

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

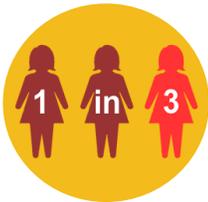
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN ST. LOUIS

## By the numbers....



**50%** of women and girls have experienced sexual violence at some point in their lives.

**20%** of women and girls have been the victim of rape or attempted rape.



**1 in 3** women have been physically abused by an intimate partner.

**1 in 3** female murder victims are killed by their current or former intimate partner.



**50%** of domestic violence is unreported.

**30%** of victims injured by an intimate partner never receive medical attention.

## NCJW STL BELIEVES THAT...

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS NEED WORKPLACE PROTECTIONS.

Domestic violence victims may need to take time off work for a multitude of reasons—to seek medical attention, for their safety and wellbeing, to appear in court, etc. Additionally, many abusive partners will attempt to sabotage their partner's ability to work by taking their car, taking their money (which renders them incapable of using public transit), etc.

There are currently no federal laws that offer workplace protections for victims. In response, dozens of states have passed their own domestic violence leave laws. In 2014, the Missouri Senate defeated a bill that would impose penalties for employers who fire domestic violence victims for requesting unpaid leave.

NCJW STL acknowledges the need of many domestic violence victims to take time off from work, and urges the Missouri legislature to pass laws that will protect victims in the workplace by providing them with the necessary leave for their safety and wellbeing, and that of their children.

### COURTS MATTER.

Domestic violence cases are being mishandled in the St. Louis court system, especially within the St. Louis County municipal courts for many reasons. Municipal court buildings were not built with domestic violence victims' safety in mind. Victims often have to wait outside because of courtroom crowding, or have to share elevators with their abusers. Additionally, our municipal courts function primarily as traffic courts, and judges are not equipped with the knowledge and sensitivity that cases involving personal violence require. This results in unfair outcomes and general inconsistency in charges, referrals, and ordinances. Both survivors and judges have spoken out about the necessity of amending this system.

**NCJW STL**

National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis

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[www.house.mo.gov](http://www.house.mo.gov)  
[www.senate.mo.gov](http://www.senate.mo.gov)

## WHAT TO DO

### ADVOCATE FOR THE PASSAGE OF VESSA

The Missouri Victims Employment Safety and Security Act would provide domestic violence victims with the workplace protections they need.

### VOLUNTEER AT PROJECT RENEWAL

Project Renewal is a community service project of NCJW STL that provides women living in residential housing, many of whom are domestic violence survivors, with a day of learning, shopping, and pampering.

### SUPPORT HHB

Healing Hearts Bank is a NCJW STL microlending program that provides non-traditional microloans of up to \$500 to underserved women in our community. These loans can provide the financial independence needed for women living in abusive and unsafe environments to seek help.

### ATTEND A MCADSV TRAINING

Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence holds trainings on how to advocate for survivors.

### BECOME A COURT WATCHER

Court watchers are third-party observers who sit in on domestic violence cases to encourage consistency, fairness, and transparency. Volunteer training is provided by SLEVAWN (St. Louis End Violence Against Women Network).

**Resource Directory:** <https://www.mocadsv.org/How-to-Get-Help/>  
**Sources:** National Partnership, NCADV, RRS, MCADSV, SLEVAWN

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information



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