Economic Security Is Domestic Violence Prevention

Domestic violence is a preventable epidemic. Yet one in three women in California will experience domestic violence in their lifetime. According to the National Network to End Domestic Violence, survivors say that the main reason for returning to an abusive partner is economic instability. Ensuring economic security is a stabilizing and proven prevention solution.

Response to Domestic Violence Is Not One-Size Fits All

The Culturally Responsive Domestic Violence Network is a coalition of nearly 20 organizations across California that support Black, Indigenous, immigrant, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and other culturally marginalized survivors need for their safety, health, and well-being. There is no universal set of responses that will work for every community. Culture is evolving and dynamic, and approaches should be tailored by and for communities served.

Economic Security Is a Baseline Need

No matter the cultural response, a universal priority for prevention is economic independence. That includes workforce training, investment in social enterprise, and financial coaching. The CDC has found that even a small increase in family income is linked to a decrease in family violence and recommends strengthening economic supports to prevent domestic violence, strengthening household financial security and work-family supports.

Economic security prevents violence and saves taxpayer dollars. Domestic violence survivors with a full-time hourly (at least minimum) wage can find supports for housing, food, and family needs.

Solutions

- Champion organizations that provide culturally responsive services.
- Ensure the workforce development system meets the needs of diverse communities.
- Support financial coaching to build skills and strategies for financial literacy.
- Invest in social enterprise launched by BIPOC survivors.
- Enact policies that increase access to workforce training for DV survivors.

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