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*UPDATE*

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## **South Carolina Coaches Team Up vs. Domestic Violence**

Although they lead different football teams, the University of South Carolina's Steve Spurrier, Clemson's Tommy Bowden and South Carolina State's head football coach Buddy Pough have joined the same team to help end domestic violence in South Carolina.

"There is No Excuse," South Carolina's first fully integrated statewide effort to raise awareness about the problem of domestic violence, has been launched by the South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault with a grant made possible by **Verizon Wireless**. Verizon has been supporting and funding domestic violence programs for more than ten years.

Currently, South Carolina ranks sixth in the nation in numbers of women killed by men. Last year alone, more than 30 women were murdered in South Carolina as a result of domestic violence.

"While many of the campaigns for domestic violence awareness are targeted at women, we decided to take a different approach and use recognizable figures that most men in the state respect," said Vicki Bourus, executive director, SCCADVASA. "By focusing our efforts on men we hope to make them take accountability for their own actions and the actions of their friends, recognizing and advocating that it is simply never acceptable to abuse women. I'd be remiss if I did not thank Coaches Spurrier, Bowden and Pough for taking time out of their busy schedules to aid in our efforts."

The campaign, which debuts during National Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October, will feature several radio and television public service announcements, a barrage of outdoor advertising, print ads and a rigorous public relations effort throughout the state.

“There is No Excuse” is a product of a joint council of corporate partners, domestic violence experts and media entities, including ETV, throughout the state. The campaign began with a \$50,000 grant from Verizon Wireless to SCCADVASA to create South Carolina’s first ever domestic violence public awareness campaign in February 2005.

For more information on the campaign and tips for ways you can help erase the cycle of family violence in South Carolina, visit [www.thereisnoexcuse.org](http://www.thereisnoexcuse.org).