

## **April is National Sexual Assault Awareness Month**

*NRCDV Provides Resources to Heighten Awareness of Sexual Violence*

Harrisburg, PA – The [National Resource Center on Domestic Violence](http://www.nsvrc.org) (NRCDV) is honored to observe April as [National Sexual Assault Awareness Month](http://www.nsvrc.org).

Sexual violence occurs any time a person is forced, coerced, and/or manipulated into any unwanted, nonconsensual sexual activity. The range of sexual violence includes rape, incest, child sexual assault, ritual abuse, date and acquaintance rape, statutory rape, marital or partner rape, sexual exploitation, unwanted sexual contact, sexual harassment, exposure, human trafficking and voyeurism. [The Centers for Disease Control](http://www.cdc.gov) estimates that one in four women and one in ten men experience an unwanted sexual experience in their lives.

“During the month of April, we can highlight sexual violence as a major public health, human rights and social justice issue and reinforce the need for prevention efforts,” said Arlene Vassell of NRCDV.

Sexual violence is a crime that affects all of us, directly and indirectly. It creates a climate of fear, anger, and/or disbelief in homes, workplaces, campuses, and communities. Additionally, sexual violence produces nearly \$127 billion in financial costs in criminal justice and medical expenses, crisis and mental health service fees, and, perhaps most damaging, the lost contributions of survivors.

Many practical steps to end sexual violence are currently being taken in homes, neighborhoods, schools, faith communities and workplaces. Individuals can model supportive relationships and behaviors, call out harmful attitudes and challenge the societal acceptance of sexual violence. Communities and businesses can take action to implement policies that promote safety, respect and equality.

The NRCDV is proud to support the 2017 [Engaging New Voices](http://www.nsvrc.org) campaign lead by the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, and focuses on ways that individuals, communities and the private sector can help prevent sexual violence. A variety of awareness resources are available through their website [www.nsvrc.org/saam](http://www.nsvrc.org/saam).

NRCDV offers an array of resources that support effective strategies to end sexual violence through their national online resource center [VAWnet.org](http://VAWnet.org). Materials specific to the 2016 sexual assault awareness campaign, including the April 5 Day of Action, is the focus of VAWnet's Technical Assistance [Question of the Month](http://www.nsvrc.org).

*The National Resource Center on Domestic Violence strengthens and transforms efforts to end domestic violence. It assists coalitions, advocates, providers and others by providing comprehensive resources, including statistics, research, position statements, statutes, training curricula, prevention initiatives, program information, and training and technical assistance on the large variety of domestic violence issues. [www.nrcdv.org](http://www.nrcdv.org)*

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