

NOTICE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL CENTER ON DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

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Through a collaborative project with the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) of the U.S. Department of Justice, the staff of the National Center is passionately at work on a new endeavor. With OVW's support, the agency has created the Technical Assistance Providers Support project (TAPS). TAPS is providing logistical support to 48 other organizations around the country that are OVW-funded Technical Assistance Providers.



U.S. Rep. Lloyd Doggett

TAPS will help the Technical Assistance Providers design and conduct educational events for thousands of community and governmental agencies working on ending violence against women with OVW grants.

In February, U.S. Representative Lloyd Doggett (D-TX) announced that the National Center would receive \$1.2 million in federal funds for this new project.

TAPS Takes Off!

Doggett remarked at the time, "These funds are essential to making sure the important work done here in Austin by the National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence can help others across the nation as they struggle to end violence against women." TAPS Director Vickie Smith explains that the function of TAPS is two-fold. The goal of the TAPS team is to do whatever it can to support the events sponsored by the Technical Assistance Providers. Full logistical assistance is available — from finding hotels and negotiating rates to lending a hand with advertising and developing model training-tools for events. "Whatever Technical Assistance Providers need, that's what we're here to do," Smith asserts.

She also underscores that the enhancement of information sharing among Technical Assistance Providers, other OVW grantees, and the larger violence-against-women movement is as much of a priority to the TAPS team as event support. In this vein, TAPS will be using

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New Name and New Look for National Center ...

The National Center has recently dropped the word "training" from its name — the agency is now known simply as *National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence*. The focus has expanded from training to include consulting and advocacy work.

A new logo (see below) and Web site (see screen shot, right) were designed to coincide with the new name.

"The new name," says Debby Tucker, executive director, "better reflects the focus of our organization and is more inclusive. We're doing more than training, which has been our primary activity since

our inception in 1998. While training is still an important component of our work, we're doing consulting and advocacy as well."

To date, the agency's most significant advocacy and consulting project has been Tucker's three-year service as co-chair of the Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence, which involved recommending to the Secretary of Defense philosophical and policy shifts that will be supported by training. (See "My Three Years in the Military," page 4.)

The National Center also recently received a grant from the Office on



Check out www.ncdsv.org!

Violence Against Women (OVW), part of the U.S. Department of Justice, to provide logistical support to other agencies around the country. These agencies are designing and hosting, through grants funded by OVW, a variety of educational

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NATIONAL CENTER
on Domestic and Sexual Violence
training • consulting • advocacy

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Mission

The National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence designs, provides, and customizes training and consultation; influences policy; promotes collaboration; and enhances diversity with the goal of ending domestic and sexual violence.

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Please note: You are welcome to reprint newsletter content. We ask only that you use the credit, "NOTICE, published by the National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence," and reference the issue (season and year).

National Center Reaches Law Enforcement Through Training Partnerships

by Crystal Wick, NCDSV Communications Intern

The National Center co-sponsors several popular trainings for law enforcement officers on both domestic violence and sexual assault. Currently, training collaborators include the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC), the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA), and the National Center for Rural Law Enforcement (NCRLE). The courses are team-taught by expert trainers who take a collaborative approach by providing an interactive, hands-on experience for participants.

The *Domestic Violence Train-the-Trainer Program*, offered with FLETC, is a five-day course in which law enforcement trainers learn about improving their agency's effectiveness in reporting and investigating domestic violence crimes. One participant remarked, "It's refreshing to have a training that deals with the real issues of rural areas and real solutions. ... The instructors made me feel as though they were sharing information rather than lecturing."

Rural Law Enforcement Training, Domestic Violence: Intervention and Investigation is offered with NSA. This is a two-day class with a focus



on officer/victim safety, offender accountability, better effectiveness in investigation and reporting, and evidence-based prosecution. After attending, Assistant District Attorney of Oklahoma, Robert E. Christian, commented, "We have already received many positive comments from law enforcement concerning the training." He continued, "This past Monday morning, we had two domestic violence cases. Both [reports] were prepared by officers who had attended the training. We could see a marked difference."

