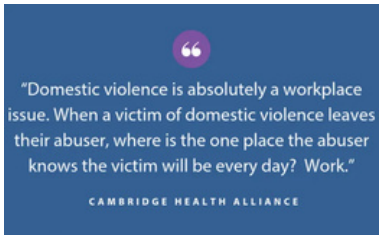
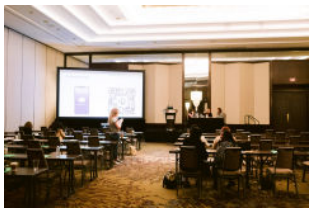
JULY EVENTS

- Disability Pride Month
- BIPOC Mental Health Month
- Social Wellness Month
- July 24: International Self-Care Day
- July 26: Disability Independence Day (Anniversary of the ADA)

THROUGH THE YEARS

- Advocacy
- Celebration
- Education





July is Disability Pride Month, a time to celebrate the strength, resilience, and diversity of the disability community. But it's also important to recognize the unique challenges that people with disabilities face, including higher rates of domestic violence.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, individuals with disabilities are nearly four times more likely to experience abuse. This increased risk isn't just due to the disability itself, but rather because of societal barriers, discrimination, and a lack of accessible services and protections.

Disabled Survivors Face Higher Risks

- Reliance on caregivers (in an abusive situation, this can lead to manipulation or neglect)
- Social isolation
- Controlled resources (control over medications, mobility and communication devices)
- Underreporting

Barriers to Receiving Help

The problem is often not the disability itself, but the systems and attitudes that create obstacles to safety, autonomy, and dignity.

- Inaccessible shelters
- Communication gaps
- Fear of losing independence
- Legal and institutional gaps

It's important to uplift disability pride, while also advocating for safety and equity. Everyone deserves to live free from violence — with dignity, voice, and choice.

Resources/Support/Information

- Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh
- National Deaf Domestic Violence Hotline (24x7 ASL Hotline)
  - 855-812-1001
- Disability Rights Pennsylvania
- Family Care Act PA--Proposed legislation that includes relief for people experiencing abuse by caregivers

Self-Care Month

Social Wellness Month

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.

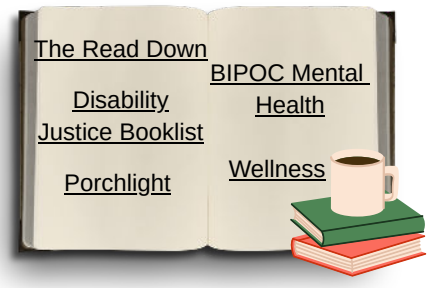
BRIGHT SKY APP

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

JULY READS



Economic Justice & DV

Economic justice for survivors means having the resources, opportunities, and systemic protections required to safely leave an abusive relationship and achieve long-term stability. The Department of Economic Impact at Women's Center & Shelter, which includes STANDING FIRM, works to assist survivors in stabilizing their financial lives, reaching their educational goals, maintaining gainful employment, and living and retiring with financial security.

The workplace can have a significant impact throughout a survivor's journey. Using our Roadmap and incorporating the ***Recognize, Respond, Refer*** model that incorporates awareness, consultation, and training, STANDING FIRM can assist your organization in building or enhancing your support of survivors. Contact us to learn more.

Policy Solution Examples

- Workplace support system
- Paid sick and safe days legislation
- Non-discrimination legislation
- Access to unemployment insurance
- Equal pay initiatives
- Increasing the minimum wage
- Affordable childcare
- Social safety nets

What's New:

SAFE for Survivors Act of 2026 (H.R. 8965; S.4635)

To promote the economic security and safety of survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and for other purposes.

The legislation would increase access to leave, provide access to unemployment benefits, enhance workplace protections, and provide insurance protections to support survivors, among other provisions. More information about the bill can be found here.

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

– Center for Survivor Agency & Justice

2026 SUPPORTING SURVIVORS SUMMIT

Uniting through Community

Mark your calendars for Friday, October 23rd!
Click here to learn more about the 2026 Supporting Survivors Summit.