



**For Immediate Release**

October 17, 2011

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**YWCA USA OBSERVES *WEEK WITHOUT VIOLENCE*™ OCTOBER 16-22**

**Washington, DC – October 17, 2011** The YWCA USA and its nearly 300 local associations marks their 2011 *Week Without Violence* from October 16-22 with compelling educational events that focus public attention on the devastating impact of domestic violence on American women and their families.

Launched as a grassroots initiative when it began in 1995, the YWCA's *Week Without Violence* is now a global campaign involving hundreds of communities and over 50 countries. Domestic violence will affect one of every four women during her lifetime, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

"As the largest provider of battered women's shelters and domestic violence services in the nation, the YWCA has worked tirelessly to combat violence against women and girls. Our *Week Without Violence*™ to raise awareness about this issue is an extremely important step in our efforts to end this horror that hurts everyone," stated Gloria Lau, CEO of the YWCA USA. "YWCA's across America are committed to eliminating violence by educating and empowering individuals to protect themselves against violence," added Lau.

The YWCA website, [www.ywca.org](http://www.ywca.org), provides information about all forms of violence against women – including sexual assault, dating violence, human trafficking, and more. Also, the YWCA has partnered with the Allstate Foundation to promote Purple Purse through [www.purplepurse.com](http://www.purplepurse.com) to raise awareness and provide resources about domestic violence.

In addition, the YWCA's Facebook page has a listing of community events at YWCAs around the country to commemorate YWCA *Week Without Violence*. These events include: vigils and walks to remember victims of domestic violence and sexual assault; ways to engage men in speaking up and stepping out to take a stand against violence; programs to educate and protect children; and awareness-building of human trafficking occurring today across the nation.

Local YWCA associations comprise the nation's largest provider of domestic violence services and offer comprehensive emergency shelter, transitional housing and counseling services to millions of women and children.

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**About the YWCA USA**

The YWCA USA is one of the oldest and largest women's organizations in the nation with the mission of eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. In the U.S., the YWCA serves over 2 million women, girls and their families. Globally, the YWCA USA is a member of the World YWCA, which has affiliates in 122 countries that serve 25 million women and girls worldwide.