



Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence

**For Immediate Release
October 20, 2020**

Contact: Liza Andrews
860.919.9707
landrews@ctcadv.org

Member Organizations

**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

The Network
Enfield, CT

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

Interval House
Hartford, CT

**Chrysalis Domestic Violence
Services**
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 County

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 Recent Domestic Violence Homicides

Glastonbury, CT – The tragic deaths of Luz Figueroa in Willimantic and Jennifer Brelsford in Bridgeport this month mark the state’s sixth and seventh intimate partner violence homicides this year. Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) sends our thoughts and prayers to their family and friends.

“We are deeply saddened that two more lives have been senselessly taken and we want to remind everyone that advocates are available 24/7 to assist those who are feeling unsafe in their relationship,” said Karen Jarmoc, chief executive officer of CCADV. “Abusive, controlling behaviors can be subtle but escalate over time. Whether you have questions, need resources, or just want someone who will listen without judgement, our advocates are available via call, text, chat, and email to speak with you in whatever way you are comfortable.”

So far this year, there have been six confirmed intimate partner violence homicides of women (including the murder/suicide in the case of Luz Figueroa) and one homicide involving a male victim. Knives have been the primary weapon in at least five of the homicides. Three homicides involved parties who were married to each other, three involved former dating partners, and children were present during at least one of the homicides. In the case of Jennifer Brelsford, the person of interest in her homicide has a history of violent criminal behavior, pointing to the importance of having strong offender policies that promote accountability and opportunities to change behavior.

Overall, between 2000 and 2019, there have been 281 intimate partner homicides, 86% of which involved female victims and 89% of which involved male offenders. Approximately 29% of those cases were murder/suicides. At 39%, firearms remain the single most commonly used weapon in an intimate partner violence homicide in Connecticut, with knives/sharp object the next most commonly used weapon at 33%. Connecticut has averaged 14 intimate partner homicides annually since 2000.

Anyone who feels unsafe in their relationship is urged to call/llamada or text/texto 888.774.2900 or chat/email/correo electrónico at www.CTSafeConnect.org 24/7. Safe Connect provides extensive information, safety planning, case management, and a safe connection to CCADV’s 18 member organizations for ongoing support and services locally. All services provided through Safe Connect and CCADV’s 18 member organizations are confidential, safe, free, and voluntary. They are provided to all victims and survivors of domestic violence regardless of age, ability, gender identity, sexual identity, racial or ethnic identity, religion, socioeconomic status, immigration status. Family, friends, professionals or anyone who suspects that someone they know is experiencing domestic violence are also encouraged to access information and resources via Safe Connect.

###

Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Inc. is the state’s leading voice for victims of domestic violence and those organizations that serve them. We are a membership organization of the state’s 18 domestic violence organizations. Help is available to victims 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by visiting www.CTSafeConnect.org or by texting/calling (888) 774-2900. For more information about CCADV, please visit www.ctcadv.org.