



PRESS RELEASE

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Campus safety & cyber safety go hand-in-hand

Reno, NV—As the students return to campuses for the fall semester, the nationally recognized Campus Safety Awareness Month promotes safe technological practices. Today's students spend their semesters not only in the campus corridors, libraries, and "hangouts," but also online, researching and socializing. Technology has become an inseparable part of student life, for good or for worse.*

In the interest of increasing safety, three technology giants have come together to ensure that victims of intimate partner violence and stalking are helped, rather than harmed, by new technology. Representatives from Google, Verizon, and Microsoft participated in a national conference hosted by Safety Net, a project of the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) that focused on the ways new technology and materials can be used to help victims escape the clutches of intimate partner violence. Judy Henderson from the Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence (NNADV) attended the training to learn how the information applies to the lives of abuse victims in Nevada.

"Attending this 4 day train-the-trainer conference provided us tools, strategies, and educational materials that we can share with domestic violence service providers across the state of Nevada. Benefits and risks are discussed in each training module we are developing," Henderson explains, *"with an emphasis on safety planning for survivors."*

More and more women every year are victimized by tech-savvy perpetrators who use the latest inventions to stalk and abuse their victims. Domestic violence programs in Nevada continue to serve approximately 36,000 victims each year, according to NNADV. Still, an active interest on the part of major technology companies is making it harder for abusers to stalk their victims.

Microsoft has been working jointly with NNEDV to address spyware as a stalking tool. Google's Street View project has put protective barriers in place, including strong privacy protections for victims of domestic violence and the shelters that provide them with safe havens. Verizon has had a long partnership with NNEDV in developing greater public awareness around victim safety and technology, as well as reviewing products to make certain that they are tools to increase, not compromise, survivors' safety.

"Technology can also present domestic violence victims with great opportunities to get help," says Henderson. *"However, while new advances have been made, it's still not foolproof, and victims can still be at risk."* Henderson urges students to practice caution—not only on campus, but everywhere they go—staying vigilant about their physical surroundings and monitoring their computers and phones to see if they are being tracked.

* Technology has become a quick and easy way for stalkers to monitor and harass their victims. More than one in four stalking victims reports that some form of cyberstalking was used against them, such as email (83 percent of all cyberstalking victims) or instant messaging (35 percent). Electronic monitoring of some kind is used to stalk one in 13 victims. Young women age 20 to 24 experience the highest rates of rape and sexual assault, followed by those 16 to 19. People age 18 and 19 experience the highest rates of stalking. (Baum, Katrina, Catalano, Shannan, Rand, Michael and Rose, Kristina. 2009. Stalking Victimization in the United States. U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics Available at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/svus.pdf>.)

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 based in Reno, but our member programs span the entire state. Affiliated agencies are: Advocates to End Domestic Violence of Hawthorne, A.L.I.V.E. of Yerington, Committee Against Domestic Violence of Elko, Committee to Aid Abused Women of Reno, Domestic Violence Intervention of Fallon and of Lovelock, Family Support Council of Minden, NO TO ABUSE of Pahrump, Safe Embrace of Reno, S.A.F.E. House of Henderson, Safe Nest of Las Vegas, Tahoe Women's Services of Incline Village, and Winnemucca Domestic Violence Shelter, Inc.

More information:

- Tech Savvy Students: Choosing Who Gets to See Your Info. See attachments.
- National Network to End Domestic Violence, [Safety Net Project](#)
- [National Campus Safety Awareness Month](#), [UNLV](#) & [UNR](#) websites offer specific tips on how to stay safe on college campuses.

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