JANUARY EVENTS

1/8: Workforce Development Monthly Session

1/11: International Anti-Human Trafficking Day

1/22: Legislator Visit

THROUGH THE YEARS

- Advocacy
- Celebration
- Education

Stalking Awareness Month: Know It. Name It. Stop It.

The information compiled here does not constitute legal advice or advocacy and is being furnished strictly for informational purposes.

Stalking is a crime of power and control. It is a series of actions directed at an individual that causes the victim to fear for their safety, and often involves repeated visual or physical proximity, nonconsensual communication, and verbal, written, or implied threats.

"Stalking impacts nearly 1 in 3 women and 1 in 6 men in the United States. SPARC, a program funded by the DOJ, tells us that while *"there is no stalking hotline, no stalking crisis centers, and it is often difficult for stalking victims to recognize what they are experiencing and/or know where to go for help"*, there are other agencies whose work intersects with stalking that do provide help. *See "What to Do if You're Being Stalked"* below.

Stalking can include:

- *repeated, unwanted, intrusive, and frightening communications by phone, mail, email, and/or online or social media*
- *repeatedly leaving or sending the survivor unwanted items, presents, or flowers*
- *following or waiting for the survivor at places such as home, school, work, or social/recreation place*
- *making direct or indirect threats to harm the survivor, their children, relatives, friends, or pets*
- *damaging or threatening to damage the survivor's property*
- *harassing survivors through the internet*
- *posting information or spreading rumors about the survivor on the internet, in a public place, or by word of mouth*
- *obtaining personal information about the survivor by accessing public records, using internet search services, hiring private investigators, going through the survivor's garbage, tracking the survivor, contacting survivor's friends, family work, or neighbors, etc.*

If you or someone you're about or work with is in an abusive relationship and is experiencing stalking, reach out to Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh. View the resources below and consider including the information on your intranet.

If you need help in planning awareness events or training to your staff, reach out to STANDING FIRM at contactsf@standing-firm.org.

Pennsylvania

U.S. Stalking Laws & Statutes

Additional PA Information

Resources

What to Do If You're Being Stalked

Specific Populations & Intersecting Victimizations

Campus Resources

Technology Safety Plan

Documentation Tips for Survivors of Technology Abuse & Stalking

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

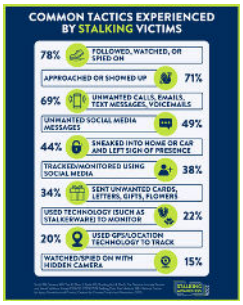
Access here.

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



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

National Slavery & Human Trafficking Prevention Month

The US Government defines human trafficking as "a crime that involves compelling or coercing a person to provide labor or services, or to engage in commercial sex acts. The coercion can be subtle or overt, physical or psychological." While the crime is grossly under reported, the DOJ estimated that in 2024, there were at least 24,000 victims in the US alone. Human Trafficking is a highly profitable crime happening in every state across the country.

Survivors of trafficking share many of the same challenges as survivors of IPV. Polaris reports that in their study of adult sex trafficking cases, nearly 37% of victims were trafficked by a spouse or member of their family indicating that trafficking can be another sinister form of power and control in an abusive relationship.

National Slavery & Human Trafficking Prevention month provides an opportunity to educate the public about the signs of trafficking for sex work or labor, ways to support victims, and how to work towards eradicating these forms of exploitation. Everyone can play a role in fighting trafficking and supporting survivors.

How to Join the Fight

- Learn the signs
  - EEOC: Recognizing Possible Signs
  - United Nations Human Trafficking Indicators
- Support anti-trafficking organizations
- Advocate for policy change
- Host awareness events
- Engage on social media
- Support survivor services
- Report suspicious activity to law enforcement

Human Trafficking Prevention Month Toolkit In Harm's Way, Polaris, June 2023
U.S National Human Trafficking Hotline Statistics

Family Care Act in PA Update

The Family Care Coalition, in which STANDING FIRM is a key participant, has built necessary legislative support in both chambers to pass the Family Care Act (FCA) if it were brought to the floor tomorrow. Right now, members of the Family Care Coalition are working to persuade both House and Senate leadership to prioritize bringing the FCA up for a vote in both chambers. To express your support for the Family Care Act, which creates paid family medical leave in Pennsylvania, contact your legislator today.

Governor Shapiro Signs Bill to Help DV Survivors Collect Unemployment

December 22, 2025: In a great win for survivors, the law helps them in collection of unemployment benefits if they have to leave their jobs over safety concerns by essentially providing a fast track in processing. Documentation is required and will remain confidential. Those without documentation can still apply; however, if not waived by the state Department of Labor, other evidence that "reasonably proves domestic violence" within 150 days will be required.