



Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence

**For Immediate Release
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Member Organizations

**The Umbrella Center for
Domestic Violence Services**
Ansonia, CT

The Center for Family Justice
Bridgeport, CT

Women's Center
Danbury, CT

**Domestic Violence Program
United Services**
Dayville, CT

The Network
Enfield, CT

**Domestic Abuse Services
Greenwich YWCA**
Greenwich, CT

Interval House
Hartford, CT

**Chrysalis Domestic Violence
Services**
Meriden, CT

New Horizons
Middletown, CT

Prudence Crandall Center
New Britain, CT

**The Umbrella Center for
Domestic Violence Services**
New Haven, CT

Safe Futures
New London County

Domestic Violence Crisis Center
Norwalk, CT

Women's Support Services
Sharon, CT

Domestic Violence Crisis Center
Stamford, CT

Susan B. Anthony Project
Torrington, CT

Safe Haven
Waterbury, CT

**Domestic Violence Program
United Services**
Willimantic, CT

Statement Regarding West Haven Murder/Suicide

Glastonbury, CT – We are deeply saddened to learn of this week's murder/suicide in West Haven. This marks Connecticut's 8th intimate partner homicide this year. The West Haven Police Department reports that the couple had recently ended a long-term dating relationship prior to the homicide of the female victim.

"Leaving is the most dangerous time for victims and we encourage anyone with concerns about their own safety or that of a loved one to reach out to Safe Connect or one of CCADV's 18 member organizations," said Meghan Scanlon, President & CEO, Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV). "When a victim takes steps to end a relationship, this is the precise time that an abuser may begin to escalate violence in an attempt to regain control of the victim. Certified domestic violence advocates across the state are available to provide options and resources for staying safe at this critical time."

Domestic violence is a pattern of coercive behavior used by one partner to gain and maintain control over the other partner. It is complex and takes many forms, including emotional, psychological, physical, sexual, financial, and technological. Abuser tactics can be subtle, but may escalate over time and become more physically violent. Domestic violence does not discriminate - it impacts people regardless of age, gender, socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or education.

"This is another tragic loss for our community and we want people to know that they are not alone, help is available," said Esperina Stubblefield, Director of Domestic Violence Services, BHcare, which serves the New Haven, West Haven and Valley areas. "Abusers often isolate victims from their family and friends, destroying those connections, which in turn makes leaving even more difficult and dangerous. Whether you have questions, need resources, or just want someone who will listen without judgement, advocates are available 24/7."

State

Anyone who feels unsafe in their relationship is urged to call/llamada or text/texto 888.774.2900 or chat/email/correo electrónico at www.CTSafeConnect.org. Bilingual, multi-cultural staff are available 24/7. Safe Connect provides safety planning, extensive resources, and a safe connection to CCADV's 18 member organizations for ongoing support and services locally. All services provided through Safe Connect and CCADV's 18 member organizations are confidential, safe, free, and voluntary. They are provided to all victims and survivors of domestic violence regardless of age, ability, gender identity, sexual identity, racial or ethnic identity, religion, socioeconomic status, immigration status. Family, friends, professionals or anyone who suspects that someone they know is experiencing domestic violence are also encouraged to access information and resources via Safe Connect.

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Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Inc. is the state's leading voice for victims of domestic violence and those organizations that serve them. We are a membership organization of the state's 18 domestic violence organizations. Help is available to victims 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by visiting www.CTSafeConnect.org or by texting/calling (888) 774-2900. For more information about CCADV, please visit www.ctcadv.org.