



**stop the violence.**

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Utah's Domestic Violence Service Providers join Forces for Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

*#StoptheViolenceUtah is a collective call for action and community support*

UTAH, October 2020 — One in three women in Utah will experience domestic violence in her lifetime, and one in seven men. The isolation and uncertainty of 2020, due in large part to the COVID-19 pandemic, has resulted in increased demand for domestic violence crisis services, including shelter. In response, domestic violence providers across Utah have come together this October for a Domestic Violence Awareness Month campaign called #StoptheViolenceUtah.

#StoptheViolenceUtah is a month-long effort to educate Utahans about available resources for those in abusive situations, raise awareness about the damage domestic violence causes in families and communities, and rally support for local agencies through donations and volunteerism. Resources and opportunities to support this effort can be found at [www.stoptheviolenceutah.org](http://www.stoptheviolenceutah.org), and service providers have planned activities and events throughout the month.

There are over a dozen nonprofits that work with those experiencing domestic violence across Utah. They range in size and scope of services, but they are all committed to offering safety and support to survivors of domestic violence, and most also offer prevention education in order to address the root causes of domestic violence. Domestic violence can take many forms –emotional abuse, financial control, technology abuse –its not just physical abuse. Utah's domestic violence providers are experts in offering a range of services to meet diverse needs.

Intermountain Healthcare has joined the effort as a lead sponsor, with University of Utah Health providing additional sponsorship. Domestic violence is a serious public health issue, and these two healthcare providers are renewing their commitment to offering resources and support to survivors.

### **Media opportunities throughout the month**

Contact Madeline Gardner at [mgardner@ywcautah.org](mailto:mgardner@ywcautah.org)

**INTERVIEWS:** Representatives from service providers across the state, as well as medical experts from Intermountain Healthcare or University of Utah Health, are available to offer education about domestic violence, ways to get help or offer help, and resources available in local communities.

**#GOPURPLE:** Purple is the color of domestic violence awareness, and the public is encouraged to join us in wearing purple every Friday to honor victims of domestic violence and demonstrate their support of this issue.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17 FLAG PLANTING:** Providers across the state will safely (following community guidance about gathering during COVID-19) plant flags in public locations in their communities to recognize the thousands of individuals in Utah who are impacted by domestic violence each year. Times and locations vary, more details available upon request.

For more information, visit [www.stoptheviolenceutah.org](http://www.stoptheviolenceutah.org)

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