



NNEDV

NATIONAL NETWORK
TO END DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE

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ABOUT THE NATIONAL NETWORK TO END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) is a membership and advocacy organization representing the 54 state and territorial domestic violence coalitions. NNEDV is the voice of these coalitions, their 3,000 local domestic violence member programs and the millions of domestic violence survivors who turn to them for services.

Since its inception, NNEDV has represented the coalitions at the Federal level, from drafting legislation to testifying before Congress, from filing amicus briefs to disseminating policy information. NNEDV's network of state coalitions give NNEDV the latest information about trends and needs in the field, as well as the ability to quickly communicate with local programs.

Started in 1990 as a small working group of state domestic violence coalitions and advocates. Then known as the Domestic Violence Coalition on Public Policy (DVCOPP), it sought to fill the information and expertise gap in the early discussion of federal public policy related to domestic violence. Growing into a wide alliance of shelter programs, statewide advocacy groups and coalitions around the country, it spearheaded the passage of the landmark Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) in 1994. In 1995, DVCOPP incorporated as the National Network to End Domestic Violence, becoming the leader in Congress, the Executive Branch and the Courts on the issue of domestic violence.

In 2000 and 2005, NNEDV members all across the country played a crucial role in the reauthorization of VAWA. Through its extensive state and grassroots network, NNEDV continues to mobilize a powerful constituency to make their voices heard in Congress.

NNEDV's leadership extends through its work with other national organization working to end violence against women. NNEDV co-chairs the Campaign for Funding to End Domestic and Sexual Violence and chairs the Housing Committee of the National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence. NNEDV also leads the work on many of the existing VAWA programs — programs authorized in VAWA 1994 and 2000, such as STOP Grants, Rural Grants and Legal Assistance for Victims Grants. NNEDV also chairs the committee to reauthorize the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act.

NNEDV has created a public policy voice for battered women and children, secured increases in federal funding for shelter programs and domestic violence coalitions, argued successfully for recognition of private and privileged communications for

survivors, and worked to keep firearms out of the hands of abusers. NNEDV has been able to achieve this success through the work of its Legislative and Legal Action Centers.

Legislative Action Center

Works proactively on Capitol Hill to ensure that the voices of battered women and their children are heard in the halls of Congress. Our priorities for the 110th Congress include:

- securing full-funding for VAWA
- protecting funding for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)
- reauthorizing the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act
- preserving emergency and long-term housing options for victims of domestic violence

Legal Action Center

In partnership with our General Counsel at Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky, and Popeo, NNEDV helps to ensure battered women's voices are represented in landmark court cases, including:

- *State of Ohio v. Michael Carswell (2007)* - determining if the language in the State's constitutional amendment to prohibit same-sex marriage has made the domestic violence statute unconstitutional.
- *Adrian Martell Davis v. Washington (2006)* - the Supreme Court upheld the right of prosecutors to use 911 tapes during trial in lieu of subjecting a victim to further trauma.

Mintz Levin also assists NNEDV with developing responses to critical issues impacting battered women and their children.

In addition to the Legislative and Legal Action Centers, NNEDV has spearheaded efforts through its sister organization, the National Network to End Domestic Violence Fund to provide more direct support to local programs and coalitions through public awareness, outreach, funding, and training.

While NNEDV's fight to end domestic violence has contributed to a transformation in public awareness, the most underreported crime in America continues to be domestic violence. Together, NNEDV and the NNEDV Fund continue to place this critical issue at the forefront of our national debate.