

Violence Against Women

International

UN Directory of Resources on Gender and Women's Issues

http://www.un.org/womenwatch/directory/violence_against_women_3004.htm

- Violence against women is an obstacle to the achievement of the objectives of equality, development and peace. Violence against women both violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- Say No – UNite to End Violence Against Women

Amnesty International - USA

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/our-work/issues/women-s-rights/violence-against-women>

End the Cycle of Violence - Living free from violence is a human right, yet millions of women and girls suffer disproportionately from violence both in peace and in war, at the hands of the state, in the home and community. Across the globe, women are beaten, raped, mutilated, and killed with impunity.

World Health Organization (WHO) Violence against Women -Intimate partner and sexual violence against women - Fact sheet November 2012

Key facts:

- Violence against women - particularly intimate partner violence and sexual violence against women - are major public health problems and violations of women's human rights.
- A WHO multi-country study found that between 15–71% of women aged 15- 49 years reported physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner at some point in their lives.
- These forms of violence can result in physical, mental, sexual, reproductive health and other health problems, and may increase vulnerability to HIV.
- Risk factors for being a perpetrator also include low education, past exposure to child maltreatment or witnessing violence in the family, harmful use of alcohol, attitudes accepting of violence and gender inequality.
- Risk factors for being a victim of intimate partner and sexual violence include low education, witnessing violence between parents, exposure to abuse during childhood and attitudes accepting violence and gender inequality.
- In high-income settings, school-based programs to prevent relationship violence among young people (or dating violence) are supported by some evidence of effectiveness.
- In low-income settings, other primary prevention strategies, such as microfinance combined with gender equality training and community-based initiatives that address gender inequality and communication and relationship skills, hold promise.
- Situations of conflict, post conflict and displacement may exacerbate existing violence and present new forms of violence against women.

International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women - 25th November

The [United Nations General Assembly](#) designates 25 November as the **International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women** ([Resolution](#) 54/134). The premise of the day is to raise awareness of the fact that women around the world are subject to [rape](#), [domestic violence](#) and other forms of violence, and the scale and true nature of the issue is often hidden.

International Center for Research on Women - <http://www.icrw.org>

ICRW believes that women are integral to alleviating global poverty.

In most parts of the world, including impoverished regions, women are a powerful force in their communities. So when they have opportunities to improve their lives, everyone benefits. When they are able to earn an income and control what they do with it, their children are more likely to finish school. Families eat better. They stay healthy. Communities thrive. And in the end, entire nations are in a better position to prosper economically.

ICRW advocates for passage of the International Violence Against Women Act, landmark legislation that would support survivors, hold perpetrators accountable and make violence prevention part of U.S. global development efforts.

The **International Violence Against Women Act (I-VAWA)** is proposed legislation to address [violence against women](#) through [United States](#) foreign policy. It was introduced to the [110th](#) and [111th United States Congress](#) but was not passed into law.

National

The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence - <http://www.ncadv.org>

The Mission of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) is to organize for collective power by advancing transformative work, thinking and leadership of communities and individuals working to end the violence in our lives.

National Network to End Domestic Violence - <http://www.nnedv.org>

NNEDV works to make domestic violence a national priority; change the way communities respond to domestic violence; and strengthen efforts against intimate partner violence at every level of government.

Their signature programs include:

- Empowering domestic violence survivors to lead independent lives free from abuse;
- Supporting the 56 statewide and territorial coalitions against domestic and sexual violence;
- Advancing economic empowerment and financial literacy for domestic violence survivors and their allies;
- Improving high-profile media coverage of domestic violence cases;
- Educating survivors and their allies about safe technological practices and how batterers misuse technology to further abuse;
- Building the capacity of local and statewide coalitions against domestic and sexual violence;
- Providing state-specific legal information for domestic violence survivors; and
- Promoting federal legislation that effectively holds perpetrators accountable and strengthens services for survivors and their children.

