

MILITARY SEXUAL ABUSE

The US military is one of the largest organizations in the world with the percentage of women soldiers at around 16%. Many women listed sexual assault as a deciding factor for leaving the military. They expressed discouragement based on the occurrences of sexual assault and the military's handling of the investigations. At times the perpetrator was not punished and women cited lack of support from other service members.

Two organizations within the military, **Family Advocacy Program** and **Department of Defense Safe Helpline (877-995-5247)**, offer 24/7 crisis support. Outside the military there is **Protect Our Defenders Foundation: info@protectourdefenders.com**

Contact your local military base Family Advocacy Program to find out ways to help. Volunteer at local agencies that support survivors of military abuse.

VIOLENCE AGAINST NATIVE AMERICAN WOMEN

In the United States, violence against indigenous women has reached epidemic levels on tribal lands and in Alaskan Native villages. More than 4 in 5 women have experienced violence and it is reported that rates of domestic violence are 10 times higher than the rest of the US. Although data is limited, the number of missing and murdered American Indian and Alaska Native women and the lack of a diligent adequate federal response is alarming. We as club women can help raise awareness to help gain strong federal action to end such violence. Volunteer at or

contribute to Native Organizations to increase their ability to prevent violence and advocate for the safety of women.

The National Indian Country Clearinghouse on Sexual Assault (NICCSA) has a list of Tribal Women's Shelters. November is American Indian Heritage Month.

RELATED ACTIVITIES

The Just One Campaign

Just One is a Domestic Violence campaign which seeks to place signs in public restrooms informing DV victims of a way to receive help. The signs provide the 1-800 number for the National Domestic Violence Hotline available 24/7 with trained personnel assisting the caller to find resources in their area. Our goal is to place one sign for each of the 9,045 CFWC members. Hence the name, Just One: one member placing one sign to help one person. For more information or to acquire the signs contact Marcia Willett at marciaewillett@gmail.com

Success for Survivors Scholarships

The application and further information are available in the GFWC club manual.

PROGRAM CONTACT

California Federated Women's Clubs
Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness
and Prevention Program
Cathie Petihomme, CFWC Chair 2024-26
thatsnoscrap@yahoo.com

GFWC/CFWC

SIGNATURE PROGRAM



Domestic & Sexual Violence Awareness & Prevention

Eight Focus Areas

Intimate Partner Violence
Elder Abuse
Child Abuse Prevention
Human Trafficking
Teen Dating Awareness
Campus Sexual Assault
Military Sexual Abuse
Violence Against
Native American Women

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Let's break the silence on domestic violence! In the United States a woman is assaulted or beaten every nine seconds.

According to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, the term intimate partner violence includes physical violence, sexual violence, economic abuse, stalking and psychological or emotional abuse by a current or former partner or spouse.

Domestic violence also has a substantial effect on family members and increases the risk of abuse carrying on into the next generation. CFWC members support shelters all over the state in many ways. Along with helping educate the community, **The Purse Project** continues as does collecting & providing supplies for women and children in shelters.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

ELDER ABUSE

Abuse of the elderly takes many forms and often goes unreported. Nearly one in ten seniors suffer from elder abuse every year. This abuse takes many forms, including physical injuries, emotional abuse, neglect, sexual assault and financial abuse. Seniors

lose a staggering 2.6 billion dollars a year due to financial exploitation. They are also viewed as easy targets for scammers, especially by telephone. Seniors hate to ignore the phone ringing as they are often hungry for outside human contact. Clubs could create or distribute pamphlets that give seniors resources to utilize. Christmas for Seniors is another project to provide basic supplies for those who are neglected or ignored by their families.

June is Elder Abuse Awareness Month.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION

Child Abuse is when a parent or caregiver, whether through action or failing to act, causes injury, emotional harm, risk of serious harm or death to a child. There are many forms of child maltreatment, including neglect, physical abuse, emotional abuse, exploitation & sexual abuse. According to Prevent Child Abuse America, there are Five Protective Factors in strengthening families:

1. Parental Resilience
2. Social Connections
3. Knowledge of Parenting & Child Development
4. Concrete Support in Times of Need
5. Children's Social & Emotional Development

For ideas on how to help, contact

preventchildabuse.org

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Let those "Pinwheels for Prevention" Spin!

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human sex trafficking is driven by the demand for commercial sex and is comprised of:

- A. People who buy boys, women and girls for sex
- B. A culture that tolerates or promotes sexual exploitation

Venues of sexual exploitation drive the demand for commercial sex and contribute to its normalization. Events and major conferences regardless of the city tend to have at least a 20% uptick in human trafficking during those events.

Help educate our teens about those who prey on them. Some ideas for your club: **First Night Bags for sex trafficking victims**, small fabric bags that contain hygiene products, blanket, sleep attire, cozy socks and slip on shoes.

January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month

January Eleventh is National Human Trafficking Day.

TEEN DATING

Teen Dating is the GFWC Challenge Project, chosen by our current GFWC President.

There are four types of Teen Dating Violence:

1. Physical Violence
2. Sexual violence
3. Psychological Aggression
4. Stalking

This violence can take place in person or electronically. The statistics are overwhelming. Nearly one in eleven female and one in fifteen male high school students report having experienced physical dating violence. Clubs can help present programs to educate preteens and teens about how to form healthy relationships.

The White Ribbon Campaign is a global movement of men and boys working to end male violence against women and girls. They pledge to never commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women and girls.

CAMPUS SEXUAL ASSAULT

Many of us have daughters or granddaughters attending college. Addressing the issue of Campus Sexual Assault means educating students on issues like consent and personal safety and empowering all students and faculty to become active observers willing to step forward and intervene. Also making sure campus administrators have policies in place for handling reports of sexual assault in a sensitive, compassionate and professional manner and ensuring that adequate support services are available for survivors.

View these resources for information and ideas:

It's on Us: www.itsonus.org

End Rape on Campus (EROC):

www.endrapeoncampus.org