



GENERAL FEDERATION
of WOMEN'S CLUBS

GFWC SIGNATURE PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

BY DIANA GLAZE (SOUTH CENTRAL REGION
REPRESENTATIVE)

Human Trafficking crimes affect an estimated 14,500 to 17,500 victims annually across the United States. Your club is vital to educating your communities about this problem. Here are some things you can do:

1. Make information cards to be placed in vehicles so people can recognize signs of Human Trafficking.
2. Put large posters with resources for help placed in gas stations restrooms. Install signs in public restrooms and in other public places.
3. Make wallet-size cards that include details on what to look for and how to report it.
4. Place signs in public restrooms in roadside areas and travel information centers.
5. Partnership with other agencies in your community.

Human Trafficking for sexual exploitation is especially heinous. This includes anyone, male or female under the age of eighteen, who is forced, coerced, or fraudulently used for sexual purposes. The average age of a sex victim is 15 years of age. Here is what you can do:

1. Most importantly educate yourself about this crime.
2. Know the laws that protect our children.
3. Volunteer in mental health clinics. Support these victims. Help them get jobs, finish school, and get their life together.
4. Invite speakers on the topic to your club meetings.
5. Try to make other organizations become aware of the devastation of sex trafficking.



UPCOMING AWARENESS DATES

AUG 26TH

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

OCTOBER

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

PREVENTION & AWARENESS

MONTH & NATIONAL BULLYING
PREVENTION MONTH

NOV 11

VETERANS DAY

NOV 25TH

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE
ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN

NOVEMBER

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE
MONTH

DEFINING INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

BY JEAN REVIS (MIDDLE ATLANTIC REGION REPRESENTATIVE)

According to the United Nations, domestic violence or intimate partner abuse can be defined as a pattern of behavior in a relationship that is used to obtain and maintain power and control over an intimate partner. Abuse can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic or psychological actions or threats of actions that impact or influence another person. This includes any behaviors that intimidate, frighten, terrorize, hurt, manipulate, humiliate, blame, injure, or wound someone. Domestic abuse can happen to anyone of any race, age, sexual orientation, religion, or gender. It can occur within a range of relationships including couples who are married, living together or dating. Domestic violence affects people of all socioeconomic backgrounds and education levels.



Intimate Partner Violence Statistics

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the following are rates of reported intimate partner violence:

- Nearly half of all female homicide victims are killed by a current or former male intimate partner.
- The most dangerous time for a victim of domestic violence is when she or he leaves the relationship.
- Women in an abusive relationship are five times more likely to be killed if their abuser has access to a firearm.
- Domestic violence assaults involving firearms are 12 times more likely to result in death than those involving other weapons or bodily force.

VIOLENCE AGAINST NATIVE AMERICAN WOMEN

BY CRYSTAL O'NEAL (SOUTHEASTERN REGION REPRESENTATIVE)

According to the Administration for Children & Families:

- More than four in five American Indian and Alaska Native men and women (83 percent) have experienced a form of violence in their lifetime.
- Indigenous peoples have faced violence and the tragedy of a missing or murdered loved one for generations tracing back to the first instances of physical and cultural violence committed against them from the start of colonialization.

November is Native American Heritage Month. Learn more about Violence Against Native American Women and raise awareness in your community. US Department for Health & Human Services has PSAs on warning signs, seeking support, and finding services that you can use to promote awareness and help victims seek assistance:

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ana/domestic-violence-psas>



A.C.E.S-ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

BY CARRIE ZIMMERMAN (SOUTHERN REGION REPRESENTATIVE)

What is ACES? ACES are traumatic events that occur in a child's life. Three forms of childhood abuse were studied: emotional, physical and sexual. And two forms of neglect were included: emotional and physical. ACES shows that there is a relationship between traumatic experiences as a child and negative health and well being outcomes as an adult.



ACES study principle investigators were Dr. Robert Anda & Dr. Vincent Felitti. ACES study confirms, with scientific evidence, that adversity early in life increases physical, mental, and behavioral problems later in life.

There are 10 categories on the ACE study. The ACE study is scored as a one, if it happened once or ten times. The score is cumulative. The more ACES a person acquired the more likely to have health and social problems. This doesn't mean people with ACES will automatically have health and social problems but are MORE LIKELY to.

ACES is still being studied throughout our country by Epidemiologists (Scientists who study the origins of disease, disability, productivity, and health in a population). ACES has been studied in 35 states and continues to be updated. ACES information can be found on the CDC.gov website.

The intervention/treatment for ACES is RELATIONSHIPS. ACES cannot be prevented if the word does not get out. Our GFWC Clubwomen can find ACES Master Trainers to present at their meetings or sponsor a community event. Our GFWC Clubwomen can be mentors, listening ears and continue to do the work they do to provide communities with positive, supportive relationships. The ACES training is about an hour but discusses more in-depth the science behind the study and how we as a community can be a collaborative to help prevent ACES with our youth.

If your club is interested in receiving an ACES training, I am an ACES Master Trainer and could do a shortened version via Zoom. Feel free to reach out to me if you're interested, and I will do my best to accommodate, czim22@gmail.com.

