

This petition is intended to be used to raise public awareness and to share with local media, members of Congress, and others to help advocate for action.

To Sign On: <https://forms.gle/8d3wykBdstNt3y9v7>

April 30, 2026

Support Survivors Now: Release Federal Funding!

Sexual assault and domestic violence are dominating headlines nationally. From abuse committed by elected officials to civil rights leaders, to survivors once again being forced to publicly relive trauma while seeking accountability, to drug-facilitated rapes by husbands to rape academy websites, to mass homicide of children and murder-suicide, the message is clear: gender-based violence remains deeply embedded in our institutions, culture, and systems of power. This violence disproportionately impacts women and girls and marginalized populations, including people of color, LGBTQ people, immigrants, Native Americans and people with disabilities.

The scale of domestic and sexual violence we are witnessing is relentless. In fact, it is unfolding at an all-time high during April, Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month — a time to honor survivors and renew our commitment to prevention and justice. Meeting this commitment includes ensuring all survivors have equal access to safety, justice and healing— requires a national movement to end gender-based violence and federal funds to support victim service programs working on the front-lines.

Victim service programs, including rape crisis centers, domestic violence shelters and community-based programs addressing gender-based violence, are challenged in meeting our national commitment due to unprecedented cancellations and delays in federal funding over the past year including:

- **Significant delays in the release of FY25 U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) grants, including over \$200 million in federal funds appropriated by Congress** through the bipartisan Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). OVW grants provide critical funding to rape crisis centers on college campuses, domestic violence shelters, community-based programs, and prosecution-based programs to support investigating and prosecuting sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking, among other life-saving programs to prevent, intervene, and respond to gender-based violence across our nation. Victim service programs have now been waiting over **7 months** for the release of these federal grants, as the scheduled award date was October 1, 2025.
- **Delays in the release of new funding for FY26, including the failure to release the FY26** OVW Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) for grants to support domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking programs nationwide.
- **Terminations of federal funding to support victim service programs, including over 365 DOJ grants totaling over \$811 million terminated in April 2025.** A majority of these grantees who appealed their termination have yet to receive any response from the DOJ over 11 months later.

The need for victim services and the cost to provide them rises every year. Victim advocates support survivors of sexual violence, domestic violence, stalking, human trafficking, and families impacted by homicide and other violent crime. They answer crisis calls, accompany survivors to hospitals and courtrooms, secure emergency shelter and safe housing, navigate complex legal systems,

connecting them to legal remedies and protections, stabilize their education, and help survivors begin recovery after unimaginable harm.

And yet these services are limited because of staff layoffs caused by the termination or delay of federal grants last year and extended delays in the release of federal funds that have been appropriated and, in some instances, obligated.

Current federal funding instability caused by the U.S. Department of Justice is creating uncertainty for local programs already stretched thin, having to plan for furloughs or ultimately layoffs of the very people who care for survivors. This funding instability is directly related to the escalating sexual and domestic violence we are experiencing every day across the country.

These are not distant policy debates. They are personal. Every fatality and headline can reopen wounds. Every public failure to hold perpetrators accountable sends a chilling message. The lapse and cuts in funding tells survivors their safety is negotiable. That their lives are negotiable. But they are not.

Domestic and sexual violence is not inevitable. It is preventable. Accountability is possible. Healing is possible. A safer society is possible. But only if we are willing to prioritize it and invest in it.

It means recognizing victim advocates as essential professionals who provide life-saving crisis and recovery care, not invisible labor. It means ensuring no survivor is turned away because a shelter is full, or an agency cannot afford another staff.

We must demand accountability everywhere harm occurs — in our homes, workplaces, schools, communities, and the highest levels of government. No title, office, bank account, or position of influence should place anyone beyond responsibility for committing domestic and sexual violence.

This Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, awareness alone is not enough. The U.S. Department of Justice must immediately distribute the federal funds that Congress appropriated and release the notice of funding opportunities for programs to sustain life-changing and life-saving services. Not in the months to come — today.

Survivors need safety and action now, and those of us who support them demand it.

Survivors' lives depend on it.

ORGANIZATIONAL SIGN ONS

Apna Ghar, Inc.

Arab-American Family Support Center, NYC, NY

Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence, Boston, MA

Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence

Arkansas Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Human Trafficking

ASTOP Sexual Abuse Center, Fon du Lac, WI

California Partnership to End Domestic Violence

Joyce M. Raynor, Center for Healing Hearts and Spirits, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Center for Violence Prevention & Recovery, Boston, MA

Clackamas Women's Services, Oregon City, OR

Esperanza United, St. Paul, MN

Kaethe Morris Hoffer, Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation

Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance

Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepard

DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Washington, DC

DeafHope

Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Disability Rights Wisconsin

Embrace Services, Inc., Ladysmith, WI

Esperanza United, St. Paul, MN

End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin, Madison, WI

Family Advocates, Platteville, WI

Family and Community Resources, Brockton, MA

Family Violence Prevention, Batesville, AR

HAVEN, Inc., Merrill, WI

Her Justice, New York, NY

Housing and Climate Justice For Action

Tia Simpton, Idaho Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence

Illinois Accountability Initiative, Frankfort, IL

Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Inspire Action for Social Change, Montana City, MT

