



Donate to Violence Free Colorado

March is ...

a look at sex work, stigma and survivorship

A public health research review found that globally, sex workers have a 45-75% chance of experiencing violence on the job. When this occurs, where do survivors go?

Because sex work is both criminalized and stigmatized in the United States, many survivors feel unsafe working with law enforcement - and by extension, using services within the domestic violence movement.

Our history of partnering with the criminal justice system and creating shelter rules that stigmatize or forbid sex workers only serve to create additional barriers to the help that sex workers experiencing abuse need.

Add the experience of migrant sex workers, women of color and trans women - who experience violence, rape and limited access to services at higher rates - and the answer isn't so straightforward.

All survivors are deserving of respect. We should always be aware of the ways in which we, as agencies, continue to serve the unique communities within the scope of survivorship and do so with a lens on safety, equity and justice.



sex workers deserve safety and respect

not arrest.

"Sex workers deserve safety and respect, not arrest."

Resources

CCASA: The Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault is the Colorado state coalition providing leadership, advocacy and support to address and prevent sexual violence

Sex Work Policy Recommendations: a list of state and municipal-level recommendations around sex work from the National LGBTQ Task Force

Red Canary Song: a grassroots collective of Asian and migrant sex workers, organizing transnationally.

The Sex Workers Project: provides client-centered legal and social services to individuals who engage in sex work by choice, circumstance or coercion

Rocky Mountain Sex Worker Coalition: a coalition of local sex worker advocacy groups working in solidarity to provide peer support and collective resource sharing:

Desiree Alliance: a national coalition of current and former sex workers working with supporting networks for an improved understanding of sexual policies and its human, social and political impacts of criminalization surrounding global policies in sex work

Black Sex Workers of Colorado: an organization centering the voices of all Black sex workers in the fight for decriminalization and abolition in Colorado

Coalition Updates

Welcome Miranda Encina to the VFC staff!

We're excited to introduce Miranda Encina, who joined Violence Free Colorado in February as our Culturally Responsive Technical Assistance Specialist!

In this new position, Miranda will be supporting our members and the wider Colorado community to provide accessible, culturally-responsive, trauma-informed direct services to historically unserved and underserved domestic violence survivors.



Miranda Encina Culturally Responsive Technical Assistance Specialist

Training and TA Update

March Brown Bag: noon, Mar. 9 Topic: Brain Injury 101: Overview, Symptoms and Accommodations Presenter: Ellen Kordonowy, Brain Injury Alliance of Colorado

Join the Brain Injury Alliance of Colorado (BIAC) for an educational webinar that will include an overview of brain injury, common symptoms survivors of brain injury experience, and accommodation strategies you can utilize when working with survivors of intimate partner violence. We will also discuss BIAC services and how to refer. Register today!

April Brown Bag: noon, April 13 Topic: Advocates of Routt County's Social Change Program Presenter: Graham Hackett, Social Change Program Manager, Advocates of Routt County

Join us to learn about how Advocates of Routt County's Social Change program utilizes a dynamic array of campaigns, events, and educational programs to reach local schools, businesses, and social groups. Recognizing that, when confronting violence in our communities, outrage is natural and important - it is also exhausting and limits who we reach. Instead of stoking outrage to motivate action, our social change efforts seek to inspire enthusiastic, sustainable participation in the movement to end sexual and domestic violence. Register today!



Liz Stuewe Training and TA Manager

Upcoming Trainings

Webinars and Web-Based Trainings

All trainings are Mountain Time

March 9, noon: A Conversation on Serving Deaf Survivors. Presented by the Vera Institute of Justice.

March 9, noon: Talk Story 2021 - The Future of Advocacy: Lessons from the Past Informing Our Present and Future Work. Presented by Praxis International. Part of a three-session series that repeats on March 16 and 23.

March 9, noon: A Conversation on Serving Deaf Survivors. Presented by the Vera Institute of Justice.

March 10, noon: Supporting Buddhist Survivors of Domestic Violence. Presented by Safe Havens Interfaith Partnership Against Domestic Violence.

March 10, 2 p.m.: Introduction to Intersection of DV and HIV. Presented by the Positively Safe Team at NNEDV.

March 11, 11 a.m.: Working with Survivors of Cyber Abuse - Gathering and Admitting Digital Evidence. Presented by the New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

March 11, noon: Advocating for Survivor Services and Prevention with Congress. Presented by RALIANCE.

March 18, noon: America's History and Legacy of Violence. Presented by the International Association of Forensic Nurses.

March 24, 2 p.m.: Promising Practices on the Intersection of DV and HIV. Presented by the Positively Safe Team at NNEDV.

March 25, noon: Supporting Latinx Survivors of Domestic Violence. Presented by Safe Havens Interfaith Partnership Against Domestic Violence.

Resources and Other News

Understanding Encryption: The Connections to Survivor Safety

This handout [PDF] was co-written by NNEDV's Safety Net Team and the Internet Society to address the vital survivor need of having private/secure means of both communication and electronic file storage.

For victim service providers and other professionals working with survivors of abuse, using communication and storage tools that prioritize privacy and security helps ensure they're supporting the survivor's privacy and safety.

This handout is also available in Spanish [PDF] and French [PDF].



NNEDV logo with small orange houses forming the shape of a single house, and a blue star in the top right corner

Article: Why National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Matters to Many Domestic Violence Victims

March is National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, which is also an opportunity to discuss the risks of domestic violence for survivors with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

Manipulation, isolation and financial uncertainty are common in relationship violence between people with full mental capacity. People with developmental disabilities often have a harder time accessing social support systems to help them leave an abusive relationship.

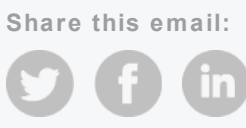
Learn more about raising awareness for survivors with developmental disabilities in this article from Community Homeless Solutions.



A multicolored background with the words "Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month" and #DDAwareness2021 in white letters. Artwork by Eileen Schofield, courtesy of Art Enables art studio.

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