

Dear [Elected Official]:

Women and girls of all ages, income levels, racial and ethnic communities, sexual orientations, gender identities, and religious affiliations experience gender-based violence in the form of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, trafficking, and stalking.

Gender-based violence continues to be a pervasive problem in the United States, with far-reaching consequences:

- 1 in 3 women experiences some form of gender-based violence.
- Out of every 1000 cases of rape, 57 lead to an arrest, 11 are referred to prosecutors, and only 7 lead to a felony conviction.
- 1 in 3 girls is a victim of physical, verbal, or emotional abuse in the United States.
- 1 in 4 women will experience domestic violence and, on average, more than 3 women are murdered by their partners in the United States every day.
- Victims of domestic violence lose about 8 million days of paid work per year because of the violence that they experienced.

YWCA is the largest network of gender-based violence service providers in the country. We know the women and girls impacted by this violence. Survivors have shared their stories and experiences with us, helping us to develop strategies to address the multiple challenges that they face.

As we participate in Week Without Violence, we ask that you show your commitment to supporting and protecting survivors of gender-based violence by taking the pledge below.

## PLEDGE

I \_\_\_\_\_, acknowledge that gender-based violence impacts the lives of countless women and their families that are within my constituency. I acknowledge that survivors of gender-based violence are an expansive and diverse group. Their lives and safety are important to me, even if their lives are different from my own.

To show my commitment to end gender-based violence, this term, I pledge to:

- Consider how any and all policies may affect survivors and victims of gender-based violence in my community.
- Make every diligent effort to ensure that survivors who are marginalized due to racial inequity, immigration status, disability, homelessness, health care issues, or other concerns have resources available to them in my community.
- Dedicate time to raise my awareness and the awareness of others about gender-based violence.
- Visit a non-profit organization in my jurisdiction that serves survivors of gender-based violence.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_