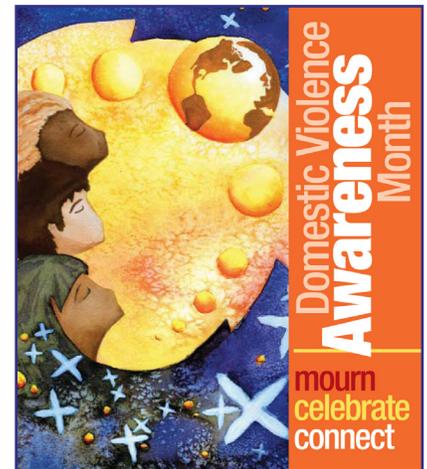


# National Call of Unity

On this annual, free 45-minute call, several national organizations, governmental agencies, local domestic violence programs, advocates, allies, survivors and their family and friends gather together to connect and refocus our efforts to end domestic violence.

To honor the tradition of the National Day of Unity, the Domestic Violence Awareness Project Advisory Group began organizing the National Call of Unity in 2010. The idea was to provide advocates with an opportunity for a collective, shared experience that would not distract from their ongoing support of survivors, their daily work to end violence, or their planned DVAM activities. Further, in observance of DVAM 2010, the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence commissioned a unique and vibrant piece of artwork from Lauren Komarek, a young artist who works as an illustrator, graphic designer and sculptor. Highlighting the traditional themes of DVAM, the artwork features the words, "Domestic Violence Awareness Month: mourn, celebrate, connect" with 3 young people looking forward to a different world, a world free from violence and coercive control.



## Listen to the National Call of Unity, Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2010:

- [National Call of Unity 2010, full length recording \(38:57 minutes\)](#)
- [Remarks by Vice President Joseph Biden \(1:55 minutes\)](#)
- [A Survivor's Story: Victor Rivas Rivers, "Remember My Name" recited by Kimberly Collins, and Universal Prayer by Rev. Dr. Alesse Moor-Orbih \(17:41 minutes\)](#)

## Event Planning Details

Planning a call of this nature is intended to be simple and will work well by involving members of the local domestic violence coordinated community response team (CCR Team), coordinating council, task force or other multi-disciplinary group. If a group of this nature doesn't exist in your community or state, work with a neighboring domestic violence, LGBT, elder abuse or other anti-violence organization to plan the call.

1. **Select the date and time of the call, as well as the conference call vendor that will be able to handle a large number of callers/listeners on one phone line.** You will need to estimate the number of expected callers. An easy way to do this is to count the number of member programs across your state and multiply by 2 or 3, assuming that at least each program and 1-2 community members will call in to listen.
2. **Determine who will be the main two (2) speakers on the call.** Typically this will be a survivor and a prominent leader within the community or state. These two speakers should have the bulk of the time, about 10-12 minutes each. Other community leaders and organizers on the call will have about 3-5 minutes each for their remarks.
3. **Advertise and announce the call widely.** Marketing the call is key. Be sure to include all necessary registration and/or dial-in details for participants to access the call. Encourage domestic violence shelter programs to play the call over the speaker system in their facility or to play it later for residents during support group. Sharing in this experience and making connections to the larger anti-violence movement can be valuable to the healing process for survivors.
4. **Draft a script for the call, down to the minute.** While it may seem like a long time, 45 minutes will go by quickly once the call starts. Be sure to draft a script or schedule of the call that includes introductory and closing remarks, brief speaker bios, designated speaker times, the moment of silence, and any other features you'd like on the call.

**A short sample is below:**

- |    |        |  |
|----|--------|--|
| a. | 2:45pm | Speakers call in, review last minute notes. Callers begin to dial in.                                |
| b. | 3:00pm | (3 mins) Welcome, overview of the call, organizer intro remarks                                      |
| c. | 3:03pm | (2 mins) Intro and bio of first guest speaker  |
| d. | 3:05pm | (10 mins) High profile guest or survivor speaker   |
| e. | 3:15pm | (5 mins) Partner organization remarks about the issue  |
| f. | 3:20pm | (2 mins) Intro and bio of second guest speaker   |
| g. | 3:22pm | (12 mins) High profile guest or survivor speaker   |
| h. | 3:34pm | (4 mins) Song, poetry or inspirational reading   |
| i. | 3:38pm | (2 mins) Prayer and silent meditation in honor of those who've lost their lives to domestic violence |
| j. | 3:40pm | (5 mins) Closing remarks about solidarity by partner organization                                    |
| k. | 3:45pm | The call ends, all phone lines are closed.   |

5. **Help partner organizations and speakers draft their remarks.** To ensure that you stay on time and that the call is cohesive, one or two planning calls will be needed with the speakers to review each other's themes, comments and segues.
6. **Post a recording of the call on your website.** Given the nature of crisis oriented advocacy work, not everyone will be able to listen in at the time of the call. Most phone companies that can host the call will be able to provide a copy of the recording for a minimal fee (about \$25). Post the recording on your website, include a link to it in your periodic eNewsletter or send it out via email to funders and donors alike.

**Listen to the National Call of Unity, Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2012:**

- [National Call of Unity 2012, full length recording \(34:29\)](#)

### Contact Information

For suggestions, help with modifications or other assistance with planning a local or statewide call in your area, please contact Kenya Fairley, Program Director at the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence at [kfairley@nrcdv.org](mailto:kfairley@nrcdv.org).