

MILITARY SEXUAL ABUSE

The US military is one of the largest organizations in the world with the percentage of women soldiers at around 16%. Many women listed sexual assault as a deciding factor for leaving the military. They expressed discouragement based on the occurrences of sexual assault and the military's handling of the investigations. At times the perpetrator was not punished and women cited lack of support from other service members.

Two organizations within the military: Family Advocacy Program and Department of Defense Safe Helpline (877-995-5247) offer 24/7 crisis support.

Outside the military is: Protect Our Defenders Foundation: info@protectourdefenders.com
Contact local military base Family Advocacy Program to find out ways to help. Volunteer at local agencies that support survivors of military abuse.

VIOLENCE AGAINST NATIVE AMERICAN WOMEN

In the United States, violence against indigenous women has reached unprecedented levels on tribal lands and in Alaskan Native villages. More than 4 in 5 women have experienced violence and it is reported that rates of domestic violence are 10 times higher than the rest of the US. Although data is limited, the number of missing and murdered American Indian and Alaska Native women and the lack of a diligent adequate federal response is alarming.

We as club women can help raise awareness to help gain strong federal action to end such violence. Volunteer at or contribute to Native Organizations to increase their ability to prevent violence and advocate for the safety of women.

The National Indian Country Clearinghouse on Sexual Assault (NICCSA) has a list of Tribal Women's Shelters.
November is American Indian Heritage Month.

STARFISH PROJECT

The Honorary Chair for the Signature Program is Jennifer McGee, CEO and Founder of the Starfish Project. Based in China, she goes into brotels and rescues young women. She teaches them a skill - how to make the Starfish Project's beautiful jewelry. starfishproject.com

Success for Survivors Scholarships

The application and further information can be found in the club manual The deadline is February 7.

California Federated Women's Clubs
Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention

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2020-2022

SIGNATURE PROGRAM

DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE AWARENESS & PREVENTION

WITH EIGHT FOCUS AREAS

- *INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE
- *ELDER ABUSE
- *CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION
- *HUMAN TRAFFICKING
- *TEEN DATING AWARENESS
- *CAMPUS SEXUAL ASSAULT
- *MILITARY SEXUAL ABUSE
- *VIOLENCE AGAINST NATIVE AMERICAN WOMEN

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Let's break the silence on domestic violence! In the United States a woman is assaulted or beaten every nine seconds. According to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, the term intimate partner violence includes physical violence, sexual violence, economic abuse, stalking and psychological or emotional abuse by a current or former partner or spouse.

Domestic violence also has a substantial effect on family members and increases the risk of abuse carrying on into the next generation. CFWC members support shelters all over the state in many ways. Along with helping educate the community, The Purse Project continues as does collecting & providing supplies for women and children in shelters.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

ELDER ABUSE

Abuse of the elderly takes many forms and often goes unreported. Nearly one in ten seniors suffer from elder abuse every year. This abuse takes many forms, including physical injuries, emotional abuse, neglect, sexual assault and financial abuse. Seniors lose a staggering 2.6 billion dollars a year due to financial exploitation.

They are also viewed as easy targets for scammers, especially by telephone. Seniors hate to ignore the phone ringing as they are often hungry for outside human contact.

Clubs could create or distribute pamphlets that give seniors resources to utilize.

Christmas for Seniors is another project to provide basic supplies for those who are neglected or ignored by their families.

June is Elder Abuse Awareness Month.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION

Child Abuse is when a parent or caregiver, whether through action or failing to act, causes injury, emotional harm, risk of serious harm or death to a child. There are many forms of child maltreatment, including neglect, physical abuse, emotional abuse, exploitation & sexual abuse.

According to Prevent Child Abuse America, there are Five Protective Factors in Strengthening Families:

1. Parental Resilience
2. Social Connections
3. Knowledge of Parenting & Child Development
4. Concrete Support in Times of Need
5. Children's Social & Emotional Development

For ideas on how to help contact:

preventchildabuse.org

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Let those "Pinwheels for Prevention" Spin!

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human sex trafficking is driven by the demand for commercial sex and is comprised of:

- A. People who buy boys, women and girls for sex
- B. A culture that tolerates or promotes sexual exploitation

Venues of sexual exploitation drive the demand for commercial sex and contribute to its normalization. Events and major conferences regardless of the city tend to have at least a 20% uptick in human trafficking during those events.

Help educate our teens about those who prey on them.

Some ideas for your club: First Night Bags for sex trafficking victims, Small fabric bags that contain hygiene products, blanket, sleep attire, cozy socks and slip on shoes.

January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month

January Eleventh is National Human Trafficking Day

TEEN DATING

Teen Dating is the GFWC Challenge Project, chosen by our current GFWC President.

There are four types of Teen Dating Violence:

1. Physical Violence
2. Sexual violence
3. Psychological Aggression
4. Stalking

This violence can take place in person or electronically. The statistic are overwhelming. Nearly one in eleven female and one in fifteen male high school students report having experienced physical dating violence.

Clubs can help present programs to educate preteens and teens about how to form healthy relationships.

The White Ribbon Campaign is a global movement of men and boys working to end male violence against women and girls. They pledge to never commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women and girls.

Podcasts on Teen Dating Awareness will be available in April.

CAMPUS SEXUAL ASSAULT

Many of us have either daughters or granddaughters on college campuses. Addressing the issue of Campus Sexual Assault means educating students on issues like consent and personal safety and empowering all students and faculty to become active bystanders willing to step forward and intervene. Also making sure campus administrators ensure policies are in place for handling reports of sexual assault in a sensitive, compassionate and professional manner and make sure adequate support services are available for survivors. Check out these resources for information and ideas:

It's on Us www.itsonus.org

End Rape on Campus (EROC)

www.endrapeoncampus.org

Campus Sexual Assault is highlighted with the wearing of a teal ribbon during April as part of Sexual Assault

Awareness Month