

OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Purple is the color chosen to help spread awareness of domestic violence, so you might be seeing purple everywhere: purple ribbons, purple clothing, and purple lights, to name a few. What good does awareness do? Wear a purple ribbon and when someone asks why, tell them:



- *Nearly one in four women in the US reports experiencing violence by a current or former spouse or boyfriend at some point in her life.*
- *Almost half the women murdered in New York State are killed by their intimate partner.*
- *Help is available. Call 1-800-942-6906 for information and referral.*

It's likely that someone you know has been, or will be, a victim of domestic violence. It's not always physical; it's one person's use of tactics to control another person in an intimate relationship. It can take the form of emotional, verbal, financial or sexual abuse. Domestic violence affects all of us – women, men, and children. Take a stand against domestic violence. For specific suggestions, see the second page of this flyer.

Everyone can do something.

SHINE THE LIGHT ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

New Yorkers Connecting, One Light at a Time

The "Shine the Light on Domestic Violence" campaign was inspired by domestic violence service providers who have been using purple to promote awareness of domestic violence for years.

As the NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence helps turn the State purple for the fourth year, connections are being made - between programs, government, businesses, nonprofits and citizens.

This low or no-cost campaign has grown from several dozen participants in 2008 to more than 270 businesses, nonprofits, and individuals in 2010. From skyscrapers to bridges, storefronts to shopping centers, purple lights illuminated the nights of October. People wore purple clothing while police cars and buses displayed purple magnetic ribbons.

Can you connect with someone to fight domestic violence? Bring purple into your school or workplace. Spread the word and watch it grow. Make a connection!



Help is Available

New York has a wide range of services to help. There are 24/7 confidential hotlines staffed with trained counselors available to speak with victims or their friends serving every county in the State. Many programs offer services for children, counseling, support groups, help with legal services or immigrant issues, training and educational services, help getting medical care, employment and social services, emergency transportation, and housing. **You do not have to stay in a shelter to get help from a domestic violence program.**

24/7 Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-942-6906 (English) 1-800-942-6908 (Spanish)

For more information, please visit the NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence website at: www.opdv.state.ny.us or www.facebook.com/NYSdomesticviolence



TAKE ONE PURPLE STEP & GET CONNECTED!

You can make a difference and help reduce the number of people who are unsafe in their homes and relationships. You can help, no matter who you are.

Here are some purple steps you can take:

1. **FRIEND?** Listen, support, and believe your friend. Don't be an expert: be a friend, and get her to the experts! Your local or statewide hotlines are good resources.
2. **EMPLOYER?** Provide information. Consider implementing a [domestic violence and the workplace policy](#) (see www.opdv.state.ny.us). Make a charitable commitment: local programs need your support.
3. **PARENT?** Talk to your kids about respectful relationships. Observe your children's relationships. Maintain a dialogue with your children. MODEL respectful relationships.
4. **BUSY?** Donate to your local domestic violence program, to the NYS Coalition Against Domestic Violence, or to a national organization.
5. **WANT TO DO SOMETHING?** Find volunteer opportunities in your community. Hold a phone or other kind of drive to benefit a local program – many also need adult and children's clothing, and household goods. Educate yourself about the problem.
6. **TEENAGER OR COLLEGE STUDENT?** Read the information your school may be giving you on dating abuse. Don't confuse love and stalking. No one should ever make you feel afraid or controlled. Talk to someone at your school, your parents, or a trusted adult if you or a friend is in trouble.
7. **EMPLOYEE and/or UNION MEMBER?** Provide information. Host or sponsor an awareness event at your workplace. Domestic violence is a serious workplace issue.
8. **FAITH COMMUNITY?** Become known as a safe place. Faith leaders and members can address, acknowledge, and condemn domestic violence in lectures, discussion groups, and sermons. Educate the congregation. Speak out. Lead by example. Offer space to nonprofits. Partner with existing resources.
9. **ADULT?** Be a leader. Men can show by example that being strong does not mean being violent. Women can listen nonjudgmentally to their friends, mothers, and sisters. If someone tells you something that makes you concerned, or shows that she's uncomfortable or scared, let her know you are worried for her. Listen and support her. She can ask questions confidentially, and get advice, at the New York State Domestic & Sexual Violence Hotline: 1-800-942-6906 (or 1-800-942-6908 in Spanish) 24/7.
10. **NEW YORKER?** Be proud – yours is the only state to have a government agency dedicated to this issue. But being proud is not enough – take steps to make ours the safest state in the union.

EVERYONE CAN CONNECT TO TAKE ONE STEP TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITIES SAFER.

For more ideas, go to www.opdv.state.ny.us

NYS Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotline 1-800-942-6906 – 24/7 and Confidential
NYS Linea Contra la Violencia Domestica y Agresion Sexual 1-900-942-6908 – 24/7 y Confidential

To find the domestic violence program near you, go to:

www.nyscadv.org or www.opdv.state.ny.us

