



Tom Barrett
Mayor

Bevan K. Baker, CHE
Commissioner of Health

Health Department Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Frank P. Zeidler Municipal Building, 841 North Broadway, 3rd Floor, Milwaukee, WI 53202-3653 phone (414) 286-2997 fax (414) 286-8174
web site: www.milwaukee.gov/health

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 7, 2016

Contact: Sarah DeRoo

Office (414) 286-3548

Cell (414) 708-4060

City of Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Statement on Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Events to highlight local resources and offer support to those affected by domestic violence

MILWAUKEE – During Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the City of Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault is bringing attention to an issue that affects far too many victims through local activities and events to raise awareness and support those affected by domestic violence.

Domestic violence is the use of a pattern of abuse to maintain power and control in a relationship. It impacts people across all populations. On average, 20 people per minute are victims of physical violence by an intimate partner in the United States. The abuse is not always physical; it can include emotional, financial, sexual, and spiritual abuse.

Milwaukee has made considerable strides in efforts to address domestic violence; however, the work is not yet done.

The [most recent mid-year report](#) from the Milwaukee Homicide Review Commission showed a significant increase in intimate partner homicides and shootings in the city of Milwaukee. The closing of vital resources, like Asha Family Services, an agency that supported victims of domestic violence and sex trafficking around the state for nearly three decades, represents a devastating loss of culturally-specific services for some of our community's most vulnerable members at a time when they are needed most.

We must act collectively to end domestic violence. The membership of the Commission remains committed to working together toward a future free from violence and calls on all community members to join this work.

Friends and family members are essential resources, who can reach out to victims, offer to be part of their safety plan and, above all, reassure them that the violence is not their fault. They are not alone. Help is available.

Violence is a learned behavior. For those who want to change their abusive behavior, resources are available. Children living in violence can experience trauma and are at risk of learning that violence resolves conflict. We must address the impact of domestic violence and trauma on children, and connect them with comfort and support to initiate their healing.

Milwaukee offers quality and confidential resources for those affected by domestic violence. A listing of resources is available through the Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault's "You Are Not Alone" brochure, which is available in English and Spanish. Find this and a list of resources at Milwaukee.gov/staysafe.

Preventing violence before it starts is key. We advocate for interventions that address the root causes of violence. That conversation can begin during Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

The Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault is participating in the 2016 National Week of Action (October 16-22) and its #PurpleThursday campaign on October 20, organized by the National Network to End Domestic Violence. We encourage others to join us. Please find additional opportunities to raise awareness below.

Housed in the City of Milwaukee Health Department Office of Violence Prevention, the Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault was founded by the Milwaukee Common Council in 1979 and is a multidisciplinary board representing the many systems that serve families impacted by violence in our community to improve the local response to domestic violence and sexual assault. For more information, visit Milwaukee.gov/health.

Think Health. Act Now!



2016 Domestic Violence Awareness Month - Activities and Events

October 11	5:30-8PM - “Walking in Their Shoes” Youth Group Workshop at Latina Resource Center (802 W. Mitchell, Milwaukee). Call Javier Acevedo at (414) 389-6516 or Eileen Alvarado at (414) 389-6511 to register.
October 13	5:30-8PM - “Until I Got To Know You” Domestic Violence Prevention Group at Latina Resource Center (802 W. Mitchell, Milwaukee). Call Angelica Mercado-Correa at (414) 389-6500 to register.
October 16	Conversation Sunday – Start a conversation about domestic violence with friends, family members, neighbors, and colleagues.
October 17	Media Monday – Download the Tech Safety app or share the #31in31 campaign on social media.
October 18	1-2PM (Central) – Join the Tie-In Tuesday bilingual (English & Spanish) Twitter chat with the National Network to End Domestic Violence.
October 19	<p>Sign on to the National Network to End Domestic Violence Action Alerts or write a letter to the editor for your local newspaper for Write In Wednesday.</p> <p>10-11AM - Twitter chat on domestic violence and safety with the City of Milwaukee Office of Violence Prevention and Sojourner Family Peace Center, hosted by United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County. Use the #DVSafetyMKE hashtag to join the conversation.</p>
October 20	<p>Wear Purple and show your support for survivors and ending domestic violence. Tweet using the hashtags #Purple Thursday and #MKEPeace.</p> <p>5:30-8PM - “Alma Project” Youth & Men Group at Latina Resource Center (802 W. Mitchell, Milwaukee). Call Christian Hernandez at (414) 389-6513 to register.</p>
October 21	Host a DV movie night and use the National Network to End Domestic Violence Movie Night Conversation Guide to talk about themes from the film.
October 22	Celebrate the people you admire who speak out for survivors and use their voices to make a difference on Shout-Out Saturday
October 25	The Building Our Future Campaign has coordinated an International Day of Action to address Abusive International Marriages in the Hmong community. Hmong American Women’s Association is organizing a social media campaign



	on this issue in the Milwaukee community.
October 26	5-8PM – Join Sojourner Family Peace Center for a panel discussion about perspectives and approaches to ending domestic violence in our community at the new Family Justice Center (619 W Walnut). Domestic violence experts will share their ideas on how we can make Milwaukee a peaceful community. RSVP to charlesb@familypeacecenter.org or (414) 810-1829.
October 27 th	5:30-8PM - “Community Open House” at Latina Resource Center (802 W. Mitchell, Milwaukee) 7PM - “Vigil/Walk” Honoring the Victims and Survivors of DV at Latina Resource Center (802 W. Mitchell, Milwaukee)

Sojourner Family Peace Center partnered with MilwaukeeHome to create special edition, purple MilwaukeeHome T-shirts to raise awareness about domestic violence and its impact on our community. Individuals who wear the special edition shirt will receive special deals when visiting Sojourner MKE Peace Partners. T-shirts can be purchased at the MilwaukeeHome store at 159 N. Jackson Street, Suite 101 or at www.mkehome.com. The purple MilwaukeeHome t-shirts are \$29.99 each.