

For Immediate Release
[Date]

Contact: [Name/Title/Agency]
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January Is National Stalking Awareness Month

[Local Organization] Launches Community Stalking Awareness Campaign

CITY/STATE—January is National Stalking Awareness Month, a time to focus on a crime that affected 7.5 million victims in one year.¹ The theme—“Stalking: Know It. Name It. Stop It.”—challenges the nation to fight this dangerous crime by learning more about it.

Stalking is a crime in all 50 states, the U.S. Territories and the District of Columbia, yet many victims and criminal justice professionals underestimate its seriousness and impact. In one of five cases, stalkers use weapons to harm or threaten victims,² and stalking is one of the significant risk factors for femicide (homicide of women) in abusive relationships.³ Victims suffer anxiety, social dysfunction, and severe depression at much higher rates than the general population, and many lose time from work or have to move as a result of their victimization.⁴

Stalking is difficult to recognize, investigate, and prosecute. Unlike other crimes, stalking is not a single, easily identifiable crime but a series of acts, a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause that person fear. Stalking may take many forms, such as assaults, threats, vandalism, burglary, or animal abuse, as well as unwanted cards, calls, gifts, or visits. One in four victims reports that the stalker uses technology, such as computers, global positioning system devices, or hidden cameras, to track the victim’s daily activities.⁵ Stalkers fit no standard psychological profile, and many stalkers follow their victims from one jurisdiction to another, making it difficult for authorities to investigate and prosecute their crimes.

Communities that understand stalking, however, can support victims and combat the crime. “If more people learn to recognize stalking,” said [name and title of local spokesperson (with permission)], “we have a better chance to protect victims and prevent tragedies.”

[Your organization’s name] will offer [describe outreach activity] to promote awareness and public education about stalking during the annual observance. For more information, please contact [your name and contact information].

For additional resources to help promote National Stalking Awareness Month, please visit <http://stalkingawarenessmonth.org> and www.ovv.usdoj.gov.

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[Add your organization’s mission statement here.]

- 1 Matthew J. Breiding et al., “Prevalence and Characteristics of Sexual Violence, Stalking, and Intimate Partner Violence Victimization – National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, United States, 2011”, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, Vol. 63, No. 8 (2014): 7.
- 2 Katrina Baum et al., “Stalking Victimization in the United States,” (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2009).
- 3 Jacquelyn C. Campbell et al., “Risk Factors for Femicide in Abusive Relationships: Results from a Multi-site Case Control Study,” *American Journal of Public Health* 93 (2003): 7.
- 4 Ibid.
- 5 Baum, *Stalking Victimization in the United States*.