

Purple Ribbon Campaign: Support VAWA 2005

One third of high school and college students experience violence in an intimate relationship during their dating years.¹ Because young women in high school and college experience the highest rate of sexual assault and domestic violence, it is essential to direct resources to provide stability and safety to the young women victimized by violent partners.

The Violence Against Women Act of 2005 is designed to meet the needs of teens and young adults by making programs, prevention education, and justice available to middle schools, high schools, and colleges where dating violence and sexual assault are rampant. Take action against violence and support VAWA 2005 by participating in the nationwide Purple Ribbon Campaign throughout the month of October, National Domestic Awareness Month.

At the end of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the purple ribbons collected from each college and high school will be displayed for Members of Congress to view in our Nation's Capital. By supporting the reauthorization of VAWA, there is hope that we may end domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking and build healthy, stable communities. **Please join the effort to pass VAWA 2005!**

The following are instructions for sponsoring a Purple Ribbon Campaign at your high school or university:

- Attached is a template and petition that will be used for the Purple Ribbon Campaign
- Please print as many copies as you feel necessary on preferably purple paper (the more the better!)
- All we ask is for you and your peers to sign your names on the designated lines—once on the template and once on the petition—to demonstrate your support for the reauthorization of VAWA. (An example has been provided for you).
- Please obtain as many signatures as possible from individuals under the age of 25. Feel free to organize petition campaigns at local high schools as well.
- Once you have succeeded in collecting as many signatures as possible, **please postmark the signed petitions and ribbon templates no later than Thursday, October 20th and mail them to:**

Break the Cycle Washington, DC
P.O. Box 21034
Washington, DC 20009

- Also, to show your school's support, you can include a clothing item or a large piece of felt with your school's name or logo on it (e.g., t-shirt, hat, sweatshirt, shorts)
- Try to get an item donated from your school bookstore; however, an old piece of apparel lying in your dorm room will certainly suffice!
- The paper ribbons will be pinned on the clothing item or piece of felt representing your school and will be presented to Congress to show your dedication for the reauthorization of VAWA 2005.

Call 800-258-8840 or e-mail juley.fulcher@breakthecycle.org if you have questions

¹ Wolfe, 1994, p.111.

I Support VAWA 2005

Susan Smith, 19

SIGNATURE, AGE



I Support VAWA 2005

SIGNATURE, AGE



I Support VAWA 2005

SIGNATURE, AGE



I Support VAWA 2005

SIGNATURE, AGE



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SIGNATURE, AGE





Helpful Hints for a Successful Purple Ribbon Campaign



- Contact your school's art department or call local stores asking for purple paper, felt, or school apparel to be donated.
- Have plenty of pens and markers available (they tend to walk away!)
- Use clipboards if you have any that are available.
- Have multiple copies of the petition and template displayed or circulating so that people are not discouraged by waiting in line.
- Try to coordinate your Ribbon Campaign around a pre-existing event (forums, speakers, concerts, meetings of clubs or student organizations, etc.).
- You can contact event organizers about setting up a table or you may circulate with clipboards.
- Go to locations where people congregate to get petitions signed such as the school cafeteria, student union, sporting events, etc.
- Do not be afraid to take the initiative—approach people! Most people when sign when asked.
- Get signatures from everyone—this is not just a women's issue!
- If you have time, check out the VAWA2005.org website to become more informed about the Violence Against Women Act of 2005. There are fact sheets on the website that you can print out and have available if people have questions.
- Spread the word, talk-it-up, and have fun!