their health and human services department that people should call if abuse is suspected.

Children need support after suffering abuse. Talking to a professional therapist can help many children, and many abuse-related disorders can be successfully treated with medications. Reporting suspected abuse is critical to helping an abuse survivor get the help and support the child needs.

Child abuse and neglect are serious problems that can have lasting harmful effects on its survivors. The goal in preventing child abuse and neglect is to stop this violence from happening in the first place.

WHAT CAN GFWC DO?

- Provide support and supplies to families in need at emergency shelters.
- Advocate for changes in culture and communities to reduce the likelihood of child abuse.
- Accompany victims to court or to the hospital to provide support and assistance.
- Encourage club members to become Court Appointed Advocates (CASA) and/or Guardian ad Litem.
- Collect teddy bears to give to children at a child advocacy center, where children are interviewed and examined after an incident of abuse.

RESOURCES

CASA www.nationalcasagal.org

Childhelp USA/National Child Abuse Hotline www.childhelpusa.org; 1-800-422-4453

National Link Coalition www.nationallinkcoalition.org/how-do-i-report-suspected-abuse

Children's Defense Fund www.childrensdefense.org; 202-628-8787

CDC www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childabuseandneglect/index.html
www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pub/technical-packages.html
www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childabuseandneglect/aces/fastfact.html
www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/preventingACES.pdf

Prevent Child Abuse America www.preventchildabuse.org

Healthy Families America www.healthyfamiliesamerica.org

Domestic Shelters www.domesticshelters.org/help#?page=1





HOW YOUR CLUB CAN ADVOCATE AND EDUCATE:

Elder Abuse

Abuse later in life includes the physical, sexual, or psychological abuse, neglect, financial exploitation, or stalking of an adult age 50 years or older.

Seventy-seven million baby boomers are aging and approximately 10,000 turn 65 every day. People 85 and older, the fastest growing segment of the population, are disproportionately women. Unfortunately, as the population ages, so does the opportunity for abuse.



In most cases, the survivor is in an ongoing relationship with the perpetrator, such as a spouse, partner, family member, or caregiver, where society expects there to be a trusting and caring connection. Research indicates that for every incident of abuse reported to the authorities, 23 incidents remain undiscovered.

Older individuals face unique challenges when seeking assistance or services. Older survivors may refrain from seeking help or calling the police due to shame or embarrassment because the abuse was committed by a spouse, adult children, grandchild, or caregiver. They may also be intimidated by threats of being placed in a nursing home. Signs of elder abuse may be missed by professionals working with older Americans because of a lack of training on detecting abuse. Professionals must be trained to be diligent about doing physical body exams for abuse.

It is estimated that elders throughout the U.S. lose a minimum of \$2.9 billion annually due to elder financial abuse and exploitation. These numbers are staggering. We need to support and educate our elder population and their caregivers. With so many entities playing a role, there is a growing recognition of the need for multidisciplinary collaboration. Depending on the nature of the abuse, additional expertise and assistance may be sought from health care providers, social service agencies, financial institutions, civil attorneys, and others.

WHAT CAN GFWC DO?

- Contact senior centers to hold educational programs and provide speakers and materials.
- Support and plan projects during Older Americans Month in May and World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15.
- Create awareness during National Family Caregivers Month in November.
- Provide resources in nursing homes, such as "Pass It On" materials, available at ftc.gov/PassItOn.
- Organize a "Letter to the Editor" writing campaign to raise awareness not only of Elder Abuse but of the local resources that are available in your community on aging offices. Be sure to include contact information and hotline/helpline information.
- Distribute Elder Abuse public awareness materials at local sporting events, concerts, fairs, and grocery stores.
- Hold a community yard sale at a central location such as a senior center or church with proceeds going to an Elder Abuse support group or community outreach program to help support elders in crisis.
- Learn to identify the risk factors and warning signs of abuse. Offer to bring them to an adult protective services agency or to help them seek medical care.
- Support the investigation and prosecution of Elder Abuse cases by providing funds and/or advocating for funds for training and resources to federal, state, and local investigators and prosecutors.
- Enhance services to Elder Abuse survivors by improving identification of elder abuse and enhancing response and outreach to individuals who experience abuse.
- Develop a public awareness campaign, with clear and consistent messaging, to raise awareness and understanding of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
- Organize training for survivor service providers, health care professionals, community organizations, faith-based advocates, and local agencies to better serve survivors of abuse in later life.
- Work with local nursing homes to ensure their staff is knowledgeable and has had the proper training.
- Commit to the prevention of elder abuse by holding education seminars at Senior Centers.
- Provide Nursing Homes with support material.