The *Rural Sexual Assault Management Training* is offered with NCRLE and is specifically for executive- and management-level officers. A 12-hour course about which one participant said, "I wish all sexual assault investigators could receive this class," it covers the dynamics of sexual assault with an emphasis on rural issues and a review of sexual assault investigations.



Also co-sponsored by NCRLE, *Rural Sexual Assault Investigators Training* is a three-day course, this time focusing on investigators. One participant commented, "I found several resources and tools that will be used. I will take this back to my community and also share it with others in my area." The class includes a review of interview and interrogation techniques — including investigating for identification vs. consent — and covers legal issues, forensic issues and advancements, policies and procedures, and the investigative benefits of sexual assault nurse examiners and victim advocates. The curriculum also includes mock-crime-scene exercises and hearing a survivor's experience.

In addition, NSA and the National Center will be training emergency professionals (dispatchers and call takers) on domestic violence this fall.

All of these trainings are tuition-free. To learn more, visit www.ncdsv.org and click on *Law enforcement training*.



Photograph by Barbara Schliet

Meet the NCDSV Staff

From left to right in the back row: Anne Cunic, TAPS Coordinator; Kyre Osborn, Communications Coordinator; Vickie Smith, TAPS Director; Randy Hines, Website Coordinator; Debby Tucker, Executive Director; Crystal Wick, Communications Intern; John Dennis, Operations Coordinator. Middle row: Patricia White, TAPS Coordinator; Nancy Flanakin, Librarian; Valinda Bolton, Training Director; Lisa Mucciacciaro, Operations Specialist; Andrea Twyman, TAPS Specialist; Juliet Walters, Sexual Assault Projects Director; and Christina Walsh, Communications Director. Front: Terri Lynne Hudson, Communications Specialist. (Not pictured are Phyllis Waelder, TAPS Coordinator; and Jennifer Scott-Dewar, Training Coordinator.)

OK YWCA Takes Full Advantage of NCDSV Offerings

When law enforcement in the Enid, Oklahoma, service area requested training on domestic violence, Tricia Mitchell was assigned to coordinate it. At the time, Mitchell had never trained anyone on the issue, and she'd been working as a court advocate for the area YWCA for less than a year. She recalls, "I'd never trained anyone before and I was scared to death." To get up to speed, Mitchell attended two trainings co-sponsored by the National Center — a National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) class in February of 2002 and a Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) training in April of the same year.

The Enid YWCA is one of the Office on Violence Against Women's rural grantees, and they're the lead agency for their grant. Mitchell is responsible for working with women with protective orders in two counties: Kingfisher and Garfield. A former legal secretary with no prior domestic violence experience, she benefited greatly from the trainings offered jointly by the National Center and its partners.

As a result of the training she received, Mitchell was able to coordinate five eight-hour trainings; all included an overview of the issue of domestic violence, investigation techniques, evidence collection, and full faith and credit for protective orders. She also had the local district attorney answer questions and a victim witness coordinator discuss the crime victim compensation process. Mitchell ultimately hosted trainings for 94 officers from her community.

But she didn't stop at attending two law enforcement trainings — Mitchell also arranged for the National

Center to do a consultation with her agency. In May of 2002, Vickie Smith, Technical Assistance Provider Support Project (TAPS) Director at the National Center, and Division Commander Allen Wigington, of the Pickens County sheriff's office in Jasper, Ga., visited Enid, Okla. The group's talks concentrated mostly on the Y's community-coordination efforts. The visitors met with the staff involved in the domestic violence program and discussed how to get the community task force back on track.

“ I'd never trained anyone before and I was scared to death. It was helpful to attend the FLETC training, because I learned a lot! ”

They concentrated on collaboration, renewal, and the refocusing of the task force's goals. They also reevaluated the work of the Y to make certain that the

agency was meeting its goals. Comments Mitchell, "The consultation was good because we were able to make good connections and to share ideas with others who have done this work." While Enid currently doesn't have a coordinated domestic violence effort, they have in the past, and as Mitchell says, "As a result of this consultation, we anticipate getting our local task force back on track!"

