

Shining a Light on Domestic Violence

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) in Massachusetts and across the country. DVAM evolved from the “Day of Unity” in October 1981. The day was conceived by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The intent was to connect advocates across the nation who were working to end violence against women and their children. The Day of Unity soon became an entire week devoted to a range of activities conducted at the local, state, and national levels. In 1989 the U.S. Congress passed a law designating October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

In an effort to bring attention to domestic violence awareness, a campaign called “Shine the Light on Domestic Violence” was started. Landmarks such as bridges, statues, and buildings will be illuminated for a day, a week, or the month. Locally, the First Parish Meetinghouse lantern will shine purple from October 17 – 23. The color symbolizes the courage of domestic violence (DV) survivors and helps bring awareness about the prevalence of DV. Since DV thrives in silence and in darkness, it is important that we shine the light on DV to bring it out of the shadows and out from behind closed doors.

Domestic violence comes in many forms including emotional, physical, and sexual abuse. Do you feel unsafe or threatened in your relationship? Make a confidential call to the [SafeLink Hotline](#), (877) 785-2020; TTY number (877) 521-2601.

In partnership with [Voices Against Violence](#).