



# **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **October is a Time to Mourn, Celebrate, and Connect**

### ***Nevada Governor Sandoval Proclaims October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month***

Reno, NV—October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, a time when experts and those professionals who work with victims of domestic violence are planning events that educate the public, inspire action, and inform victims of the help and services that are available as they struggle to live violence-free.

These activities are particularly important in Nevada. According to a study released by the [Violence Policy Center \(VPC\)](#) on September 25, 2013, [When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of 2011 Homicide Data](#), Nevada ranked 16<sup>th</sup> in the nation in the rate of women killed by men. “We are cautiously optimistic as we celebrate, says Sue Meuschke, Executive Director of the Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence, (NNADV) because in the previous three years, Nevada ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in the nation. This rate was more than double the national average and Nevada held the top position for five of the last six years.” Ms. Meuschke continues, “These statistics are a grim reminder that domestic violence can escalate to homicide. More resources are needed to protect women and prevent such tragedies. This October, domestic violence service providers and allied professionals across our state are coming together to end abuse, speak out against domestic and sexual violence and become part of the solution.”

October is the ideal time to commit to ending domestic and sexual violence. Here are some suggestions to take a stand against domestic and sexual violence:

- Examine your own life for violence and hurtful behaviors. No one deserves to be abused. You are not alone and there is help available;
- If you or a friend or co-worker is afraid of their partner or is being hurt, offer support and refer them to the 24-hour toll-free *National Domestic Violence Hotline* at 1.800.799.SAFE (7233). Or to the *National Dating Abuse Helpline* at 1.866.331.9474, if more appropriate. More information about how to get help may be accessed online at <http://www.thehotline.org/get-help>;
- Develop a safety campaign in your workplace, neighborhood, school, or house of worship. Build a consensus that abusive behavior and language is unacceptable;
- Learn more about violence prevention and join the Green Dot movement beginning in Nevada [www.livethegreendot.com](http://www.livethegreendot.com);

- Learn more about the domestic violence services in your community and make a donation of time by volunteering or make a financial contribution;
- Talk to a teen about healthy relationships and discuss relationship abuse as part of a school-based curriculum on dating and family violence;
- Post awareness materials in your workplace; and
- Speak with your health care provider about routine screening for domestic violence, child abuse, and elder abuse. Guidelines and educational tools to improve health care's response to domestic violence are available from the National Health Care Resource Center on Domestic Violence: [http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/section/our\\_work/health](http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/section/our_work/health).

#### **More information about local events:**

Individuals who want to help or who would like to participate in Domestic Violence Awareness Month activities can call the domestic violence program in their community for more information. For a complete list of programs in Nevada, visit the NNADV website: <http://www.nnadv.org/get-help/programs-in-nevada>.

While the activities are varied, the goals are the same: to raise awareness about the prevalence and cost of domestic and sexual violence, the need for prevention, and the services that are available to victims and their families. For a list of activities in your community, visit <http://www.nnadv.org/news-events/events-and-trainings/dvam-events>.

#### **RESOURCES FOR MEDIA PROFESSIONALS:**

**History & Purpose of Domestic Violence Awareness Month:** <http://www.nrcdv.org/dvam/DVAM-history>

#### **National Statistics:**

- Futures Without Violence offers a comprehensive listing of fact sheets containing national statistics from an extensive collection of research studies and journal articles. [Futures Without Violence Fact Sheets](#)
- National Coalition Against Domestic Violence <http://www.ncadv.org/resources/FactSheets.php>. From a national perspective, this list includes their own compilation of statistics from several reputable sources including links to the Bureau of Justice and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

#### **Nevada Statistics:**

- Snapshot of Nevada, *When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of 2011 Homicide Data*, Violence Policy Center, prepared October 1, 2013.
- For the most recent information on Nevada statistics, go to the NNADV website <http://www.nnadv.org/resources/statistics>.

#### **Proclamations:**

- [President Obama's Proclamation](#)
- [Governor Brian Sandoval's Proclamation](#)

#### **NNADV RESOURCES:**

The Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence offers a variety of resources on its website including brochures, handbooks, and toolkits. Information is available in a number of key subject areas, including how domestic violence impacts people of all ages from teens to the elderly, immigrants, people who identify with the gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender community, pregnant women, individuals at work,

children who experience domestic violence in their homes, and people with disabilities. Some resources are also available in Spanish. In addition, NNADV offers a Memorial Exhibit through its free lending library. The Memorial Exhibit is a traveling memorial honoring the 17 Nevada individuals who were murdered by their intimate partners during 2005. The exhibit includes 17 T-shirts that are red and bear the name and story of a murdered individual. An 18th shirt represents the uncounted women whose deaths were unreported or unacknowledged.

**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.

*Advocating change. Educating our community. Supporting services.*