SIGNATURE PROGRAM RESOURCES

- Partner with a local nursing home on June 15, for a World Elder Abuse Awareness Day BBQ or picnic. Include activities and food for residents and their families, staff, and the community. Ask volunteers to bring food and games to play and coordinate the activities with nursing home staff. Invite the press for added exposure and increased elder abuse awareness.
- Organize a collection of robes, socks, pajamas, sweatpants, and shirts that can be donated to senior citizen centers or nursing homes.

RESOURCES

National Committee for Prevention of Elder Abuse (NCPEA) www.preventelderabuse.org

Elder Abuse National Institute on Aging www.nia.nih.gov/health/elder-abuse

National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA) www.ncea.gov

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention www.cdc.gov/features/elderabuse/index.html

Federal Trade Commission www.ftc.gov/PassItOn





HOW YOUR CLUB CAN ADVOCATE AND EDUCATE:

Human Trafficking For Sexual Purposes

Sexual Human Trafficking is any sex act that is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age. Victims of sex trafficking can be women, men, children, and LGBTQ (lesbian/gay men/bisexual/transgender/questioning) individuals. Vulnerable populations are frequently targeted by traffickers, including runaway and homeless youth, as well as victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or social discrimination. Women and children are the most common victims. More recently, LGBTQ identifying individuals, especially transgender individuals, are increasingly found to be victims of sexual exploitation across international borders. The average age of a trafficked child is 15 years old.



Many survivors become romantically involved with someone who then forces or manipulates them into prostitution. Sexual exploitation occurs in various settings, including (but not limited to) brothels, strip clubs, massage parlors, online ads, escort services, on streets or truck stops, at hotels, motels, or in private homes. Others are lured in with false promises of a job, such as modeling or dancing. Some are forced to sell sex by family members. Individuals are trafficked domestically and across international borders. They may be involved in a trafficking situation for a few days or weeks — or may remain in the same trafficking situation for years.

Sex traffickers use threats, manipulation, lies, debt bondage, and other forms of coercion to compel adults and children to engage in commercial sex acts against their will. Under U.S. law, any minor under the age of 18 years induced into commercial sex, is a victim of sex trafficking — whether the trafficker used force, fraud, or coercion. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) recognizes that traffickers use psychological and physical coercion as well as bondage. Coercion includes threats of serious harm to a person and any scheme, plan, or pattern intended to cause a person to believe that failure to perform an act would result in serious harm to any person.

WHAT CAN GFWC DO?

- Learn the indicators of human trafficking and report suspicions to the National Human Trafficking Hotline (1-888-373-7888).
- The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) is the first comprehensive federal law to address trafficking in persons. The law provides a three-pronged approach that includes prevention, protection, and prosecution.
- Many victims of sex trafficking benefit from mental health services. Providers can help victims in dealing with their trauma while helping them become survivors through mental health support, job training, affordable care, and access to services.
- January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Participate in awareness campaigns in your community. Educate yourself about human trafficking. Take this quiz to learn how social media is used by traffickers: www.polarisproject.org/human_trafficking_recruitment_quiz. Advocate to stop legislation that decriminalizes pimping, brothel-keeping, and sex buying. Help unmask human trafficking networks and urge Congress to pass legislation that will help find traffickers and hold them accountable.
- Collaborate with an organization advocating against sex trafficking.
- Study the culture and reasons for this activity. Read articles and books on the subject and invite guest speakers.
- Partner with an advocacy group to bring education to school-age children alerting them to how traffickers work online to grow relationships and earn trust of unsuspecting youth.

