## FEBURARY EVENTS

- National Black History Month
- Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month
- Feb 10th: Wear **ORANGE** to support healthy relationships
- 2/12: Dollar Bank Financial Education & Workforce Development Session for Clients

## THROUGH THE YEARS

- Advocacy
- Celebration
- Education

*"We have never had more need to examine the role of Black History Month than we do when forces weary of democracy seek to use legislative means and book bans to excise Black history from America's schools and public culture. Black history's value is not its contribution to mainstream historical narratives, but its resonance in the lives of Black people."* Visit the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) website to learn more.

The domestic violence movement owes much to Black Women's activism. From the early 20th century, Black women advocated for laws to protect women from abuse and worked to establish community-based support systems for survivors. Rosa Parks, celebrated for her role in the Montgomery Bus Boycott, was also a staunch advocate for survivors of sexual violence, particularly Black women targeted by white perpetrators. Her activism highlighted the intersections of racial and gender-based violence, laying a foundation for modern anti-violence movements. It's also important to remember Audre Lorde. A self-described "black, lesbian, mother, warrior, poet," Audre Lorde dedicated both her life and her creative talent to confronting and addressing injustices. Click here to learn more about her work, specifically as it pertains to intersectionality.

When we take a look at the intersection of the Black community and domestic violence, statistics show that:

- An estimated 45.1% of Black women experience contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime.
- More than 4 in 10 Black women experience physical violence from an intimate partner during their lifetimes.
- Black women are disproportionately impacted by lethal violence committed by males. In 2023, Black females were murdered by males at a rate of 3.1 per 100,000, two and a half times the rate of 1.2 per 100,000 for white females murdered by males. The percentage of Black females killed by males with a firearm has increased substantially from 51.0 percent in 2011 to 74.7 percent in 2023.

Therefore, it's important to note the role Black women had in establishing many of the first shelters and advocacy programs for domestic violence survivors. These efforts were not limited to providing physical refuge--they also addressed economic and legal inequalities that left many women vulnerable to abuse. While mainstream feminist movements often failed to address the specific needs of Black survivors, Black women's organizations filled the gap by creating culturally responsive services.

STANDING FIRM and WC&S recognize the importance of addressing the individual lived experiences that Black women face such as racial trauma, community-based stigma, and institutional barriers like reproductive discrimination for example. We understand the need for and apply culturally specific programming and anti-bias training in our work.

We honor Black history and recognize Black contributions that have shaped this country and the world. To learn more about the STANDING FIRM program and the work of WC&S, click on the logos on page two.

**Citations**
Institute for Women's Policy Research
VAWnet
The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community (Ujima)
Black Women Revolt Against Domestic Violence
Poetry Foundation
Violence Policy Center

## LEARN MORE

If you would like to learn more about STANDING FIRM, email contactsf@standing-firm.org

*or*

schedule your Information Session with our Director, Megan Rose

## MONTHLY AWARENESS POSTERS

Access here.

## BRIGHT SKY APP

Bright Sky is a safe, free, easy-to-use app and website that provides practical support and information on how to respond to domestic violence. It is for anyone experiencing domestic violence, or for those worried about someone else. **Upload only if safe to do so."*

Download for IOS

Download for Android

## FEBRUARY READS

From Our Bookshelves to Yours

love is respect

### Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month: Real Love Respects

Each year in the U.S., nearly 1.5 million high school students fall victim to abuse abuse from a partner. Young women between the ages of 16 and 24 experience abuse at a rate almost 3x the national average and almost half of dating college women experience abusive behavior.[1]

Of those between the ages of 11 and 15 who have been in a relationship, 62% know a friend who has been verbally abused by a partner. More than 1 in 4 teenage girls in a relationship are repeatedly verbally abused.[2] Teen dating violence affects nearly 10% of all teenagers throughout the U.S.[3]

It's important for employers and schools to provide resources that include information on teen dating violence. Whether it's students in the classroom or on campus or having teens as employees, interns, or volunteers (or the children of their employees), we must recognize that domestic violence impacts our young people as well.

WC&S provides Healthy Relationships education to schools in the Pittsburgh area.

Learn More

In addition to working with employers of all sizes, STANDING FIRM partners with local colleges and universities to provide domestic violence education using the Recognize. Respond. Refer. model. To learn more, click the SF logo on the left.

**National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline**

1-866-331-9474

loveisrespect.org

Text LOVEIS to 22522

**Woman's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh**

412-687-8005 (24x7)

Click to chat (limited hours)

412-744-8445 (limited hours)

**From the Love is Respect Website:**
"This year's theme cuts through the noise by focusing on what real love should look and feel like. In a world full of mixed messages, this theme centers around one truth: **respect is non-negotiable.** It empowers youth to recognize harmful patterns early and to expect more from love. Because respect is everything, it's earned, it's honest, and it never makes you question your worth. Remember: If it's real, it's respectful."

Click to learn more about TDVAM.

**Citations**

[1] LoveIsRespect.org
[2] CDC
[3] Teendvmonth.org

STANDING FIRM
The Business Case to End Partner Violence
A National Program of Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh

Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh