

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Milwaukee Faces a Serious Problem as Domestic Violence Homicides Increase at Alarming Rates

Statement of the Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

MILWAUKEE – On Wednesday, May 20th, the Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) released the following statement:

We would first like to offer our sincere condolences to all of the families and friends that have been devastated by domestic violence. We also honor all victims and dedicate our ongoing work to end this crisis in your memory.

We are in a period of crisis when it comes to domestic violence. The safety of women and children are an issue of significant importance. Silence can no longer be an option. We are challenging every person in this city to take a stand against domestic violence and take action to end it. Although domestic violence is a year round problem, the COVID-19 pandemic has increased the risk factors that contribute to unsafe living situations for children and families. Domestic violence leaves an indelible mark on the lives of families, forcing them to endure the precarious cycle of trauma and pain which compromises the wellbeing of future generations who witness violence in the home. It is our job as family, friends, co-workers, service providers, and neighbors to take action and report any incidents to authorities. Safety is a fundamental right that should be afforded to all.

We are enhancing prevention efforts and creating space that allows for services to be provided to abusers as vital as those provided to survivors. We are also committed to elevating the voices of men and embracing culturally appropriate outreach and intervention strategies. It is our expectation that we all will be supporters and advocates of efforts to eliminate domestic violence in Milwaukee.

The City of Milwaukee Health Department's Office of Violence Prevention, along with members of the Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault will continue to expand the efforts to increase awareness, engagement, and prevention of family violence in our city. We will continue to work with community partners to promote resources and encourage people to get involved. We also will continue to host virtual town-halls trainings, and other events for community engagement. We want to create as many access points for support as possible. If we wait for people to walk into the doors of service providers and shelters, we may be waiting too long. We need to bring the resources to the community and are committed to doing so in innovative ways due to the threat of COVID-19. Direct community outreach is critical to let families, friends, and neighbors know about resources available to them.

To receive regular updates on the Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence and to get involved please send an email to Karin Tyler at KTyler@milwaukee.gov.

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