RESOURCES

Current Federal Laws/Polaris www.polarisproject.org/current-federal-laws

National Human Trafficking Hotline www.humantraffickinghotline.org; 1-888-373-7888

U.S. Department of Justice National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking www.justice.gov/humantrafficking/page/file/922791/download

Department of Homeland Security (ICE) Most Wanted Sex Traffickers Photos (updated daily) www.ice.gov/features/human-trafficking

Covenant House www.covenanthouse.org/homeless-issues/human-trafficking

Erase Child Trafficking: Human Trafficking Victim Recovery www.erasechildtrafficking.org/human-traffickingrecovery

Rahab's Daughters www.rahabsdaughters.org

U.S. Institute Against Human Trafficking (usiaht) Safe Homes www.usiaht.org/our-safe-homes

U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/trauma-toolkit/victims-of-human-trafficking>

Sustainable Recovery for Trafficking Survivors (THORN) www.thorn.org/blog/sustainable-recovery-traffickingsurvivors





HOW YOUR CLUB CAN ADVOCATE AND EDUCATE:

Intimate Partner Violence

Intimate partner violence (IPV) includes physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, as well as sexual coercion and stalking by a current or former intimate partner. An intimate partner is a person with whom a person has or had a close personal or sexual relationship.



Domestic or Intimate Partner Violence happens in all types of relationships, including dating couples, married couples, same-sex couples, former or ex-couples, and couples who live together but are not married. Intimate Partner Violence happens more often among younger couples. Almost half of American Indian and Alaskan Native women, more than four in 10 African American women, and more than one in three white and Hispanic women have experienced sexual or physical violence or stalking by their intimate partner. While 24% of Intimate Partner Violence is conducted by women, 76% of Intimate Partner Violence is conducted by men. The male conducted abuse tends to be more violent, more controlling, and is more likely to require medical services or the use of a women's shelter.

Safety is the most important concern. Those in immediate danger should call 911. Domestic violence often results in physical and emotional injuries; get medical care. It can also lead to other health problems, reproductive health challenges, and mental health conditions such as depression and suicide. Women affected by Intimate Partner Violence are also more likely to use drugs or alcohol to cope. After the physical injuries have been treated, a mental health professional should be used to help cope with emotional concerns. A counselor or therapist can help survivors deal with emotions in healthy ways, build self-esteem, and help develop coping skills.

Make a safety plan to leave, save the evidence, find out where to get help in the local community, talk to someone and look into a restraining order, call a helpline for free, anonymous help.

WHAT CAN GFWC DO?

- Support programs that:
 - ◊ Teach safe and healthy relationship skills to school-aged children.
 - ◊ Engage influential adults and peers.
 - ◊ Disrupt the developmental pathways toward partner violence.
 - ◊ Create protective environments.
 - ◊ Strengthen economic support for families.
 - ◊ Support survivors to increase safety and lessen harms.
- Assemble SHARP (Stalking, Harassment, and Rape Prevention) Kits, and donate them to a Rape Crisis Center. Each kit contains a cell phone and charger, a small paper tablet and pen, a flashlight, a whistle, a datebook, and a canister of pepper spray in non-transparent cosmetic bags.
- Apply for Walmart's Community Grant program (www.walmart.org/how-we-give/localcommunitygrants) to finance a project for your local shelter or to raise awareness.

RESOURCES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention www.cdc.gov

National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) www.avp.org/ncavp; or 212-714-1141 for 24-hour assistance in English or Spanish

National Domestic Violence Hotline www.thehotline.org; 1-800-799-7233

World Health Organization www.who.int



HOW YOUR CLUB CAN ADVOCATE AND EDUCATE:

Military Sexual Assault

Military sexual assault is the use of force, threats, intimidation, or abuse of authority during intentional sexual contact. It also includes instances where the survivor is unable to consent. Survivors of military sexual assault include both men and women.