National Domestic Violence Hotline - <http://www.thehotline.org/>

The National Domestic Violence Hotline creates access by providing 24-hour support through advocacy, safety planning, resources and hope to everyone affected by domestic violence.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline was established in 1996 as a component of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) passed by Congress. *The Hotline* is a nonprofit organization that provides crisis

intervention, information and referral to victims of domestic violence, perpetrators, friends and families. *The Hotline* answers a variety of calls and is a resource for domestic violence advocates government officials, law enforcement agencies and the general public.

The National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma & Mental Health

<http://www.nationalcenterdvtraumamh.org/>

The National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma & Mental Health provides training, support, and consultation to advocates, mental health and substance abuse providers, legal professionals, and policymakers as they work to improve agency and systems-level responses to survivors and their children. Our work is survivor defined and rooted in principles of social justice.

The Center is one of four national Special Issue Resource Centers funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Administration on Children, Youth and Families; Family Violence Prevention and Services Program and is a member of the **Domestic Violence Resource Network (DVRN)**.

National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence - <http://www.ncdsv.org>

The National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence (NCDSV) designs, provides, and customizes training and consultation, influences policy, promotes collaboration and enhances diversity with the goal of ending domestic and sexual violence.

Feminist Majority Foundation – Equality Around the World - <http://www.feminist.org/911/crisis.html>

The name **Feminist Majority Foundation** is a consciousness-raiser, inspired by a Newsweek/Gallup public opinion poll that showed the majority of women (56%) in the United States self-identified as feminists. Most polls since then reveal that this majority continues with over two-thirds of young women self-identifying as feminists. Most men, especially young men, view themselves as supporters of the women's rights movement.

The Feminist Majority Foundation (FMF), which was founded in 1987, is a cutting edge organization dedicated to women's equality, reproductive health, and non-violence. In all spheres, FMF utilizes **research and action** to empower women economically, socially, and politically. Our organization believes that feminists - both women and men, girls and boys - are the majority, but this majority must be empowered.

New York State

NYS Department of Criminal Justice Services – Violence Against Women

<http://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/ofpa/vawamain.htm>

The STOP (Services • Training • Officers • Prosecutors) Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program (STOP Program) promotes a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach to improving the criminal justice system's response to violent crimes against women. The STOP Program encourages the development and strengthening of effective law enforcement and prosecution strategies and victim services programs to address violent crimes against women.

The New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NYSCADV) - <http://www.nyscadv.org/>

The New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence is a not-for-profit membership organization whose mission is to eradicate domestic violence and to ensure the provision of effective and appropriate services to victims of domestic violence through community outreach, education, training, technical

assistance and policy development. The Coalition's principles and practices prioritize the safety and concerns of women who are abused, provide support and encouragement for the participation of women who are abused in the struggle to eradicate personal and institutional violence against them, and provide for a non-competitive atmosphere that fosters open communication, respect, and cooperation among advocates and women who are abused.

New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NYSCASA) - <http://www.nyscasa.org/>

The mission of the New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NYSCASA) is to end all forms of sexual violence and sexual exploitation by advocating for an effective response to all people affected by sexual assault. NYSCASA provides technical support and assistance to more than 75 rape crisis programs. In addition, NYSCASA works to improve public policy and confront societal denial of the impact of sexual violence through statewide outreach and education.

NOW-NYS Ending Violence Against Women - <http://www.nownys.org/vaw.html>

Women are all too often discredited and devalued when they are victims of violence.

Women as a class are targets of violence including rape, sexual abuse, battering, stalking, sexual harassment, and genital mutilation. When women are victims, we are all too often discredited and devalued. NOW-New York State is committed to assuring the full safety and protection of all citizens and non-citizen residents within the state.

County – Dutchess

District Attorney: *Domestic Violence - Dutchess County* Government www.co.dutchess.ny.us

Grace Smith House - <http://www.gracesmithhouse.org/>

Grace Smith House has been providing services to battered women and their children since 1981. In its first 20 years, the agency sheltered over 2,300 women and more than 1,800 children. These numbers do not include the many thousands of hotline callers who have received counseling and support from committed agency staff through the years.