Mitchell's new knowledge benefited not just the officers who attended the local trainings, but also the victims and perpetrators officers encounter when responding to domestic violence calls. She also notes that it was good for the Y's victim advocates to participate in a law enforcement training. As a result, they're more realistic about the legal process when working with victims.

In the end, all of the National Center services assisted the YWCA in making sure they're meeting their goals and thus making a difference for victims of domestic violence.

Serving as co-chair of the three-year Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence, convened by the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) in 2000, was an honor and an incredible challenge. The task required all of my knowledge, skills, and commitment to effective advocacy

Some reporters assumed service members are much less likely to use violence, while others believed domestic violence by military members far exceeds that of the civilian population. Reporters varied widely in their familiarity with the issue and in their desire to delve into it. Some

My Three Years in the Military:

The Department of Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence

to end violence against women — as well as a tremendous amount of time spent learning about the DOD.

It was the ultimate yin-yang experience: The Task Force wouldn't have been necessary if the violence perpetrated by service members was being properly addressed; we've all heard about the egregious cases resulting in serious injury and death. But, I also worked closely with service members, civilian experts, and DOD staff who are deeply concerned about this problem and who have demonstrated a sincere commitment to making a difference. It is these people who are exercising leadership to significantly improve the military's response to domestic violence.

The work of the Task Force came to a close in April of this year. We wrote three reports to the Secretary of Defense, Donald H. Rumsfeld, making hundreds of recommendations. The Secretary has agreed with much of what we've recommended and has communicated our recommendations to the U.S. Senate and U.S. House Armed Services Committees. Having reviewed Secretary Rumsfeld's responses to the Task Force and considering the renewed concern of the Armed Services Committee members, I can say that the potential is there for great strides to be made. The military knew that they needed such a Task Force, and they didn't oppose the Congressional mandate for its formation in 1999. The need for our work was tragically reinforced to the nation — and became more widely understood — after the murders at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, in the summer of 2002.

While members of the military kill an average of 50 people each year through domestic violence, what happened at Fort Bragg was unprecedented. Five families in the same location were each victimized by a domestic violence homicide in a matter of weeks. The fact that several of the perpetrators had recently served in Afghanistan caused speculation that participation in combat or medications provided overseas to service members might have caused the violence. As the civilian co-chair of the Task Force, I found myself being interviewed by all sorts of news outlets. The frenzy of activity began with the *Fayetteville Observer* (whose military reporter, Tonya Bianca, followed every development) and eventually included calls from several lifestyle magazines and even a Japanese television station.

The media reports transformed the country's understanding about domestic violence, sending the message that this violence can be lethal and is a fact of life for military and civilians alike. There were lots of misconceptions.

were only interested in the story if it could be connected to the war in Afghanistan, since Afghanistan was the story they were assigned to follow. Others wanted to truly understand what domestic violence is and how to make these horrific homicides (and suicides) understandable to the general population.

It wasn't just the public that was transformed by the Fort Bragg cases. As members of the Task Force, we knew in our marrow the deep importance of the work that we were doing on behalf of the military. We saw with renewed clarity the value of many of our recommendations, especially those that called for collaboration between civilian and military victim advocates, law enforcement, prosecutors,



By Deborah Tucker

NCDSV Executive Director

court systems, and military command staff. For instance, most military families reside in the civilian world. There is speculation that batterers live off base to avoid the scrutiny that can be a part of living on a military installation. Thus, violence by service members can happen in local communities, and civilian authorities and agencies are a crucial part of a necessary partnership between military officials and community programs to end this violence against women and children.

There are, of course, things the Task Force chose not to do. We did not recommend the elimination of the military command structure for the adjudication of criminal offenses. Some believe that when long distances or time periods separate military members from civilian legal authority, military command must be able to enforce law to ensure order and discipline. Others believe that this system is outmoded and all U.S. citizens who commit crimes should be investigated, arrested, prosecuted, and sentenced by civilian authorities. This is one of many debates we engaged in throughout the three years. In fact, members of Congress even asked us if we wished for the Task Force to continue beyond April 2003, when our time officially expired. Our response was to urge the DOD to move forward with our recommendations; we felt that if we continued as an official body, the DOD might wait to see what else we chose to say. We're ready for the hundreds of proposals we made to be implemented, evaluated, and improved upon by those professionals involved in responding to domestic violence. We suggested that the Secretary of Defense invite us back after two years to discover what he and his staff have tried, learned,

and come to believe. We will reserve the right to say more at that time; we look forward to reconsidering things that weren't part of our initial recommendations and to bringing new ideas we've encountered to the Department.

