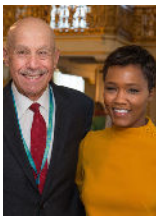
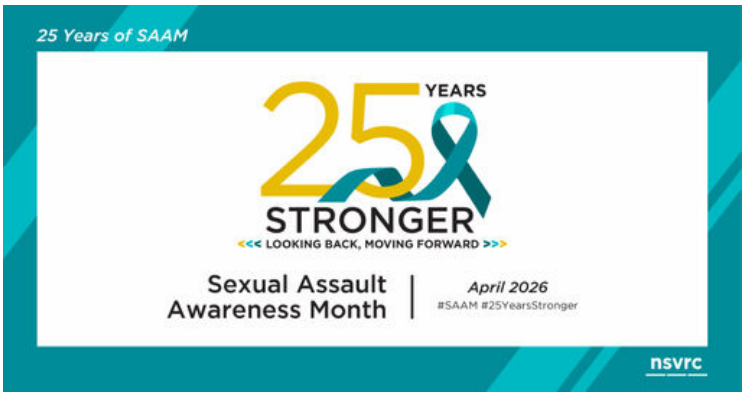
APRIL EVENTS

- 25th Anniversary: Sexual Assault Awareness Month
- National Stress Awareness Month
- Minority Health Month
- National Child Abuse Prevention Month
- April 28th: World Day for Safety & Health at Work

THROUGH THE YEARS

- Advocacy
- Celebration
- Education





While formally organized in 2001, social activism around the issue of sexual assault - any sexual act directed against another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent (such as incapacitation, age, family relation to the other party, or intellectual or other disability) - has been around for decades. Sexual Assault (SA) can be committed by or against individuals of any sex or gender and can occur between individuals of the same sex/gender or different sexes/genders.

SA may be an element of a DV survivor's experience - or it may be completely unrelated, such as when the victim and perpetrator have no prior relationship. In the 1940s and 50s, the civil rights era catapulted the movements to bring about social change.

The 1970s brought the first rape crisis center in San Francisco and the first Take Back the Night event in 1979.

In the 1990s, survivors and advocates called for legislation to support survivors leading to the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) in 1993.

The 2000s ushered in the need to go beyond advocacy to reach those who may not have realized their important role in prevention: parents, coaches, communities, college campuses, and workplaces.

Similar to the STANDING FIRM approach to Recognizing, Responding, and Referring in DV situations, it's important that employers also raise awareness and provide support for survivors of sexual assault-every day.

The links below provide information and resources to implement in your risk and safety assessments, policies, procedures, training, and awareness events.

Sexual Assault Statistics

Pittsburgh Action Against Rape (PAAR)

Pennsylvania Coalition to Advance Respect, a division of Respect Together

National Sexual Violence Resource Center

RAINN's National Sexual Assault Hotline

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.

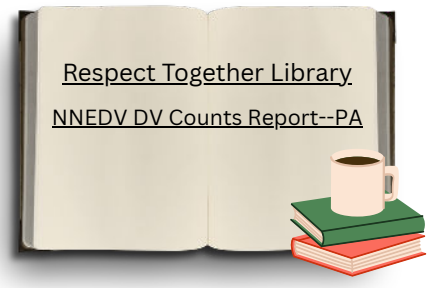
BRIGHT SKY APP

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.

**Only download if safe to do so.*

Visit Bright Sky

APRIL READS



Economic Justice & DV

With 99% of domestic violence survivors experiencing financial abuse[1], it's imperative to keep the conversations, actions, and advocacy momentum going. Economic justice plays an important role in the support of survivors and in the prevention of domestic abuse.

Economic justice is when all people, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, ability, and other identities, have equal access to participate in the economy. Economic justice contributes to a robust and healthy economy--ensuring everyone is paid a livable wage, has access to safe, affordable housing, medical care, food stability, childcare, and more.

Economic justice is the foundation for healthy communities and is rooted in the belief that everyone deserves meaningful opportunities to survive and thrive. Access to economic opportunity creates safety and justice for all.

In addition to its critical work ensuring survivors have the opportunity to reach their education goals and maintain employment, STANDING FIRM continues its advocacy for equitable pay, accessible & affordable childcare, paid family medical leave, and timely access to unemployment compensation.

Is your organization working with STANDING FIRM? Contact us to get started!

"There is no safety for survivors without economic security."

– Center for Survivor Agency & Justice

[1] NNEDV
Survivor Economic Equity Dashboard

2026 SUPPORTING SURVIVORS SUMMIT
Uniting through Community

Call for Presentation Proposals
Presented by Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh and sponsored by UPMC Health Plan and UPMC Magee-Women's Hospital, we are seeking presenters for our 2026 Summit on October 23rd at the Regional Learning Alliance in Cranberry. The theme is Uniting through Community which will include three tracks: DV and the Legal System, DV and the Community Response, and DV and Youth.

We will also be honoring WC&S employee Rhonda Fleming, Chief of Prevention, Intervention, & Outreach, who is retiring in December after 36 years of service.

The presentations should be 45-50 minutes in length, allowing time for Q&A. This **form** will close on May 15th and selections will be made by June 1st.