

For Immediate Release

Andrew Willis
CEO, Board Member
Stop Abuse Campaign
HQ Offices: 148 West 127th Street, New York,
New York 10027 | [203.216.7791](tel:203.216.7791)
Direct | [917.388-2529](tel:917.388-2529)
andrew.willis@stopabusecampaign.com |
www.stopabusecampaign.com

Jacquelyn W. White, PhD
Professor of Psychology
Associate Dean for Research
273 Eberhart College of Arts &
Sciences
[336-334-4758](tel:336-334-4758) (phone)
[336-334-4260](tel:336-334-4260) (fax)
jwwhite@uncg.edu



**Co-chair, National Partnership to End
Interpersonal Violence (NPEIV)**
www.npeiv.org



NPEIV and Stop Abuse Campaign declare campaign to end abuse

On Thursday, December 8th the National Partnership to End Interpersonal Violence across the lifespan (NPEIV) www.npeiv.org and the Stop Abuse Campaign www.stopabusecampaign.com will call on all survivors, advocates, activists, researchers, practitioners, and abuse focused organizations and agencies to join them in stopping abuse in America within the next 25 years. The announcement will take place in room 441 of the Cannon House Office Building at 2.30pm.

Says Andrew Willis – CEO and Co-Founder of the Stop Abuse Campaign, ‘Based on the FBI’s crime reports, we estimate that half the population are survivors of some form of abuse or violence at some point in their lives. That’s an incredible statistic and sometimes it is hard to perceive of so many people being affected. However, unfortunately, this becomes more believable when you consider some of these harrowing facts:’

Speaking on behalf of NPEIV, Jacquelyn White – Co-Chair ‘More than 1 in every 5 women, and many men too, are victims of intimate partner violence. At least 1 in every 6 women will be victims of rape or attempted rape. As many as a 1 in every 5 children are sexually abused before they are 18 years old.

“You don’t have to add to these numbers much bullying, elder abuse, physical child abuse or neglect to understand how at least half the population is living with the consequences of abuse, either for themselves or close family members” says Andrew Willis. “That’s shocking enough but these rates are only part of the problem. Abuse happens on such a massive scale that society has come to accept it and has chosen to invest in controlling its symptoms, rather than eradicating its root causes”.

According to overwhelming research, not only does abuse feed more abuse through the cycle of violence, but it also fuels many of society's problems. **This costs taxpayers \$500 billion a year.** That's the equivalent of 3 Hurricane Katrina's every year, or funding 5 Iraq wars each and every year! Societal problems like substance abuse, prostitution, incarceration, suicide, teenage pregnancies, and human trafficking often have abuse at their roots. Eighty percent of substance abusers, 95% of prostitutes and 85% of our prison population were abused as children or grew up in abusive homes. We don't need the failed war on drugs; we need a campaign to stop the abuse that drives people to rely on drugs. Given our stressed economy, we all have to pull together, from the janitor to CEOs, to produce comprehensive changes to take care of our children now and for the next generation. We can no longer deal with this massive epidemic piecemeal. We must have a coordinated systemic response to address the needs and problems for those who have been abused.

"Everybody agrees we need to stop abuse" said Jacquelyn White, who is also Professor of Psychology at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. "Levels of abuse in America are epidemic. All abuse is connected through the cycle of violence and now is the time for America to put a stop to that cycle. "Working together we can stop abuse. We are the first generation with both the science and the capability to do so. The only question is whether we will,"

To break the cycle of violence the **Stop Abuse Campaign** is actively recruiting America's adults to join the **Stop Abuse movement** and to help support the Campaign's three primary strategies to stop abuse:

- 1) Educating all adults on how to create safe environments for themselves and those who they love.
- 2) Providing easy access to enhanced mental health treatment and advocacy to all survivors who need it.
- 3) Ensuring all abuse is reported into the system and effectively handled.

"If we do only these three things we can substantially stop abuse, but to do these three things we have to recruit America to the cause - and that's up to each and every one of us. We can do that if we all work together to stop abuse" says Andrew Willis. "So we have a choice, we can stop abuse or condemn our children and all victims to another generation of suffering".

"It is time for all organizations, agencies, survivors, activists, advocates, researchers, frontline practitioners, and others to work together in a unified effort to make this a national priority. The time is now," said Robert Geffner, co-chair of the NPEIV, and President of the Institute on Violence, Abuse & Trauma (IVAT) at Alliant International University.

The Stop Abuse Campaign is a grassroots movement formed in collaboration with other organizations and causes that share a similar mission. We know that it's going to take all of us working together to stop abuse and that's why we provide half of our unallocated revenues in grants to support all participating organizations. The Stop Abuse Campaign is a registered 501(c) 3 organization.

NPEIV is an overarching network of state, regional, and national multidisciplinary, multicultural organizations, agencies, coalitions, and individuals. The Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma (IVAT) acts as the fiscal agent for NPEIV. Alliant International University is a registered 501(c)3. NPEIV will be represented on the Stop Abuse Campaign board.