



Central City East Community-Wide Commitment to Fight Violence against Women

The Downtown Women’s Action Coalition (DWAC) is launching a community-wide effort among men, women, and youth to fight violence against women. As identified by our 2004 report, *Many Struggles, Few Options*, the large majority of women in our community have experienced violence, many in recent years. While law enforcement is one strategy for addressing violence against women, the reliance on legal and criminal strategies over the past 30 years has not significantly reduced incidence of violence; we desperately need community strategies to comprehensively address this problem. **DWAC is calling on all Central City East organizations to work individually and collectively to create a community-based, culturally-responsive approach to improve our response to the high incidence of interpersonal violence and prevent future violence against women from occurring.**

We can take the first steps to achieve this by committing to the following actions over the next 12 months:

- Create and/or share an agency policy that explicitly outlines procedures for assessment for experiences of violence, intervention methods, responses to violence that occurs on-site, and related staff training to implement procedures.
- Participate in and/or host monthly community-wide trainings on topics related to violence against women, including cultural competency and customer service approaches that ensure that the effects of violence are not exacerbated by our service delivery.
- Investigate and implement means to increase the expertise and capacity of staff to respond to and prevent violence against women, i.e. domestic violence certification.
- Educate both male and female residents/clients about violence, its causes and effects, and alternatives to engaging in and/or being a victim of violence.
- Publicize your commitment to ending violence against women by participating in the community wide kick-off event in September 2005, posting standard “DWAC Commitment to End Violence” posters, and placing other educational/resource materials in prominent locations throughout your sites.
- Participate in monthly DWAC meetings to continue to develop community-wide models for change, as well as an advocacy agenda to support our efforts.
- Participate in a community-wide evaluation of the effectiveness of our collective efforts.

We commit to ending violence against women in the Central City East community and the above seven action steps from September 2005 to August 2006.

Name

Signature

Organization

Date