

The following priorities highlight focus areas for CCADV to strengthen both statutory and administrative policy and practice that help domestic violence survivors to achieve safety and stability. The policy priorities seek to address the large number of complex factors that impact the ability of both the survivor and the family as a whole to live a life free from violence.

| SAFE, STABLE, & AFFORDABLE HOUSING |

Domestic violence is the leading cause of homelessness for women and children. Survivors face many unique barriers to finding the safe, stable, and affordable housing they deserve. Their ability to secure housing is often hindered by the actions of their abuser, leaving them with a history of evictions or causing them to appear on a housing authority's "do not rent list". There is also an intersection with race and gender, as Black women and children are more likely to have evictions filed against them, creating a racial and gender housing crisis. How do you leave if you have nowhere to go?



WE SUPPORT

- ✓ Increased availability and accessibility to affordable housing options in all towns and cities.
- ✓ Access to flexible funding without strings attached.
- ✓ Housing insecurity responses that are flexible to center the unique safety and privacy needs of survivors.

WE OPPOSE

- ✗ Policies that discriminate against or penalize survivors, particularly for the actions of their abuser.
- ✗ Policies that perpetuate racial disparities in housing and increase the eviction crisis impacting marginalized communities.

| ECONOMIC JUSTICE & SELF-SUFFICIENCY |



A growing body of national research confirms that almost every survivor of domestic violence has experienced economic abuse. It was one of most common and powerful tactics that abusers use to keep their victims entirely dependent upon them while diminishing their ability to be safe on their own. Economic abuse takes many forms, all of which can be categorized into three main ideas: preventing resource use, preventing resource acquisition, and exploiting a partners' resources. Studies indicate that that one of the best predictors of whether a survivor will be able to stay away from their abuser is the degree of their economic independence.

WE SUPPORT

- ✓ Relief from coerced debt.
- ✓ Financial empowerment and equal pay initiatives.
- ✓ Increased availability and accessibility to affordable childcare that supports a survivor's ability to work or go to school.
- ✓ Expanded access to public benefits and affordable, healthcare, including for undocumented survivors.

WE OPPOSE

- ✗ Policies that complicate the processes, procedures, or qualifications necessary to obtain financial and social supports.
- ✗ Requirements that jeopardize the unique safety and privacy needs of survivors.
- ✗ Barriers to pathways to citizenship.

FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAMS & SERVICES

We are committed to pursuing all avenues to increase stable, equitable, and reliable funding at the state and federal levels to ensure programs can deliver a continuum of services that help survivors and their children find safety in their communities and build lives free from violence.

For questions or additional information, please contact:

Liza Andrews | Vice President of Government & Public Relations | landrews@ctcadv.org | 959.202.5003

PREVENTION, HEALTH & WELL-BEING

Domestic violence is a public health crisis with survivors facing an increased risk for a wide range of negative physical, mental, and emotional health consequences. This is particularly true for pregnant and postpartum survivors. A recent report issued by CCADV demonstrated that nearly a third of individuals who experienced a pregnancy-associated death in Connecticut between 2015 and 2021 had experienced intimate partner violence at some point in their lifetime. It is critical that we begin to do more in the area of prevention as this is the only way to mitigate the extreme cost of domestic violence on our society.



WE SUPPORT

- ✓ Distribution of domestic violence information and resources to all pregnant and postpartum individuals.
- ✓ Strong policies that ensure access to reproductive healthcare and protections for abortion care providers.
- ✓ Equitable access to all healthcare services for LGBTQ+ individuals.
- ✓ Increased availability and accessibility of mental and physical healthcare, as well as affordable insurance.
- ✓ Opportunities to strengthen prevention through education in schools and youth-serving organizations.
- ✓ Efforts to reduce gun violence.

WE OPPOSE

- ✗ Policies that limit a person's right to access sexual and reproductive healthcare services, including abortion care.
- ✗ Transphobic and trans-exclusionary policies that make it even harder for these survivors to seek help.

EQUITABLE, RESPONSIVE LEGAL SYSTEM



The court system, both criminal and civil/family, plays a crucial role in the safety of survivors and their children. It is critical for judges and court personnel to understand the dynamics of domestic violence, the needs of survivors and their children, and the further harm the courts may cause when failing to adequately assess and respond to those needs. We strive for a survivor-centered legal system that deters abusive behaviors by holding those who cause harm accountable. When safe and appropriate, we support community-based options that reduce incarceration and address racial inequities within the criminal justice system.

WE SUPPORT

- ✓ Enhanced family court infrastructure that accurately assesses and addresses domestic violence within divorce and custody matters, neither forcing survivors to disclose nor dismissing disclosures when they occur.
- ✓ Access to low-cost or free legal representation.
- ✓ Comprehensive, coordinated, and survivor-centered cross-systems criminal justice responses that ensure survivor safety and offender accountability.
- ✓ Increased opportunities for survivor notification and participation in the criminal justice system.

WE OPPOSE

- ✗ Policies that increase the cost of litigation and jeopardize the ability of pro se survivors to achieve equal justice.
- ✗ Policies that over-criminalize and exacerbate racial disparities within criminal justice systems.
- ✗ Measures seeking to expand the penal code when existing statute sufficiently criminalizes the act.

OUR MEMBERS



BRIDGEPORT



DANBURY



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ENFIELD



GREENWICH



HARTFORD



NEW BRITAIN



NEW HAVEN/SHELTON



TORRINGTON



LAKEVILLE



MERIDEN



MIDDLETOWN



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NORWALK/STAMFORD



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