Dr. Maria Corona, Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Jewish Women International

Jane Doe Inc, Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence

Just Solutions, Arlington, VA

Law Office of Symone Shinton, Chicago, IL

Francine Stark, Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence

Manitowoc County Domestic Violence Center

Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Meredith Shaw, Executive Director, Melrose Alliance Against Violence, Melrose, MA

Michele Wink, Milwaukee Center for Children and Youth, Wisconsin

Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepard

National Organization for Victim Advocacy

The Network: Advocating Against Domestic Violence, Chicago, IL

New Beginnings APFV

New Horizons Shelter & Outreach Center, La Crosse, WI

Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence

Danna Carpender, Options, Inc.

Dorinda Edmisten, Ozarks Rape Crisis, Inc., Russellville and Harrison, AR

Oregon Sexual Assault Task Force, Salem, OR

Pathways to Safety International

Peace Over Violence

Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Proyecto Matria, Caguas Puerto Rico

Rainbow House Domestic Abuse Services, Inc., Marinette, WI

REAL Women in Trucking, Inc.

Lycy Rios, Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Ivette Monge, RIA, Framingham, MA

Safe Havens Interfaith Partnership Against Domestic Violence and Elder Abuse, Boston, MA

Deborah Fallon, Survivor and Founder, Portal to Hope, MA

Safe Passage, Northampton, MA

Susan Ross, The Second Step, Newtonville, MA

Spanish American Center

StopHazing, Orono, ME

Survivor Justice Center, Los Angeles, CA

Raksha, Atlanta, GA

Rad Wind Consulting, Colorado Springs, CO

Kathryn A. Fagan, Roxbury Stone House, Inc., Boston, MA

Sakhi for South Asian Survivors, NY, NY

Stepping Stones, Inc., Medford, WI

Tahirih Justice Center

UNIDOS, Madison, WI

Utah Domestic Violence Coalition

ValorUS, Sacramento, CA

Stacy Malone, Victim Rights Law Center, Boston, MA

Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Women Employed, Chicago, IL

VOICES Against Sexual Assault

Zero Abuse Project, St. Paul, MN

INDIVIDUAL SIGN ONS (*As of May 3, 2026 at 5:00 pm ET*)

Fern A., Chicago, IL

Wendie Abramson

Kelley Adams, Somerville, MA

Alexandra Aguilar

Kiara Alibaeva

Heather Angelinetta, Milwaukee, WI

Nicele Arana

Maddie Armentrout, Houston, TX

Julia Babcock

Casey Ballinger, Denver, CO

Olivia Bando, Cleveland, OH

Alison K. Barker

Laura Allen, Bedford, MA

Moire Balsam, Natick, MA

Madison Bell, Brookline, MA

London Bencher, Boston, MA

Bethany Bernal

Elizabeth Brady, Bernardsville, NJ

Lisamarie Bristol

Jean Bruggeman, Arlington, VA

Lena Budinger, Chicago, IL

Kristin Burki

Emily Caille, Norwood, MA

Megan Cantrell

Kimberley Carpenter

Michelle Chella, Lynn, MA

Percy Child, Hanson, MA

Shannon Collins, Denver CO

Isabella Constante, Phoenix, AZ

Megan Cooley

Tyler Counsil, Washington, IN

Elisa Covarrubias, Atlanta, GA

Elizabeth Crespo-Kebler, San Juan PR

Maura Crossin, Trumbull, CT

Maria Cristina Pacheco Alcala, Celina, TX

Julia Cunha

Jaquelina Dabo, Taunton, MA

Karen Dahl, Arlington, MA

Abbigale Dearing, Easthampton, MA

R. Deiner

Tarialis De Leon, Boston, MA

Katie Demerath-Cook, Appleton, WI

Jeffrey Dion, Falls Church, VA

Janet Donovan, Lexington, MA

Suzanne Dubus

Rachel Dunn

Holland Dvorak

Kendra Eads

Lacy Earnest, Eugene, OR

Ariel Ellison, Lake Forest, IL

Meaghan English, Boston, MA

Dorothy Ennis, Little Falls, MN

Maria C. Fabian, Neenah, WI

Kristen Feden

Alison Feigh, St. Paul, MD

Victoria Fergeson-Young, Atlanta, GA

Jeremy Flowers, Tyler, TX

Jarelis Fonseca-Miranda

Sarah A. Ford, Esq.

