



# SIGNATURE PROGRAM

DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AWARENESS & PREVENTION

The goal of the GFWC Signature Program is to increase awareness of and help prevent the widespread occurrence of domestic and sexual violence abuse in communities across the nation by working with national domestic violence networks, supporting existing activities, working with various established programs, and initiating educational opportunities for club members and local citizens. GFWC aims to be a powerful voice for victims and survivors.

In partnership with GFWC and community members, we pledge to work together with passion and purpose to **advocate** for survivors of domestic and/ or sexual violence and **educate** the public on the prevalence of domestic and sexual violence in our local communities and how informing members can improve outcomes for survivors.

---

To raise awareness in our communities, we must learn to become the voices of those who lack one.

Teach safe and healthy relationship skills to our youth and adults.  
Advocate and support legislation that provides stricter laws in your States against abusers and rights for victims.

Work with your local shelters and find out how you can help and what they need. Sometimes, it's the items we overlook that matter the most.  
Encourage your club to support victim-centered services, which could include therapy, housing programs, teen dating violence prevention, and legal assistance.  
The Signature Program has eight areas of focus:

---

## Campus Sexual Assault

More than 1 in 4 women attending college are survivors of campus sexual assault. Women are not the only survivors. About 7% of college men and 23% of gay/lesbian/transgender students are also survivors. It is not just other students that present a risk; sometimes it is a member of the faculty or staff.

---

## Child Abuse

Child abuse and neglect are common. At least 1 in 7 children have experienced child abuse and/ or neglect in the past year. Children living in poverty experience more abuse and neglect. Rates of child abuse and neglect are five times higher for children in



families with low socioeconomic status compared to children in families with higher socioeconomic status.

---

### Elder Abuse

It is estimated that elders throughout the U.S. lose a minimum of \$2.9 billion annually due to elder financial abuse and exploitation. These numbers are staggering. We need to support and educate our elderly population and their caregivers.

---

### Human Trafficking for Sexual Purposes

Vulnerable populations are frequently targeted by traffickers, including runaway and homeless youth, as well as victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or social discrimination. Women and children are the most common victims. More recently, LGBTQIA+ identifying individuals, especially transgender individuals, are increasingly found to be victims of sexual exploitation across international borders. The average age of a trafficked child is 15 years old.

---

### Intimate Partner Violence

Domestic or Intimate Partner Violence is a silent epidemic and is a prevalent problem in today's society. According to the 2022 National Statistics, on average, nearly 24 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner in the United States. This equates to more than 12 million women and men each year. One in 4 women and 1 in 9 men have experienced intimate partner physical violence, though women are considerably more likely to experience repeated and severe forms of abuse, including sexual violence.

---

### Military Sexual Assault

Military personnel are encouraged to use the unit or installation Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program, or speak with a Military Criminal Investigative Organization investigator. The Military victim will then be able to decide whether to make a restricted or unrestricted report.



# SIGNATURE PROGRAM

DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AWARENESS & PREVENTION

---

## Teen Dating Violence

Dating violence can take place in person or electronically, such as repeated texting or posting sexual pictures of a partner online without consent. Unhealthy relationships can start early and last a lifetime. Teens often think some behaviors, like teasing and name-calling, are a “normal” part of a relationship— but these behaviors can become abusive and develop into serious forms of violence. However, many teens do not report unhealthy behaviors because they are afraid to tell family and friends.

---

## Violence Against Native American Women

- Approximately half of Native American women have experienced sexual violence and approximately half have experienced physical violence by an intimate partner.
  - Murder is the third-leading cause of death for AIAN women in the United States.
  - AIAN female victims are more likely to need victims’ services such as medical care and legal services, but more than a third were not able to access or receive those important services.
- AIAN victims are more likely to be victimized by non-Native perpetrators.
- 

## Hope for Justice – GFWC Affiliate

Hope for Justice and the General Federation of Women’s Clubs share a common mission and vision: to live in a world free from trafficking. We see a world where every human is free and equal. We believe every person can be a force for good. Human trafficking is a global problem, and Hope for Justice brings a global solution. We target our resources where they will have the most impact and help the most people. We want to create nations and societies that are hostile to trafficking — because what you tolerate, you will never change.

---

I Support The Girls -MFWC Affiliate – This can be reported under both ISTG and DVAP.

Making dignity the norm – one bra and period product at a time.



# SIGNATURE PROGRAM

DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AWARENESS & PREVENTION

---

At the 2025 MFWC Convention we will be having a Pajama Bingo Party! Please wear your pajamas and bring women's or children's pajamas to donate to local shelters.

I look forward to reading your reports and seeing what creative ideas you have for supporting Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention.