

PRESS RELEASE

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CONTACT:

Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence, Tel. 775.828.1115

Sue Meuschke, Executive Director, suem@nnadv.org

Norma Restivo, Program Specialist, Education & Outreach, normar@nnadv.org

Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence

Recognizes World Elder Abuse Awareness Day June 15, 2011

The International Network for the Awareness of Elder Abuse (INPEA) brings the issue of elder abuse to public awareness

To honor [World Elder Abuse Awareness Day](#) on June 15th, the [Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence](#), along with its member programs statewide, want to shine a light on the prevalence of intimate partner violence (IPV) among the elderly and build awareness of the resources available statewide, nationally, and globally to help victims. Elder abuse continues to be a significant public health and human rights issue; in the United States alone an elderly person is abused each and every day and between 1 and 2 million Americans age 65 or older have been injured, exploited, or otherwise mistreated by someone on whom they depended for care or protection, according to the [National Center on Elder Abuse](#). Elder abuse includes intimate partner violence within the domestic setting.

“Last year in Nevada alone 663 individuals over the age of 65 contacted domestic violence programs—almost 2 percent of the total contacts,” says Sue Meuschke, Executive Director of the Network. “We know that older survivors have unique barriers to asking for help. This is an important day to shed light on this often overlooked and underreported problem and ask our community to get involved.”

The INPEA urges communities and municipalities to hold events and/or display information designed to raise their area’s awareness of this critical issue. A [Community Guide World Day Tool Kit](#) can be downloaded directly from their website, and includes information on sponsoring lectures, organizing events, and establishing a group locally to discuss and address this problem.

Additionally, the [National Resource Center on Domestic Violence](#)—along with the [National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life](#), [UC Irvine Center of Excellence on Elder Abuse & Neglect](#), [Casa de Esperanza](#), the [National Sexual Violence Resource Center](#) and [Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders](#)—are hosting a blog talk radio session and webinar to help interested persons learn more about the issue of elder abuse; both activities can be accessed from the convenience of a personal computer. Go the [NRCDV’s website](#) for more information.

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Intimate partner violence can be perpetrated on individuals age 60 and above (the definition of older person, according to [Nevada Revised Statute 200.5092](#)) from all ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds, as cited by the [National Center on Elder Abuse](#). Also, older women are likelier than younger women to experience violence for a longer time, to be in current violent relationships and to have health and mental health problems, according to [Wilke, D. & L. Vinton, 2005](#).

Unfortunately, [women of all ages are far more likely than men to be victims of intimate partner violence](#). Specifically, abuse of elderly women by their spouses is increasing among the growing 'over 60' demographic in the U.S., with women suffering a higher percentage of physical, emotional, and financial abuse than men, according to [Melissa Batt, University of Texas School of Public Health](#). And, the vast majority of confirmed cases within the senior population do occur in domestic settings, according to the [National Center on Elder Abuse](#).

The following may be signs that an intimate partner is abusing an elderly person by attempting to gain power and control through:

- Pushing, shoving, hitting, kicking, burning, or biting her, restraining her, uncomfortable looking and touching or even rape
- Belittling that person in private or in public or in the presence of others
- Withholding medications, medical care and food necessary to maintain health
- Misusing money, assets, and/or property or destroying or stealing personal property
- Making threats against that person or pets living in the household and/or isolating the person

If abuse is suspected, the following options are available:

- For immediate danger, call 9-1-1 and get medical care.
- For emergency safety services, support and shelter, call the Nevada Statewide or [National Hotline](#) and speak with an advocate to locate a [program](#) in your area.
- If elder abuse is suspected, some professions are required by state law to report abuse to [Elder Protective Services](#). Visit their website for more information.
- Go to the Network website for a list of [resources](#) related to domestic violence, including violence related to the elderly.

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About NNADV: The Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence was founded in 1980 to work toward the elimination of domestic and sexual violence against all persons. As Nevada's statewide coalition, NNADV is an inclusive network which both supports our member programs, and educates the public at large. Our agency is Reno-based, but our member programs span the entire state.