

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

NNADV Urges Women to Honor Their Choices, Strength During National Women’s History Month

Stop the Cycle of Abuse—Empower Yourself with Information, Resources

In honor of [National Women’s History Month](#) during March, the [Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence](#) (NNADV) commends the strength, bravery, and tenacity of women across America. The Network acknowledges women’s deep contributions and commitment to make the world a safer and more equitable place and overcome adversity, making the month’s theme of “Our History is Our Strength” an appropriate one.

“Over time, women have worked with great diligence and courage to enhance their lives and safety,” says Sue Meuschke, executive director of the Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence.

In fact, [the history of the domestic violence movement](#)—from ancient Roman times when spouse beating was accepted and even condoned to recent times when the issue is being addressed nationally through key legislation and programs for victims—is one of slow but steady progress. The 20th century in particular marked a time when the grassroots rise of the women’s suffrage movement, and later the women’s liberation movement, gained momentum to begin to address domestic violence at various levels. However, work remains to be done.

Consider the following national statistics, courtesy of the [Family Violence Prevention Fund](#):

- Nearly one in four women in the United States reports experiencing violence by a current or former spouse or boyfriend at some point in her life.
- Women are much more likely than men to be victimized by a current or former intimate partner. Women are 84 percent of spouse abuse victims and 86 percent of victims of abuse at the hands of a boyfriend or girlfriend and about three-fourths of the persons who commit family violence are male.

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In Nevada, the statistics are no better. With a rate of 2.96 per 100,000, the state ranked first in the nation in the rate of women killed by men, according to the new Violence Policy Center report [When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of 2008 Homicide Data](#).

“Despite these numbers, if you or someone you know is being battered, there is help and hope,” says Meuschke. “We want to continue to empower women to take a stand against violence despite the still-grim circumstances many are facing. They can find assistance and resources through the Network itself, as well as through its [programs](#), which are located statewide, including in rural areas.”

The Network helps Nevada’s communities respond to the needs of domestic violence victims by providing training, technical assistance, and other resources to programs that offer direct services. Program services can include temporary and transitional housing, support groups, legal advocacy, 24-hour crisis intervention, and community outreach, among others.

The NNADV also offers a Resource Center featuring books, DVDs, and manuals on a range of domestic violence topics, as well as free brochures. For example, its [safety tip sheet](#) provides concrete steps on how women can respond in an emergency situation, including how to protect yourself at home, how to protect your children and enhance their safety, as well as strategies to be safer at work by acquiring temporary protective orders and other assistance.

Additionally, the NNADV coordinates networking meetings, assists in the provision of community and professional education, and is active in educating legislators on issues of concern to Nevada families. For example, in the new legislative session, Meuschke urges Nevadans to contact our [governor and legislators](#) and let them know the proposed budget cuts to domestic violence programs statewide will ultimately endanger lives.

[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.