The toughest question for me today is, *have we done enough?* Having served on advisory bodies before, I recognize that we made *recommendations*, not actual changes. We were not vested with the authority to make the needed changes, so the concomitant responsibility is not ours. Nevertheless, my fellow Task Force members and I often discussed the huge sense of responsibility we felt to make a true difference. We were advocating for what may be one of the largest "underserved" populations (to use the language of the Violence Against Women Act) in our nation. We examined, interviewed, listened, debated, drafted, argued, redrafted, polished, and finally reached consensus. The usual guidelines found in the battered women's movement guided our decision-making: Work it until there is widespread agreement and comfort that the direction is valid. (I will say, though, that observing how giving orders can result in immediate action made this more traditional method very appealing!)



We also pushed outside the limits of domestic violence and considered linkages to child abuse, sexual violence, and trafficking in women. In our executive summary in the Task Force's third and final report, we spelled out the connections between the types of violence against women. These statements take on even greater significance given our recent awareness of the mishandling of sexual violence at the Air Force Academy. In the summary, we commented, "Members of the Task Force realize that domestic violence is but one aspect of the overall problem of violence against women. Sexual violence is an important concern for the

military as well." Further, we noted, "It is important that all our recommendations for training, assessment, safety planning, investigation, and intervention, as well as prevention, acknowledge that sexual violence is an often coexisting aspect of domestic violence. Any efforts to target sexual violence within families will also serve to educate and further condemn sexual violence against strangers, coworkers, and acquaintances." Our Task Force couldn't fully explore — or develop a special strategy for — sexual violence in the military, but I have frequently stated my support for the formation of a similar Defense Department task force on this issue.

Now, the challenge is to ensure that our work does make a difference, and as soon as possible. We must all consider the ways in which our combined efforts can end violence against women in military *and* civilian families. I am confident that one profound difference the Task Force has made is that military officials no longer feel isolated from the battered women's movement. Today, they know many of us. They have seen the concern, the willingness to help, and the dismay that we felt upon realizing how different our respective approaches have been and how little we understood one another. The unfamiliarity, at least, is irrevocably changed. Hopefully the same collaborative relationships will be developed during an exploration of the problem of *sexual* violence in the military. We are one nation, not divisible into the two worlds of military and civilian. We are one people who must end violence in our homes, in our streets, and someday, in our world.

For more information about the Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence, visit www.dtic.mil/domesticviolence. To view the Task Force's three reports, click on Reports on the left navigation bar.

Armed Forces Domestic Security Act Extends Full Faith and Credit Provisions to Military Land

The Armed Forces Domestic Security Act, or HR 5590, was passed in 2002 and provides that a civilian order of protection shall have the same force and effect on a military installation as it does within the jurisdiction of the court that issued the order. And, the Secretary of Defense is required to prescribe regulations to carry out this modification. In technical terms, the Armed Forces Domestic Security Act extends full faith and credit provisions to military land.

This legislation closed a loophole that had *prevented* civilian court orders — such as a restraining order against a batterer — from having any force on domestic military installations. As a result, victims of violence residing in military housing did not have access to a host of civilian legal tools.

Currently, the reverse has not been put into effect — that is, military orders of protection have *not* been granted full faith and credit on civilian land. But, there *are* ways for civilian officials to work with military law enforcement to uphold military protective orders. For example, an official can call a soldier's commanding officer to inform him or her that a violation of the military protective order has occurred at the hands of a service member and that the victim is in possession of a military protective order. Further, civilian authorities can gather evidence at the scene for use by the commander or even hold an alleged perpetrator until military police arrive to take the service member into custody.