In the military, the Commanding Officer within the unit of the military personnel is the authority and decision-maker within the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). Survivors may also seek services through civilian authorities and public/private agencies. There is a Family Advocacy Program located at every military installation in the U.S. and internationally where families are assigned. The Department of Defense (DOD) recognizes that families and individuals seeking help have the right to choose which services work best for them, including civilian programs outside of the military. DOD partners with civilian domestic violence programs and community-based advocates to protect survivors, lessen the impact of abuse, and give survivors a choice in their path to safety.

The DOD Safe Helpline will connect the caller to local help, and upon request, the Telephone Helpline staff can directly transfer the caller to the following resources: crisis intervention; emotional support; referrals to both military and civilian resources in the requested area; Sexual Assault Resource Centers (SARCs); Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Victim Advocates (SAPR VA's); Chaplain; Special Victims Counsel or Victim's Legal Counsel (SVC/VLC); medical/mental health care services; Veteran's Suicide Prevention Lifeline; local civilian sexual assault service providers; information on military reporting options (Restricted and Unrestricted); information for family and friends of survivors; information for leadership; and many others.

Use this information and the resources below to assist survivors in finding support, shelters, and advocacy services.

WHAT CAN GFWC DO?

Some recommendations for prevention include improving reporting, modifying laws that create barriers to reporting or are used in retaliation against survivors, and increasing support for survivors.

- Donate to the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) or the National Coalition of Domestic Violence (NCADV).
- Train locally to work the local hotline.
- Contact advocacy groups in your area and find out what supplies and collections are needed in local shelters.
- Contact local military installations and speak to someone at the Family Advocacy Program to find out what ways your group could help their clients.
- Support local resources such as: safe houses, advocates, counseling services, and medical care for the survivors.
- Start a book club in a base or local library nearby to read about and discuss domestic violence issues.
- Volunteer for local agencies that support the survivors of military abuse.

RESOURCES

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) www.ncadv.org

National Network to End Domestic Violence www.nnedv.org

National Domestic Violence Hotline www.thehotline.org; www.WomensLaw.org; 1-800-799-7233

Protect Our Defenders Foundation www.protectourdefenders.com

DOD Safe Helpline www.safehelpline.org



HOW YOUR CLUB CAN ADVOCATE AND EDUCATE:

Teen Dating Violence

Teen dating violence (TDV) is a type of Intimate Partner Violence. It occurs between two people in a close relationship.

TDV includes four types of behavior:

- Physical violence is when a person hurts or tries to hurt a partner by hitting, kicking, or using another type of physical force.
- Sexual violence is forcing or attempting to force a partner to take part in a sex act, sexual touching, or a non-physical sexual event (e.g., sexting) when the partner does not or cannot consent.
- Psychological aggression is the use of verbal and non-verbal communication with the intent to harm another person mentally or emotionally and/or exert control over another person.
- Stalking is a pattern of repeated, unwanted attention and contact by a partner that causes fear or concern for one's own safety or the safety of someone close to the survivor.



TDV is common; it affects millions of teens in the U.S. each year. Data from CDC's Youth Risk Behavior Survey and the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey indicate that:

- Nearly 1 in 11 female and approximately 1 in 15 male high school students report having experienced physical dating violence in the last year.
- About 1 in 9 female and 1 in 36 male high school students report having experienced sexual dating violence in the last year.
- 26% of women and 15% of men who were victims of contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime first experienced these or other forms of violence by that partner before age 18.
- The burden of TDV is not shared equally across all groups—sexual minority groups are disproportionately affected by all forms of violence, and some racial/ethnic minority groups are disproportionately affected by many types of violence.

Dating violence can take place in person or electronically, such as repeated texting or posting sexual pictures of a partner online without consent. Unhealthy relationships can start early and last a lifetime. Teens often think some behaviors, like teasing and name-calling, are a "normal" part of a relationship—but these behaviors can become abusive and develop into serious forms of violence. However, many teens do not report unhealthy behaviors because they are afraid to tell family and friends.

Safe Dates curriculum for Teen Dating Violence is a good resource. It covers the different types of abuse - verbal, physical, emotional, financial - and explains the differences. It facilitates discussions on stalking and digital abuse, as well. Learning to identify "red flags" in relationships and talking about safety planning is important.

