



formerly The Women's Center of Greater Danbury

The Center for Empowerment and Education Statement on Intimate Partner Homicides

DANBURY, CT, February 1, 2023— According to statistics, on average, the state of Connecticut averages 14 intimate partner homicides annually. February 1, 2023, marks the first intimate partner homicide of 2023, and it happened again in our community. In 2022 there were 12 intimate partner homicides, 7 of them were committed with a firearm. In 2021, there were 16 intimate partner homicides. A staggering 87% of the victims are female. While Connecticut has been a leader in creating strong laws that support survivors and hold offenders accountable, there are still processes, particularly within the criminal justice system, that can be enhanced. New processes can ensure that entities are communicating and working collaboratively to create the strongest possible response and limit possible service gaps. At The Center for Empowerment and Education (CEE), we continue to collaborate with our emergency service providers across our region to help ensure that victims have access to services, safety, and support.

As our community continues to feel the devastating effects of continued violence, we want the community to know that we are here. Services are available at our main office at 2 West Street, Danbury, CT. In addition, any victim can walk into Danbury Superior Court and work with our Family Violence Victim Advocates (FVVA) to receive services. Services range and vary based on an individual's needs and requests. Advocacy is provided to individuals to support, guide, and safely plan for unhealthy relationships and dangerous situations. Safety planning for someone in an abusive relationship is vital. Planning can be done for those still with their abuser and those whose relationship has ended.

The crisis navigation services offered at all of our locations are critical. Each FVVA is available to support and advocate for victims throughout the criminal court process for domestic violence cases. Our FVVAs at Danbury Superior Court and our Bilingual Crisis Navigators at our main office are available to assist a victim with safety planning, obtain a Temporary Restraining Order and/or Protective Order, and, when requested, seek emergency sheltering options throughout the state. In addition to advocacy services, each FVVA is available to help victims become aware of their options and help them to make informed decisions. We empower individuals to find their voice and choose their path toward healing as they rebuild their lives. We believe that choice is about knowing what options are available, respecting an individual's choice, and having the resources to make the choices they want. At times, a victim can even make the choice to decline services at that moment, it may be out of fear, belief that things won't escalate further or one of many other thoughts that filter through a victim's mind during a crisis.

Our hearts are heavy as we continue to hear of acts of violence in our community and across our state. We will continue to provide services to all victims experiencing interpersonal violence that walk through our doors or call us, and no one will be turned away if they come seeking support. We will continue to provide services to all victims of violence 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year. Regardless of gender, age, race, religion, socioeconomic status, ability, or religion, if a victim of interpersonal violence walks through our doors and seeks help, we help them.

CEE continues to be a client-focused organization that empowers clients to make their own decisions. We know that the individuals we work with have a unique story that requires a client-centered response to meet their needs. We support each survivor as they work through the trauma of violence. We want to remind our community that we are here.

If you or someone you know needs support, our no-cost confidential hotlines are available 24/7.

24/7 Domestic Violence Hotline (203)731-5206

24/7 Sexual Assault Hotline (203)731-5204

About The Center for Empowerment and Education

Since its founding in 1975, The Center for Empowerment and Education has been a safe haven as the sole provider of services to victims of domestic and sexual violence in the Northern Fairfield and Southern Litchfield County areas. Each year, CEE serves over 30,000 individuals from area communities with confidential services that are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year and are provided at no-cost.

CEE's key services include an emergency residential facility and support services, counseling and advocacy, crisis intervention, community education, primary prevention, and training. All funds provided to CEE support their critically needed domestic violence, sexual assault and resource services for adults and children in a 11-town service area, including: Bethel, Bridgewater, Brookfield, Danbury, New Fairfield, New Milford, Newtown, Redding, Ridgefield, Roxbury, and Sherman. CEE is a member of the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) and The Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence.

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