



Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Protection Month

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Teen dating violence is an unfortunate reality that 33% of our teenagers will experience first-hand. Parents, teens, educators, concerned citizens, and the U.S. Government are getting the word out and organizing against teen dating violence.

On December 9, 2009, the U.S. Government dedicated February as **Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month** – a month dedicated to educating our youth about healthy relationships, raising awareness amongst parents and teachers, and providing communities with the opportunity to work together to prevent abuse.



The Teen Dating Violence Prevention Project:

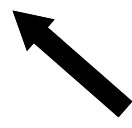
Author of the [1994 Violence Against Women Act](#), Vice President Joseph Biden comments:

"After fifteen years of working to end domestic violence, we have learned that teens are not immune from abuse in relationships. Teen dating violence is all too common, and ends up leading to vicious and unhealthy cycles for years to come. Our responsibility - as parents, teachers, mentors, and community leaders - is to guide our young people towards respectful relationships free from harassment and abuse; teach them that it's ok to walk away from a bad situation; and encourage them to speak out when they see a friend in trouble. In many communities, teens themselves are leading the way in organizing their schools and communities to stand against violence. I commend them."



Heart of the Matter: On February 10, 2010, students across the nation will hear the following announcement:

“ Did you know that as many as one in three teens will experience dating abuse? That means in the average classroom, as many as ten of us could be hurt by our boyfriend or girlfriend - physically or emotionally. February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse, visit thesafespace.org or call the National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline at 1-866-331-9474. We all deserve relationships that are healthy, respectful and safe.



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About Have a HEART: To commemorate ***Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Protection Month***, you are invited to raise awareness about dating violence and take action against abuse by registering your school to read the National Announcement (above) about healthy relationships on February 10, and, receive a dating abuse prevention package courtesy of *Mary Kay Inc*

Thanks to *Mary Kay Inc.*, the first 100 schools to register will win:

- A free copy of [Ending Violence](#), [Break the Cycle's](#) abuse-prevention curriculum;
- [Heart stickers](#) for students to wear on their sleeves during February;
- Plus, fun promotional items.

[Sign Up and Register by February 5th](#) to receive your package before the National Announcement: *Heart of the Matter*, on February 10.

Parental guidance and lecturing may only go so far; but it's crucial that parents begin the awareness process by educating their children, boys and girls, at home. At the very least, our boys have to hear from our lips – to respect women of all ages and on all occasions, and that “**HO**” means “**HO**”. Our young daughters have to be informed to always have a trusted buddy nearby, and to not allow themselves to become victims of circumstance – that alcohol not only leads to loss of inhibitions – but sometimes loss of consciousness. And there are those out there that will take advantage.

It's in all of our best interests to get behind
Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Protection Month.

At the 2010 [National Sexual Assault Conference](#) in September, CALCASA is creating space for attendees to share public service announcements. They will show PSAs developed by agencies and organizations across the country. They're interested in learning the goals of your PSA, advice you can offer about the process and the resources necessary to create it. [Learn more here.](#)