Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence

Given that staying at home is a critical preventative action individuals and families are taking to prevent the spread of COVID-19, compounded by heightened stress and financial uncertainty, there are concerns that there may be surges of domestic and partner violence. Although violence in any form is always a concern that needs to be addressed, there is a greater need now more than ever to prevent it. In this time of stress and uncertainty, it is our shared responsibility to assure that we maintain a healthy and safe home environment for the ones we love.

Tips for Taking Care of Yourself and Your Loved Ones

- Reach out to a trusted friend or family member, if it is safe to do so. Share with them how you feel and discuss your concerns.
- Practice self-care
  - Get enough sleep (at least 8 hours).
  - Eat a balanced, nutritious diet.
  - Exercise regularly.
  - Take a walk outside to help ease stress (follow local laws and stay 6 feet apart!).
  - Make time for things that you enjoy and put you at ease, such as games, hobbies or cultural activities.
  - Engage in prayer and spiritual activities.
  - Create time for both group activities and individual, quiet time.
- If you feel that you need to leave your home to assure the safety of yourself and/or family members, then take extra time to put a plan in place.
- If it is safe to do so, contact a family member, friend, violence shelter or hotel in advance to explore your options for a safe place to stay. Many shelters have altered their policies in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Are you concerned for a friend or family member? Continue to reach out to them and be supportive. The resources below are available if you need information or to talk to someone too!

Additional Resources

- Strong Hearts Native Helpline – 1-844-7NATIVE (762-8483)
  - Provides culturally-appropriate support on domestic violence and dating violence. Available every day from 7 AM to 10 PM Central Time.
  - Maintains list of local supportive organizations: https://www.strongheartshelpline.org/resources-supportive-organizations/
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  o Supports programs and resources dedicated to ending violence against Native women and children

• National Domestic Violence Hotline – 1-800-799-7233
  o Includes information and resources for individuals or friends and family of those experiencing domestic violence, including safety planning. Live chat options available.

• SAMHSA’s National Helpline – 1-800-662-HELP (4357)
  o SAMHSA’s National Helpline is a free, confidential, 24/7, 365-day-a-year treatment referral and information service for individuals and families facing mental and/or substance use disorders.

• National Suicide Prevention Hotline – 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
  o The Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals.

• RAINN National Sexual Assault Telephone Hotline – 1-800-656-HOPE (4673)
  o 24/7 hotline that connects callers with a trained staff member from a sexual assault service provider in your area. Live chat options available.

• Mental Health America - https://www.mhanational.org/
  o A non-profit that promotes mental health and preventing mental illness through advocacy, education, research and services.

• National Parent Helpline 1-855-427-2736 - http://www.nationalparenthelpline.org/
  o Provides emotional support for parents

• Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Alliance - http://www.ptsdalliance.org/
  o Provides information about PTSD, signs and symptoms, and resources on seeking help for PTSD.

• Finding a trained provider:
  o https://www.samhsa.gov/find-treatment
  o https://www.mhanational.org/finding-help

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