

Week Without Violence Pledge

Women and girls of all ages, income levels, racial and ethnic communities, sexual orientations, gender identities, and religious affiliations experience racism and gender-based violence in the form of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, trafficking, and stalking.

Gender-based violence and racism continue to be a pervasive problem in the United States, with far-reaching consequences:

- 1 in 4 women will experience domestic violence and, on average, more than 3 women are murdered by their partners in the United States every day.
- Out of every 1000 cases of rape, 57 lead to an arrest, 11 are referred to prosecutors, and only 7 lead to a felony conviction.
- 1 in 3 girls is a victim of physical, verbal, or emotional abuse in the United States.
- Victims of domestic violence lose about 8 million days of paid work per year because of the violence that they experienced.

YWCA is the largest network of domestic and sexual violence service providers in the country. We know the women and girls impacted by this violence. Survivors have shared their stories and experiences with us, helping us to develop strategies to address the multiple challenges that they face. As we participate in Week Without Violence, we ask that you show your commitment to supporting and protecting survivors of racism and gender-based violence by taking the pledge below.

PLEDGE

I _____, acknowledge that gender-based violence and racism impacts the lives of countless women and their families within my constituency. I acknowledge that survivors of gender-based violence are an expansive and diverse group. Their lives and safety are important to me, even if their lives are different from my own.

To show my commitment to end racism and gender-based violence, this year, I pledge to:

- Be fully aware that the struggle to eliminate racism and gender-based violence will not end with a mere pledge but with ongoing transformation within myself and the institutions and structures of our society.
- Make every diligent effort to ensure that survivors who are marginalized due to racial inequity, immigration status, disability, homelessness, health care issues, or other concerns have resources available to them in my community.
- Dedicate time to raise my awareness and the awareness of others about racism and gender-based violence.

Signature _____

Date _____