

the  
calendar

TECHNICAL  
ASSISTANCE, TRAINING &  
NETWORKING THROUGH  
MCADSV

VISIT [WWW.MCADSV.ORG](http://WWW.MCADSV.ORG) FOR  
REGISTRATION AND AGENDA  
INFORMATION

WOMEN OF COLOR  
TASK FORCE MEETING

■ MARCH 28TH  
OKEMOS, MI

WEBINAR: PREVENTING  
AND INVESTIGATING  
DISCRIMINATION IN  
THE WORKPLACE  
PART 1

■ APRIL 24TH

TELECONFERENCE:  
CSC CHARGING  
DECISIONS

■ APRIL 28TH

ADVANCED SEXUAL  
ASSAULT TRAINING

■ MAY 8-9TH  
ROMULUS, MI

WEBINAR: PREVENTING  
AND INVESTIGATING  
DISCRIMINATION IN  
THE WORKPLACE  
PART 2

■ MAY 22ND

### 4<sup>th</sup> Annual State Court Administrative Office Child Welfare Issues Conference

April 9-10, 2008

East Lansing, MI

This conference will increase the knowledge and understanding of the needs of children and families involved with the child welfare system who experience domestic violence; increase knowledge of assessment options and service in Michigan; improve advocacy for the families and children involved with the child welfare system; improve collaboration across systems. This conference is designed for lawyers- guardians ad litem; prosecutors and assistant attorneys general; parents' attorneys; family and district court judges, referees, friend of the court personnel; domestic violence service providers; batterers' intervention program staff; legislators; policy makers; law enforcement; and Department of Human Services (DHS), tribal, and private agency child welfare workers who work with families and children involved in the child welfare system. There is no registration cost to attend this conference. The cost of the conference is generously funded through the Governor's Task Force on Children's Justice (GTF). For more information, please visit <http://www.biscmi.org/esotw/>.

### 30 Years of Vision and Victories

April 17, 2008

Lansing, MI

Please join us for a dessert reception to celebrate the honorees of the Oral History of the Movement to End Domestic and Sexual Violence in Michigan project and the premiere of the *Vision and Victories* oral history DVD. For information on how to purchase tickets, please visit [www.mcadsv.org](http://www.mcadsv.org)

### Michigan Conference on Affordable Housing

April 28-30, 2008

Lansing, MI

This conference will provide you with incredible amount of input on the subjects of affordable housing, homelessness, financing and organizational development. For more information, please visit [www.housingconference.org](http://www.housingconference.org).

National Domestic Violence Hotline  
Linea Nacional sobre la Violencia  
Domestica

1-800-799-SAFE (7233) TTY 1-800-787-3224

[www.ndvh.org](http://www.ndvh.org)

Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN)

1-800-656-HOPE (4673)

[www.rainn.org](http://www.rainn.org)

# the Coalition Connection

Your [link](#) to cutting edge information on the issue of violence against women

## April is Declared Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Michigan

In solidarity with leaders across the nation, Governor Granholm has declared April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month for Michigan. The Governor's proclamation recognizes that sexual violence continues at an alarming rate and emphasizes the need to foster greater public awareness of the causes and effects of sexual violence, and to address the problem on every civic level.

According to the 2006 Michigan State Police, Uniform Crime Report, 5,344 forcible rapes or attempted rapes were reported to law enforcement. It is estimated that half or fewer of all sexual assaults are reported to police.

The purpose of Sexual Assault Awareness Month is to increase the public's understanding about sexual violence in our society. This effort can help communities support rape and sexual assault survivors, victims, and their families, as well as the individuals and agencies that provide rape crisis intervention and prevention services throughout the year. It is also a time to encourage the public to take steps to address sexual violence. The hope is that a month of intensified awareness efforts combined with the broad spectrum of sexual violence prevention work throughout the year will bring us closer to ending sexual assault.

This year, the National Sexual Violence Resource Center is promoting the slogan: *Prevent Sexual Violence...in our workplaces*. Designed to help employers recognize the vital role workplace culture plays in the prevention of sexual violence, this theme promotes a healthy work environment.

SAAM Day of Action will be observed on Thursday, April 3, 2008. In 2003, based upon feedback from the sexual violence field, the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC) instituted a national Day to End Sexual Violence to focus attention across the country on one specific day in April. On this day, all individuals are encouraged to participate in an awareness-raising activity in their community.

Contact the sexual violence program in your community for information about activities and ways that you can help. Visit [www.mcadsv.org](http://www.mcadsv.org) for a list of statewide service providers and for links to sexual assault awareness month materials.

March  
2008



The Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence is dedicated to the empowerment of all the state's survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

Our mission is to develop and promote efforts aimed at the elimination of all domestic and sexual violence in Michigan.

