



General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts
T Jablanski, President



**GFWC Signature Program:
Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention ~ 2022-2024**

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Domestic and Sexual Violence happens in all types of relationships and ages, including dating, married, same-sex, former or ex-couples, and couples who live together but are not married. Violence and assault often result in physical and emotional injuries. First important step is safety follow by physical care and then emotional care. Need more education and openness to help prevent these actions.

Here are some suggestions your clubs can do right here in Massachusetts and worldwide to make women and children safe.

- Encourage clubs to put the following information on their FaceBook page and website:
 - National Domestic Violence 24/7 Crisis Hotline
 - 800-799-7233 ~ <https://www.thehotline.org/>
 - MA Statewide Domestic Violence 24/7 Crisis Hotline
 - 877-785-2020 ~ <https://casamyrna.org/get-support/safelink/>
 - National Sexual Assault Hotline 24/7 Crisis Hotline
 - 800-656-4673 ~ <https://www.rainn.org/resources>
- Encourage clubs to reach out to local businesses to include the above information in women's bathrooms; clubs can make small laminated information cards.
- Contact your local shelters to see what their needs are; invite shelter directors to a club meeting to give you information of what is going on in your neighborhood.

Hold Club fundraising activities for Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention items of need. Find out what your local shelters want. Request help/support from local stores and reach out through social media town sites for assistance.

- **Advocacy:** Encourage clubmembers to develop and influence federal and state legislation to support programs that help women and children. Form a campaign to help women to register to vote. Make information able for women to continue their education.
- **Affiliates:** Support UNICEF and Heifer International who help women to support themselves and their children.
- **Signature Program Focus Areas:** Campus Sexual Assault, Child Abuse, Elder Abuse, Human Trafficking or Sexual Purposes, Intimate Partner Violence, Military Sexual Assault, Teen Dating Violence, Violence Against Native American Women.
- **Community Connection:** Raise public awareness and educate the community on human trafficking. Partner with human trafficking advocacy groups in your community.
- **Important dates:** April is Sexual Assault Awareness & National Child Abuse Prevention Month. October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Watch for suggested collection items.

For many more ideas check out the 2022-2024 GFWC Club Manual pages on the GFWC Massachusetts website by going to the **ABOUT** tab and click on **What Do We Do?**