



# SIGNATURE PROGRAM

## DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AWARENESS & PREVENTION

### 2024-2026 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

**"NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE HEART OF A CHAMPION" RUBY TOMJANOVICH**

**"A CHAMPION IS SOMEONE WHO GETS UP WHEN (S)HE CAN'T" JACK DEMPSEY**

#### **BECOME A CHAMPION - KNOW THE PROGRAM!**

The goal of the GFWC Signature Program is to increase awareness of and help prevent the widespread occurrence of domestic and sexual violence abuse in communities across the nation by working with national domestic violence networks, supporting existing activities, working with various established programs, and initiating educational opportunities for club members and local citizens. GFWC aims to be a powerful voice for victims and survivors.

In partnership with GFWC and community members, we pledge to work together with passion and purpose to **advocate** for survivors of domestic and/or sexual violence and **educate** the public on the prevalence of domestic and sexual violence in our local communities and how informing members can improve outcomes for survivors.

The Signature Program has eight areas of focus:

- **Campus Sexual Assault**  
Campus sexual assault is any type of sexual contact or behavior that occurs on a school campus without the explicit consent of the recipient.
- **Child Abuse**  
Child abuse includes all types of abuse and neglect of a child under the age of 18 by a parent, caregiver, or another person in a custodial role that results in harm, potential for harm, or threat of harm to a child.
- **Elder Abuse**  
Abuse later in life includes the physical, sexual, or psychological abuse, neglect, financial exploitation, or stalking of an adult age 50 years or older.
- **Human Trafficking for Sexual Purposes**  
Sexual human trafficking is any act that has been induced by recruitment, harboring, transporting, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for purposes of a sex act in which anything of value is given to or received by any person.



**GFWC**  
est. 1890  
**GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS**

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- **Intimate Partner Violence**

Intimate partner violence (IPV) includes physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, as well as sexual coercion and stalking by a current or former intimate partner. An intimate partner is a person with whom a person has or had a close personal or sexual relationship.

- **Military Sexual Assault**

Military sexual assault is the use of force, threats, intimidation, or abuse of authority during intentional sexual contact. It also includes instances where the survivor is unable to consent. Survivors of military sexual assault include both men and women.

- **Teen Dating Violence**

Teen dating violence (TDV) - also called intimate relationship violence or intimate partner violence among adolescents or adolescent relationship abuse – includes physical, psychological, or sexual abuse; harassment; or stalking of any person ages 12 to 18 in the context of a past or present romantic or consensual relationship. For more information about teen dating violence, visit <https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/crimes/teen-dating-violence>

- **Violence Against Native American Women**

American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) women and two-spirit people in tribal communities are disproportionately affected by sexual and gender-based violence in the United States. Research and advocacy have brought attention to the unique nature of victimization in our AIAN communities.



## COMMUNITY CONNECTION INITIATIVE:

BECOME A CHAMPION: BE THE VOICE FOR  
THOSE WHO HAVE NO VOICE.



"Intimate partner violence occurs when one person in a relationship uses some form of violence to exert power and control over the other person" (Victoria Women's Transition House Society).

- Communities need education on how to help victims of Intimate partner violence. One in 3 women and 1 in 4 men report having experienced severe physical violence from an intimate partner in their lifetime, one in 5 women and 1 in 13 men have experienced contact sexual violence by an intimate partner, and 14% of women and 5% of men report having been stalked by an intimate partner.

To raise awareness in our communities, we must learn to become the voices of those who lack one.

- Teach safe and healthy relationship skills to our youth and adults.
- Advocate and support legislation that provides stricter laws in your States against abusers and rights for victims.
- Work with your local shelters and find out how you can help and what they need. Sometimes, it's the items we overlook that matter the most.
- Encourage your club to support victim-centered services, which could include therapy, housing programs, teen dating violence prevention, and legal assistance.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233 or Text START to 88788 can be used on your social media tag lines, added on all printed materials, and used on websites. Become a Champion and Energize More People Out there With Educating Real survivor knowledge (EMPOWER).

