

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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April is the 23rd Anniversary of Sexual Assault Awareness Month

NCEDSV raises awareness about sexual assault through a community rally, sexual assault report guide, and participating in #30DaysofSAAM.

[Reno, NV] — This April marks the 23rd Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). The Nevada Coalition to END Domestic and Sexual Violence (NCEDSV) is highlighting SAAM through the Building Connected Communities campaign to raise awareness about sexual assault, eliminate victim-blaming, and encourage victim-survivors to seek resources within their communities.

“The victim-survivors of sexual assault across all our communities in Nevada deserve to know that they are believed and cared for and that we will continue to fight for their safety and healing. Sexual Assault Awareness Month is a time when we ask everyone to show up and let survivors know that it is not only advocates who believe them. This year’s theme of Building Connected Communities reminds us that healthy, safe communities take everyone,” stated Elizabeth Abdur-Raheem, Executive Director of NCEDSV.

Throughout April, the Nevada Coalition to END Domestic Violence will promote events and provide resources meant to empower individuals and communities to recognize and prevent sexual violence:

- NCEDSV has teamed up with Norah Lusk, co-founder of the Nevada Institute of Forensic Nursing and mobile Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner, to provide a guide on reporting sexual assault which will be released this month.
- April 24 is Denim Day, an international movement where people are encouraged to wear denim to symbolize solidarity with victim-survivors. This Denim Day, NCEDSV will host a community rally in Elko, NV to honor Norah Lusk as the recipient of 2024’s Visionary Voice Award.
- NCEDSV is participating in the #30DaysofSAAM social media campaign to promote awareness about sexual assault.

“In 2023 volunteers across Nevada logged more than 7,800 hours responding in-person to support victims in the moment of crisis. This April we ask everyone to join these volunteers by taking at least one action to reduce sexual assault in your community. Attend a Take Back the Night event, educate your neighbor, push for age-appropriate consent education in your local schools, wear denim, and let people know that clothing does not cause or excuse rape – each of these simple actions can prevent future violence,” said Abdur-Raheem.

NCEDSV encourages the community to believe victim-survivors, share resources about sexual assault awareness, and to advocate for policies that promote safety, respect, and justice.

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About NCEDSV

The Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence (previously The Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence), is the statewide coalition of domestic and sexual violence programs. NCEDSV provides statewide advocacy, education and support to the front-line organizations that help those impacted by domestic and sexual violence. To learn more about services provided by NCEDSV, visit ncedsv.org.