

# **The National Domestic Violence Hotline Presents**

**The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

## **DECADE *for* CHANGE**

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For Immediate Release  
March 12, 2007

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### **AS CALLS TO HOTLINE MOUNT TO 2 MILLION, HOTLINE EXPANDS FOCUS TO AMERICAN YOUTH TO STOP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

#### ***Teen Dating Violence Hotline Launches Following National SUMMIT***

Austin, TX – The National Domestic Violence Hotline today announced that, as a result of the recent first national Decade for Change SUMMIT it hosted in three cities nationwide, the Hotline will expand its focus to include prevention initiatives, especially initiatives geared towards America’s youth. The National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline and the website [www.loveisrespect.org](http://www.loveisrespect.org), made possible by a grant from Liz Claiborne Inc., have been launched and is the first in a series of major national programs the Hotline will unveil this year.

Based on outcomes of the historic Decade for Change SUMMIT, the Hotline will focus its efforts on public awareness, education and training, organizing men to stand up as role models, and prevention programs focused on young people.

“The Teen Dating Violence Helpline is the first of many initiatives to come,” said Sheryl Cates, Chief Executive Office of the National Domestic Violence Hotline. The national helpline targets America’s teenagers and marks the beginning of a long-term prevention track the Hotline will pursue.

“Studies have shown that attitudes among teens about domestic violence are about the same as their parents’ and grandparents’ attitudes,” Cates emphasized. “The leaders participating in the SUMMIT realized we have to start focusing on teens and children if we want to have a lasting impact.”

As calls mount towards the 2 million mark to The National Domestic Violence Hotline, the Hotline’s leadership has turned attention to how to reduce the calls. “The Hotline has received more than 1.7 million calls. We have to start asking, when does this end?” Cates added.

“It is time to awaken the hope that we, as a society, can work together to bring the promise of safety and hope to every home in America. Not only will the Hotline focus on responding to calls for help from victims of domestic violence, but we also are launching initiatives to stop the violence. Preventing violence can start with our nation’s youth,” said Cates.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline held the final meeting of a three-city Decade for Change SUMMIT in early February. The ground-breaking SUMMIT brought together national leaders from sectors including from business, healthcare and the media to focus on a 10-year blueprint for preventing domestic violence.

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