The tragedy of San Bernardino is a devastating reminder that domestic violence is not "a family problem," it impacts the entire community. This teacher, Karen Smith, and her 8-years-old student, Jonathan Martinez, were murdered at the hands of an abuser. In some ways this is so "textbook," that we sometimes forget that leaving a relationship is the most dangerous time for a victim of domestic violence, as was just proven days ago. There are many lessons to be learned and more will evolve, but one in particular is that someone cannot "just leave." Domestic violence is complex, safety planning, community and family education are crucial, and support for victims/survivors is critical.

While April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, these things happen every day and every month. Now, while we focus on Denim Day, we acknowledge the intersectionality of sexual violence with domestic violence and we work to find the paths to prevention. At Peace Over Violence we believe that violence is preventable. Not every act of violence can be prevented but that doesn't mean we stop trying.

We remember those whose lives have been lost by domestic and sexual violence.

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