U.S. Representative Robin Hayes (R-NC) introduced HR 5590 following the homicides at Fort Bragg in 2002, and it passed in record time. The Act made it through both houses of Congress in the fall of 2002, gained President Bush's signature in early December, and took immediate effect. The legislation is a major piece of the protocol recommended by the Task Force to the Department of Defense.

Board Member in Focus

How did Rhonda Gerson become involved in working on violence against women issues? “There was a need,” she says simply. Her journey began in 1981, and over 20 years later, she’s still doing the work. Board chair of the National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence since 1998, Gerson has been involved with the battered women’s movement since she began as a volunteer with Houston’s Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse. She was that agency’s first executive director. For six years, Gerson was unpaid because the agency didn’t have the money to fund her salary. She retired from that position in April of 2001 with a staff of 24.



**Rhonda Gerson,
NCDV Board Chair**

During her years in the battered women’s movement, Gerson has seen a lot of change. “There is a better understanding now of violence against women, although it doesn’t always seem like it. This increased awareness is certainly attributable to the work of the battered women’s movement.” She continues, “The response of the community has changed dramatically, although it isn’t perfect, and it isn’t always easy. The movement has done an amazing job getting a better response from the criminal justice system.”

At the same time, Gerson points out that the battered women’s movement has become institutionalized, commenting, “This isn’t a good thing.” She notes, “In many areas [the movement] has lost its grassroots quality and approach to the work. Efforts are being made across the country to reclaim this. There is more effort to reach victims of domestic violence where they live and to develop new and innovative ways of providing services to them.”

The biggest challenges facing the battered women’s movement in the coming years, she comments, are “the natural challenges of nonprofit organizations — stabilizing funding while trying to maintain the level of service to victims in need and simultaneously expanding our work — especially through community endeavors. We have to figure out ways to let communities identify the needs of victims and shape how they will provide services. It’s not one-size-fits-all. In the beginning, the movement had to be that way to get established, but now, to help as many victims as possible, we have to reach them where they are.”

Gerson’s list of community roles and awards is lengthy. She helped establish and serves on the board of the Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council and is on the Texas Freedom Network’s board of directors. She was appointed by the Texas Supreme Court to the Access to Justice Commission (providing civil legal access for Texans of all income levels) and is chairing the Commission’s Assisted Pro Sé Committee. She also chaired the Houston Police Department Task Force on Domestic Violence from 1988-91, served as chair of the board of directors for the Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV) from 1989-94, and served on Texas’ Governor’s Planning Council on S*T*O*P Violence Against Women in 2002.

Gerson chaired a demonstration project in 1984 in the Harris County District Attorney’s office that resulted in its Family Criminal Law Division and was a founding board member of WOMAN, Inc., a community housing development organization in Harris County. She is also a recipient of both TCFV’s *Statewide Leadership Award* and their *Local Achievement Award* and of the *Hannah G. Solomon Award* from the National Council of Jewish Women (greater Houston section). And, Gerson was a founding Board member of the National Center. She has three grown sons and shares her life in Houston with her husband, Paul, a radiologist.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT TOP THE LIST

The overwhelming majority — 92% — of women polled in a recent survey by the Center for the Advancement of Women indicated that domestic violence and sexual assault are their top concerns. Two national and random surveys of more than 3,300 women were conducted over two years by Princeton Survey Research Associates for the study, entitled “Progress and Perils: New Agenda for Women.” Data revealed that those in the study group prioritized women’s safety as the top issue on which a women’s movement should focus. “Women are making a powerful statement when personal safety tops their list of priorities on which to focus a women’s movement,” said Faye Wattleton, president of the Center for the Advancement of Women. “The study results clearly indicate a new agenda for women — one that is more personal to their day to day lives and one that improves the way society treats women.” Subjects were queried about the women’s movement, feminism, priorities, and opinions on key policy issues, motherhood, relationships, and work. For more information, visit www.advancewomen.org.