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### Newly Adopted Standards by the American Bar Association

The American Bar Association adopted Standards of Practice for Lawyers Representing Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking in Civil Protection Order Cases at its annual meeting in August 2007. These standards, which have now been published, raise awareness of the need for high quality legal representation for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking.

Every year in the United States, approximately 1.5 million women are assaulted by their intimate partner. Access to legal services is identified as one of the most effective tools for victims to become safe; however, survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking are frequently unable to access the remedies provided to them by the justice system.

The standards recommend lawyers become knowledgeable about the dynamics of domestic violence and its intersection with sexual assault and stalking before undertaking representation of a victim in a protection order case. Other considerations addressed include understanding the role culture, language, immigration status, age and/or disability of the victim may play in effective representation of diverse clients, ensuring effective communication between the lawyer and client, identifying the potential need for interpreters.

The ABA published the standards, which are being disseminated nationally to those on the front lines including: lawyers at legal aid offices, pro bono legal service providers and individual lawyers who represent victims.

Copies of the standards of practice can be accessed electronically at <http://www.abanet.org/domviol/home.html>.

### Michigan's Children Announces New President

Michigan's Children announces the appointment of veteran children's issues reporter Jack Kresnak as its new President & CEO.

Throughout his 38-year career with the Detroit Free Press, Mr. Kresnak has stood out as a tireless crusader for children, shining a public light on injustices and oversights to help create a safer, more equitable and just Michigan for all children to thrive. His gifted and compassionate reporting has been widely recognized as advancing the public's understanding of the child welfare system, inspiring needed reforms and giving a voice to those who have none.

Mr. Kresnak joined Michigan's Children February 4th.

### Michigan Go Run 2008 applications are open!

Michigan Go Run 2008 is a nonpartisan political leadership training for women throughout Michigan. All Michigan women are invited to apply, regardless of their level of political experience or ambition.

Go Run will inspire women to step into leadership by informing them about campaign work and demystifying the political process. Go Run will equip you with the skills it takes to run and win.

Michigan Go Run 2008 will create a network of women helping women win throughout our state. This training is for women at every stage of political involvement. Whether you are running this year, next year, in ten years, or if you just want to get more civically involved, you are invited to join our inaugural class of Michigan Go Run!

For more information contact Shannon Garrett, Michigan Field Director, at (616) 454-8836 or [sgarrett@thewhitehouseproject.org](mailto:sgarrett@thewhitehouseproject.org).

### Bush Budget Threatens Violence Prevention Programs

Advocates are deeply concerned about President Bush's FY09 budget proposal, in which he asks Congress to slash funding by more than \$100 million for U.S.

Department of Justice programs to address and prevent violence against women. The President also would turn all funding for the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) into a block grant.

If Congress agrees, the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women would not have to abide by legislation that spells out how much money is spent on various types of programs. The President proposes to give smaller, related programs funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services level funding or small decreases.

"This budget is irresponsible and could put the lives of women and children at risk," Family Violence Prevention Fund President Esta Soler said. "VAWA has dramatically improved our nation's response to violence against women and their families. We need to continue and enhance that work. We will ask Members of Congress to reject this proposal and maintain our nation's commitment to the groundbreaking violence prevention programs that were funded for the first time last year."

The Administration's FY09 budget is similar to its FY08 budget proposal, but with more drastic cuts. While Congress rejected last year's proposal, there is concern that rising budget deficits and fiscal pressure may make this a more difficult fight.

"The Administration's budget for

(continued from previous article)

Violence Against Women Act programs is an outrage," Senator Joe Biden (D-DE) said in a news release. "Domestic violence impacts one in every four women, yet the Administration proposes cutting spending by almost a third. It's time to spend more, not less on our nation's communities."

Particularly critical are initiatives created in the reauthorization of VAWA in 2005. New programs for children exposed to domestic violence and youth who are victims of physical and sexual violence were funded last year for the first time, as was a new program to engage men and youth in prevention. "We must not turn back the clock on our efforts to stop violence against women and children," Soler added. "We have finally begun to see drops in violence against adult women, but the next generation is not faring as well. We must redouble our efforts to end this scourge once and for all."

### New Resource on Poverty and Sexual Violence

The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape has produced a guide to help advocates understand the

complex and often reciprocal relationship between poverty and sexual violence. *Poverty and Sexual Violence: Building Prevention and Intervention Responses* can help support rape crisis centers in their economic advocacy efforts, using the Spectrum of Violence Prevention as a blueprint to respond to the needs of victims, survivors and communities. The guide is available at [www.pcar.org/resources/poverty.pdf](http://www.pcar.org/resources/poverty.pdf).