Jackie French, Arlington, MA

Eliza Galaher, Erving, MA

Kim Galloway

Jillian Garera

Maricarmen Garza, Houston TX

Kailey Gielink, Chicago, IL

Debbie Glennon, Syracuse, NY

Kristin Glynn, Glynn Associates

Jared Scott Golub

Phoebe Gonzales, Camden, AR

Linda Gorniaczyk, Boston, MA

Eglia Guiliani, Plymouth, MA

Danielle Blythe Guillory

Alice Hathaway, Maynard, MA
Willamarie Heiskala, San Diego, CA
Candace Heisler, San Bruno, CA
Sarah Henry, Eugene, OR
Audry Hester, Charlotte, NC
Tiffany Hester, Manitou Springs, CO
Mich Hirsch, Quincy, MA
Joyce Humsey, Hanover, MA
Ethel Hutchinson
Francine Itzkowitz
Galena Jacquart, Sheboygan, WI
Clare James
Marquito James, Leesburg, VA
Bhoojaa Jawahar, Brighton, MA
Marian Jones
Todd Kamens, Waban, WA
Kate Kasper, Edwardsville, IL
Colette Kennedy, Cambridge MA
Shannon Kennedy
Jason Kichamu, Houston, TX
Penny King, Brookline, MA
Jamie Kratz-Gullickson
Lisa Krenz, Wisconsin Rapids, WI
Ann Laatsch, Shorewood, WI
Kathy Landry, Westborough, MA

Deborah Le, Kiel, WI

Tim Lennon, Tucson, AZ

Sharon Lewandowski, Madison, WI

Emily Lewis

Hannah Linscott, Boston, MA

Tammy Linville, Frenchburg, KY

Yenting Liu, Charlotte, NC

Eli Lu, Shorewood, WI

Hannah Luedtke, Eau Claire, WI

Jane Luong, San Diego, CA

Nicole Luz

Luca MacNaughton

Maureen Mahoney, Gloucester, MA

Laura D. Mangini, Esq.

Magdiela Martinez

Connie Martyn, East Kingston, NH

Sara Mayer, Madison, WI

Shannon Masden, Longmont, CO

Samantha McCoy

Cornelius McGarry

Patricia McKnight

Melissa Massey

Abigail Mellard

Angelique Mellard, Houston, TX

Priyanka Menezes, Oxford, OH

Kim West Merrill, WI
Monique C. Minkens
Margaret Misdorn
Kathryn Moore, Hampton, VA
Ulises Moreno
Susie Moya
April Mueller
Ashley Myers, Littleton, CO
Elizabeth Noonan
Amy Van Noord, Cambridge, MA
Deborah Norton, Walpole, MA
Erika A. O'Donnell
Crisin M. O'Hara
Shelly Otto, Camden, AR
Rihana Oumer, Boston, MA
Mary Owens
Cecilia Pacheco
Gabriela Palacios, Greenfield, MA
Jane Palmer
Patricia Parker, East Freetown, MA
Rosalind Patterson
Carol Pearson
Jordan Penney, Quincy, MA
Becky Perkins, Monroe, OH
Tania Pereira, West Yarmouth, MA

Wynn Phillips, Selinsgrove, PA

Rebecca Pinedo

Jillian Poirier, Beverly, MA

Alexandra Potter

Erika Raikovic, Salem, MA

Suzette-Ramos-Flores, West Palm Beach, FL

Kioma Renaud

Marlee Rich

Berin Romagnolo

Danielle Rominski, Oviedo, FL

Yarimar Rosa-Rodriguez, San Juan, PR

Jennifer Rose, Escondido, CA

Kristi Roye

Mark Rudder, Brockton, MA

Dawn Rutt, Coon Rapids, MN

Marissa S., Queens, NY

Sara Sadowski, Milwaukee, WI

Courtney Schwalbach, Madison, WI

Kavi Shahnawaz, Philadelphia, PA

Michael Shepard, Boston, MA

Jordan Sherrod, Randolph, MA

McKinlee Shumay, Pocatello, ID

Betty Smith, Holtsville, NY

Rita Smith

Lauren Spector

Miranda Gordon Spencer, Denver, CO

Megan Sprecher, Madison, WI

Erica Spitzer, Eau Claire, WI

Vickie Sullivan, Camden, AR

Anne Tobin, Rowley, MA

Julie A. Tokarowski

Kelsey Tucker, Atlanta, GA

Patrick Tucker, Houston, TX

Joanna Turner, Trout Lake, WA

Alicia Tyner

Page Ulrey, Vashon, WA

Yvette Upton, Savannah, GA

Brenda Valentin, Worcester, MA Diana Valle

Kathy Van Olst, Bend, OR

Gina Varamo, Arlington, MA

Nicole Verde, Boston, MA

Alex W., Charlottesville, VA

Jane Walsh, Louisville, CO

Asha Wasmund, Green Bay, WI

Kathleen Watson

Allison Watt, Roscoe, IL

Elizabeth Wesley

Candall West

Jennifer White, Yorktown Heights, NY

David L. Williams, IV, Chismville, AR

Leah Winter-Barkai, Cambridge, MA

Edwin Wisniewski, Merrill, WI

Melinda Wisniewski, Merrill, WI

Gary Zajc, Lake Geneva, WI