LIBRARY CORNER

By Nancy Flanakin, NCDSV Librarian

"Psychological Abuse in Violent Domestic Relations"

K. Daniel O'Leary and Roland D. Maiuro, editors
New York: Springer, 2001

The articles in this book convey necessary background information for researchers on domestic violence and psychological abuse, but would also be beneficial to advocates and counselors for a greater understanding of victims — specifically, how victims have been affected by different types and degrees of psychological abuse. Psychological abuse, even in the absence of physical abuse, impacts the victim's physical and emotional health. One study discussed in the book focuses on the "Stockholm Syndrome," while another looks at depression, low self-esteem, and fear. Information on psychologically abusive behavior can also be useful in assessing the risk of physical violence — threats and denigration of an abuse victim often precede physical violence and are useful in predicting future violence in particular cases.

"Rape Is ... "

Cambridge Documentary Films, 2002

In this film, rape survivors — including survivors of war-related mass rapes — describe the immediate effects their rape had on them as well as the long-term results. Rich Ridlon talks from prison about being sexually abused as a child and about sexual abuse in the prison setting. Vednita Carter, founder and director of Breaking Free (a Minnesota agency that provides services to women who have been prostitutes), talks about the role of rape in forcing women into prostitution. The question is posed, what would the world be like if women didn't have to survive, recover from, and fear rape? The speakers and images in this film are moving and thought-provoking.

TAPS ... , *cont'd*

electronic tools like the Web and e-mail to make sure that all events are well publicized and easily accessible.

"These funds are essential to making sure the important work done by the National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence can help others across the nation." — *Rep. Lloyd Doggett*

Executive Director Debby Tucker couldn't be happier about the National Center's growth. "With TAPS," she says, "we're excited to expand our efforts to help communities around the country with their response to violence against women. It is an honor to have this opportunity to facilitate communications and make connections between organizations and communities and all those who assist victims of domestic violence and sexual assault."

New Name, *cont'd*

events for community and governmental agencies working on ending violence against women. (See "TAPS Takes Off," page 1.)

The National Center also continues to offer technical assistance and training to Texas domestic violence programs and state and local welfare and workforce offices on issues affecting low-income women.

Tucker comments, "We're still very actively involved in training law enforcement officers about domestic and sexual violence through partnerships with the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, the National Sheriffs' Association, and the National Center on Rural Law Enforcement. (See "National Center Reaches Law Enforcement," page 2.)

"We're also excited about two new programs we're working

on with our partners to train military law enforcement officers and 911 dispatchers. In addition, we still work with many organizations around the country to make presentations during their conferences and workshops and to provide strategic planning and organizational development consultation."

The newest project for the organization involves working with leaders in Mexico to develop a curriculum and manual for sexual assault and battered women's advocates in that country. For a listing of the National Center's offerings in training, consulting, and advocacy, visit www.ncdsv.org and click on *Services*.

The National Center recently moved. Please note the new address on page 1.

Trapped by Poverty/Trapped by Abuse

FOURTH NATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

The Center for Impact Research, the University of Michigan School of Social Work, and the University of Texas School of Social Work are pleased to announce the fourth *Trapped by Poverty/Trapped by Abuse* research conference in **Austin, Texas, from October 17-19, 2003**. The conference brings together researchers, policy makers, service providers, advocates, and elected officials to learn more about the relationship between poverty and abuse, to explore effective policy responses, and to hear about innovative service delivery strategies. The National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence is proud to be a co-sponsor of this event.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

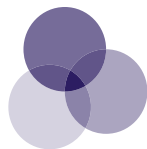
Visit www.ssw.umich.edu/trapped/conference.html or call 773.342.0630.

FAMILY VIOLENCE STAMP AVAILABLE SOON!

A newly designed stamp was unveiled in Colorado this summer to raise awareness about and fight the problem of domestic violence. The stamp's first day of issue will be October 11th. When available, the stamp will cost \$0.45, which includes a tax-deductible contribution to the U.S.



Department of Health and Human Services in accordance with the Stamp Out Domestic Violence Act of 2001. Comments Donna Peak, Vice President, Finance, Controller for the Postal Service, who unveiled the stamp, "The Stop Family Violence semipostal will allow every American to contribute to a nationwide fight against domestic violence. By using this stamp on cards, letters, and packages, our customers will also have an opportunity to bring before the public eye a problem that is too often ignored."



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