Learn to recognize the signs of TDV. Unhealthy, abusive, or violent relationships can have severe consequences and short-term and long-term negative effects on a developing teen. For instance, youth who are victims of TDV are more likely to:

- Experience symptoms of depression and anxiety.
- Engage in unhealthy behaviors, like using tobacco, drugs, and alcohol.
- Exhibit antisocial behaviors, like lying, theft, bullying, or hitting.
- Think about suicide.

Violence in an adolescent relationship sets the stage for problems in future relationships, including Intimate Partner Violence and sexual violence perpetration and/or victimization throughout life. For instance, youth who are victims of dating violence in high school are at higher risk for victimization during college.

To help victims of TDV:

- Encourage her/him to talk about it with someone, a friend, family member, or other trusted adult.
- Help her/him to keep a record or journal of the abuse, documenting each instance.
- Accompany her/him to seek medical attention or psychological support, as needed.

Supporting the development of healthy, respectful, and nonviolent relationships has the potential to reduce the occurrence of TDV and prevent its harmful and long-lasting effects on individuals, their families, and the communities where they live. During the pre-teen and teen years, it is critical for youth to begin to learn the skills needed—such as effectively managing feelings and using healthy communication— to create and foster healthy relationships.

WHAT CAN GFWC DO?

- Inform pre-teens and teens of safe and healthy relationship skills.
- Engage influential adults and peers to assist with forums in school settings.
- Interrupt the developmental pathways toward partner violence by advocating with information and education.
- Create protective environments and publicize locations.
- Strengthen economic supports for families by advocating for funding.
- Facilitate an information session for parents on teen dating violence at a local school.
- Sponsor art classes for local high schools in which students make posters about dating abuse and domestic violence awareness and prevention. Encourage the use of photography, computer graphics, and artwork to make the posters unique. Work with your local library or community center to post finished artwork for the entire community to view.

RESOURCES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention www.cdc.gov

Freedom House www.freedomhouseillinois.org

Office on Violence Against Women www.justice.gov/ovw/dating-violence

Safe Place www.nationalsafeplace.org/teen-dating-violence





HOW YOUR CLUB CAN ADVOCATE AND EDUCATE:

Violence Against Native American Women

American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) women and two-spirit people in tribal communities are disproportionately affected by sexual and gender-based violence in the US. Research and advocacy have brought attention to the unique nature of victimization in our AIAN communities.



- Approximately half of Native American women have experienced sexual violence and that approximately half have experienced physical violence by an intimate partner.
- Murder is the third-leading cause of death for AIAN women in the United States.
- AIAN female victims are more likely to need victims' services such as medical care and legal services, but more than a third were not able to access or receive those important services.
- AIAN victims are more likely to be victimized by non-Native perpetrators.

WHAT CAN GFWC DO?

Inclusive messaging and advocacy will help bring attention to the unique and common characteristics of violence against all women.

- Bring Awareness to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Awareness Day on May 5 of each year. Plan a campaign to bring attention to missing and murdered AIAN persons and help bring justice for victims.
- November is Native American Heritage Month. Plan a campaign to celebrate and honor Native American heritage and culture.
- Educate members and communities about issues domestic and sexual assault issues facing AIAN women. Research, share, and advocate for legislation and public policy like the Not Invisible Act of 2019, Savanna's Act, and the Violence Against Women Act.
- Volunteer with or donate to victim service organizations who serve AIAN victims. Help your community connect to the government and non-profit organizations doing research, sharing resources, seeking justice, and serving victims of violence.
- Collect gently used purses and tote bags and fill them with health and beauty aids, jewelry, children's items, and other toiletries. Present them to your local shelter.

RESOURCES

Indian Law Resource Center www.indianlaw.org

National Indigenous Women's Resource Center (NIWRC) www.niwrc.org

National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence www.ncdsv.org/ncd_linksnativetribal.html

StrongHearts Native Helpline www.strongheartshelpline.org; 1-844-762-8483

Tribal Law and Policy Institute www.home.tlpi.org/violence-against-native-women-publicatio