

2nd National Stalking Awareness Month

January 2005

Dear Colleagues,

Next month, the National Center for Victims of Crime and many of our members and colleagues across the country will recognize the 2nd National Stalking Awareness Month, to focus on the serious and deadly crime that victimizes more than one million women and nearly 400,000 men in America each year.

The tragic story of Peggy Klinke, a stalking victim who was murdered by an ex-boyfriend after repeatedly seeking law enforcement intervention, inspired us to devote a month to increasing public awareness about stalking. Last year, Peggy's family joined the National Center for Victims of Crime, Lifetime Television, social activist Erin Brockovich, and our congressional sponsor Congresswoman Heather Wilson (R-NM) on Capitol Hill to recognize the first-ever National Stalking Awareness Month. After that event, Representative Wilson and Senator Mike DeWine (R-OH) introduced congressional resolutions to establish an official National Stalking Awareness Month.

We invite you to join us in observing the 2nd National Stalking Awareness Month by distributing materials, holding events, working with governors and other officials to issue proclamations or resolutions, contacting media in your community, or conducting other local activities that raise awareness about this terrible crime.

On our Web page, www.ncvc.org, you will find downloadable support materials for National Stalking Awareness Month. These materials include a victim brochure in PDF format, a one-page fact sheet (with general stalking information and statistics), links to research studies, a "ten things you need to know about stalking" handout, a sample proclamation to use at the municipal, county or state level, a stalking poster, and information about last year's activities by our partners.

There is also a link to a training tape for law enforcement about effective responses to stalking, developed by the National Center and Lifetime Television. Silver stalking awareness pins will soon be available for purchase through our Web site.

If you have questions, would like to get involved, or share what your community is already working on for National Stalking Awareness Month, please contact Ilse Knecht, Deputy Director, Public Policy, at 703-732-2446 or iknecht@ncvc.org.