Family Service – DART Teams - <http://familyservicesny.org/dart.php>

Domestic Abuse Response Team is a collaborative model project with Family Services and the [Dutchess County District Attorneys office](#) to provide direct advocacy and services to victims of domestic violence within the [criminal justice](#) system. There are three Domestic Abuse Response Teams in Dutchess County; [City of Poughkeepsie](#), [Town of Poughkeepsie](#) and the [City of Beacon](#).

House of Hope - <http://www.hudsonvalleyhouseofhope.org/>

HOUSE OF HOPE is a family violence service provider in the Dutchess County, New York area reaching out to victims of family violence each year with programs that keep women and children safe. Our mission is to eliminate sexual assault and domestic violence through sensitive prevention, intervention, and treatment.

County – Rockland

Center for Safety & Change, formerly Rockland Family Shelter -

<http://www.rocklandfamilyshelter.org/>

Center For Safety & Change, *formerly Rockland Family Shelter* is a non-profit, grassroots organization, serving survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and other crimes. Through direct services, education, advocacy and coordinated community action, we work to create a community where individuals can live with dignity and equality, free from abuse.

All programs are multilingual and culturally sensitive for individuals and families both heterosexual, lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ). 24-Hour Hotline 845.634.3344

County – Westchester

Hope's Door -<http://www.northernwestchestershelter.org/> 24-hour hotline: (888) 438-8700

Hope's Door, formerly The Northern Westchester Shelter, is a private non-profit organization, which was founded in 1980 to provide a safe haven and caring services to survivors of domestic violence. Our programs are free, confidential and offered in English and Spanish.

While our name has changed, our mission remains the same: Hope's Door seeks to [end domestic violence](#) and to empower victims to achieve safety, independence and healing from the trauma of abuse.

Why the new name?

In 1980, the Junior League of Northern Westchester founded our organization, which provided safe haven for victims of domestic violence in the homes of local church members. Throughout the years, our services have expanded to better serve victims of domestic violence. We strongly feel that our new name better reflects this wider scope of our mission. We hope that our new name will encourage those seeking help for themselves or for those they care about to contact us. Whether you are a victim seeking hope and safety, or someone with abundant hope to share, please know that our door will always be open to you.

Office for Women – Domestic Violence - <http://women.westchestergov.com/domestic-violence>

Domestic violence is a crime. Anyone can be a victim of abuse. Westchester County has resources available to enable victims to access support services such as counseling, advocacy, safety planning, court accompaniment and other related issues. The Office for Women provides information about and referrals to shelters, support groups, legal services and other organizations. Educational programs and publications are offered as well.

Westchester County Office for Women

Family Helpline/Hotline - weekdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

In Spanish, White Plains

In Spanish, Yonkers

(914) 995-5972

(914) 995-6581

(914) 231-2882

Weekends and after hours (914) 995-2099

Hope's Door (formerly Northern Westchester Shelter)

Information, weekdays (914) 747-0828
Shelter, 24-hours (914) 238-2800
Shelter, 24-hours toll free (888) 438-8700

My Sisters' Place

Information, weekdays (914) 683-1333
Shelter, 24-hours toll free (800) 298-7233

MHA of Westchester - Family Abuse Services

Weekdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (914) 345-5900
24-hours (914) 347-4558

Putnam-Northern Westchester Women's Resource Center

Shelter and Information (845) 628-2166
Rockland Family Shelter (845) 634-3344

Westchester County Department of Social Services

Emergency Services (914) 995-2099

Family Court Domestic Violence Legal Programs

White Plains Family Court (914) 995-7400
Yonkers Family Court (914) 231-2886

VAS Family Abuse Court Services

Yonkers Family Court (914) 231-2883
New Rochelle Family Court (914) 813-5649

Westchester County Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Bureau

District Attorney's Office (914) 995-3000
Department of Probation (914) 995-3529

Victims Assistance Services

White Plains
Yonkers
Mount Vernon

(914) 995-3347
(914) 965-0217
(914) 665-2539

If you are a criminal defendant because you were abused and fought back, call:

Legal Aid Society

(914) 286-3400

To report child abuse

Child Abuse Investigation Team, Westchester
New York State Registry

(914) 995-6842
(800) 342-3720

For help with sexual assault or incest

Victims Assistance Services Hotline

(914) 345-9111