



PRESS RELEASE

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Nevada Ranks Number Two in Homicides of Women: Candlelight Vigil to Remember Victims of Domestic Violence

A study released yesterday by the Violence Policy Center finds that Nevada ranks second in the nation in the rate of women killed by men; the vast majority of women killed are murdered by their intimate partners. In 2003, 29 Nevada women were murdered by men, 27 of those women (or 96 percent) knew their attacker; of those, 20 women (74 percent) were current or former intimate partners of their attacker. The report, "When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of 2003 Homicide Data," is based on the most recent information available from the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The report highlights the tragic and deadly nature of domestic violence and the importance of targeted prevention and intervention programs," said Safe Nest Associate Director, Kathleen Brooks. Through its counseling and crisis intervention services for victims and perpetrators, she noted that Safe Nest helps each client develop a safety plan, but stated that "it is critical that law enforcement, the judicial system, and federal and state legislatures continue to work together in a coordinated community response to domestic violence."

In remembrance of victims of who have been killed by their abusers and to pray for the healing of survivors in Southern Nevada, Safe Nest is holding an Interfaith Candlelight Vigil on Thursday, October 20 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Palm Mortuary, 7600 Eastern Avenue. This year's keynote speaker, Shiloh Edsitty, age 13, is a former Las Vegas resident who was

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critically wounded and orphaned in November 2004 during a knife attack that killed his mother. "From the opening prayer to the survivors' reflections, this evening will educate and promote healing for victims and their families," Brooks stated.

The Candlelight Vigil is part of Safe Nest's Interfaith Project, which involves the faith community in working to prevent and end domestic violence. Leaders from diverse faiths will attend the vigil to call attention to the serious problem of domestic violence in congregations and communities in Southern Nevada. For more information, call 877-0133, ext. 233.

Established in 1977, Safe Nest is Clark County's largest and most comprehensive agency devoted solely to domestic violence issues. Services include shelters in confidential locations, a 24-hour crisis hotline, counseling, victim advocacy, prevention and community education. For help and information, call the crisis hotline at 646-4981.

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