



Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence

**For Immediate Release  
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**Member Agencies**

**The Umbrella Center for  
Domestic Violence Services**  
Ansonia, CT

**The Center for Family Justice**  
Bridgeport, CT

**Women's Center**  
Danbury, CT

**Domestic Violence Program  
United Services**  
Dayville, CT

**Network Against Domestic  
Abuse**  
Enfield, CT

**Domestic Abuse Services  
Greenwich YWCA**  
Greenwich, CT

**Interval House**  
Hartford, CT

**Meriden-Wallingford Chrysalis**  
Meriden, CT

**New Horizons**  
Middletown, CT

**Prudence Crandall Center**  
New Britain, CT

**The Umbrella Center for  
Domestic Violence Services**  
New Haven, CT

**Safe Futures**  
New London, CT

**Domestic Violence Crisis Center**  
Norwalk, CT

**Women's Support Services**  
Sharon, CT

**Domestic Violence Crisis Center**  
Stamford, CT

**Susan B. Anthony Project**  
Torrington, CT

**Safe Haven**  
Waterbury, CT

**Domestic Violence Program  
United Services**  
Willimantic, CT

**Statement Regarding Bridgeport Domestic Violence Homicide**

**Hartford, CT** – The murder of Kiromy Fontanez by her ex-boyfriend this weekend in Bridgeport marks Connecticut’s 10<sup>th</sup> homicide stemming from intimate partner violence since January 1, 2014. Connecticut has now surpassed the 9 total intimate partner violence homicides for all of 2013.

Media reports indicate that Kiromy had ended her relationship with Jose Santiago who shot and killed her on July 5<sup>th</sup> while her 5 year old daughter was in the home. The boyfriend of the victim’s mother was also shot in the leg as he attempted to stop the attack.

“We are alarmed that yet another young mother has lost her life attempting to end a relationship,” said Karen Jarmoc, Executive Director, CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence. “We know that one of the most dangerous times for victims of abusive relationships is when they attempt to leave. Violence can escalate when an abuser begins to sense that he or she is losing control of the victim. This is a critical time when, if they haven’t done so already, we hope victims will reach out to us for help.”

“All victims of domestic violence are particularly vulnerable when violence begins to escalate and we can help you identify when that might happen,” said Debra Greenwood, Executive Director of The Center for Family Justice. “The Center for Family Justice offers a variety of free and confidential services, including counseling and safety planning, that can help protect victims and we urge you to call us at the first sign of abuse.” The Center for Family Justice services Bridgeport, Easton, Fairfield, Monroe, Stratford and Trumbull.

Connecticut has averaged 14 intimate partner violence homicides each year over the past decade. The 2013 Connecticut Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee Report issued in July 2013 indicates a need for increased training across sectors to understand “red flag” indicators that may occur in an abusive relationship that indicate escalating and potentially fatal violence. To learn more about the report go to, [www.ctcadv.org](http://www.ctcadv.org).

Working with a certified domestic violence counselor is a strong protective factor against domestic violence homicide. Connecticut’s 18 domestic violence organizations invite anyone who believes that they may be a victim of domestic violence or who knows someone that may be a victim of domestic violence to **call the 24 hour, toll-free, statewide domestic violence hotline at 888.774.2900 to speak with your local domestic violence agency. In Bridgeport, Easton, Fairfield, Monroe, Stratford and Trumbull, individuals can call The Center for Family Justice directly at 203. 384.9559.**

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*Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Inc. is a membership organization made up of the state's 18 domestic violence agencies. Help is available to victims 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Each agency offers free services to victims including a toll-free hotline, safety through shelter, counseling and support groups, and by assisting in securing a restraining order. If you or someone you know needs support, call the statewide free and confidential hotline at 888-774-2900 to be connected to your local domestic violence agency. For more information about CCADV visit us online at [www.ctcadv.org](http://www.ctcadv.org).*