

Domestic Violence Victims Have More To Fear Than COVID19–New Website Aims To Prevent Intimate Partner Homicide

Responding to the increased risk for intimate partner homicide during the COVID-19 pandemic, Voices4Change offers free film streaming, resources, and training.

READING, PA, UNITED STATES, March 31, 2020 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Each year, 50,000 women are murdered by their partners or family members worldwide and in the United States more than 4 women each day are killed by intimate partners. With the spread of Covid-19 and the subsequent orders for social distancing, the risks to victims of intimate partner violence are on the rise. Law enforcement officials across the country and around the world are already reporting an uptick in domestic violence calls amid fears that the current crisis increases the likelihood of lethal or near-lethal abuse.

Domestic violence perpetrators frequently use isolation to control, intimidate and facilitate their abuse. With more and more communities facing a lock down, victims find themselves literally imprisoned with their abusers, with none of their usual support systems (i.e. work, school, community) available to escape the violence. It's a situation that some have described as a "ticking time bomb" (<https://nomore.org/listening-from-home/>).

"As a survivor of domestic and gun violence, I've been describing the situation of women and children being isolated at home right now with an abuser as a powder keg," said Kate Ranta, featured in FINDING JENN'S VOICE and author of [Killing Kate: A Story of Turning Abuse and Tragedy into Transformation and Triumph.](#) "Abusers thrive in situations exactly like this, where they have complete power and control. Their victims are trapped, and it's extremely volatile and dangerous."



Survivors of intimate partner homicide attempts featured in Finding Jenn's Voice



Voices4Change Logo

During this time of uncertainty and fear, many people are turning to online resources for information and support. Voices4Change.net is a digital resource for intimate partner violence survivors and professionals. The site offers online training for healthcare professionals and law enforcement, discussion forums for survivors and professionals, and a portal to FINDING JENN'S VOICE.

FINDING JENN'S VOICE is an award-winning documentary film which examines the risks of homicide during pregnancy and reveals the nature of abusive relationships. Featuring the stories of survivors of intimate partner homicide attempts and grounded in the research of leading domestic violence experts, the film paints a picture of intimate partner violence that looks beyond the black eye.

Filmmaker and social worker Tracy Schott observes, "Film is a powerful medium in creating social change. Through this website, we hope to change the horrific statistics and consequences of intimate partner violence by helping people recognize abusive relationships before they become deadly. Given the increased dangers associated with social distancing, I think it's important to remove any financial obstacles to getting this information where it can save lives."

Schott has partnered with a number of organizations who are helping to get the word out to their constituents about this offer: Conference on Crimes Against Women, Global Peace Film Festival, Global Rights for Women, JWI (Jewish Women International Alliance to End Domestic Abuse), Respond Against Violence, Women Count USA, and 1GEN have all pledged to support this effort. "We're committed to offering this service for free for the month of April but hope to find the support to continue to do so indefinitely," says Schott.

Individuals and organizations interested in joining Voices4Change are encouraged to reach out to info@voices4change.net.

ABOUT SCHOTT PRODUCTIONS

Voices4Change was created by Tracy Schott, MSW, MS owner of Schott Productions. Ms. Schott worked as a child and family therapist, specializing in child sexual abuse cases for 15 years. In 2000, she made the unusual career change to film and video production with a goal of creating social change through media. In addition to FINDING JENN'S VOICE, Schott Productions has created television content, commercials and short films, many dealing with mental health and social issues. Schott Productions is based in Pennsylvania.

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Filmmaker Releases Website to Prevent Intimate Partner Homicide

Just in time for International Women's Day (March 8), award-winning documentary filmmaker Tracy Schott has launched Voices4Change.net, a digital resource for survivors and professionals aimed at preventing intimate partner homicide

READING, Pa., March 5, 2020 (NewsWire.com) - Each year, 50,000 women are murdered by their partners or family members worldwide and, in the United States, the rates of intimate partner homicide are quickly rising. In most cases, these murders are predictable and preventable.

Voices4Change.net offers online training, discussion forums for survivors and professionals, and a portal to [FINDING JENN'S VOICE](#), the award-winning documentary film that

examines the risks of homicide during pregnancy and reveals the nature of abusive relationships by looking beyond the black eye.



In 2011, social-worker-turned-filmmaker Tracy Schott received a life-changing phone call from a friend whose pregnant niece had been murdered by her married boyfriend. A quick Google search brought Tracy to a study showing homicide to be the leading cause of death to pregnant women. Outraged by the information and the lack of media attention to this research, Tracy started a four-year journey that included interviewing leading researchers in domestic violence and meeting survivors of intimate partner homicide attempts.

Since its release, [FINDING JENN'S VOICE](#) has been viewed by thousands at conferences, screenings and colleges with universally positive response and documented changes in understanding of the issues. Voices4Change.net provides an opportunity for the film to reach millions worldwide. Says Schott, "I believe in the power of storytelling to create social change. With this new website, we hope to change the horrific statistics and consequences of intimate partner violence by creating awareness and providing the tools for change."

Schott has partnered with [1GEN](#), an India-based company whose mission is to make the world sustainable in one generation by using technology and storytelling in support of mission-driven organizations. Says 1GEN founder and President Paul Singh, "Team 1GEN is honored to be part of Tracy's vision of bringing this digital platform to life. We believe Voices4Change.net will help raise awareness about this important topic and amplify the efforts to create a positive shift."

International Women's Day is celebrated each year to amplify the voices of women and create a path to equality. Says Schott, "One in three women worldwide experiences intimate partner violence. Economic and political equality will never be reached until women are safe in their own homes. With Voices4Change, we empower survivors of violence by elevating their voices and creating a space where we can all learn from their experiences."

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Source: Voices4Change

Related Files

- [Voices4Change_podcast](#)

Additional Links

- <https://voices4change.net/voice/> - **Voices4Change Website**
- <https://vimeo.com/361819926> - **Finding Jenn's Voice Trailer**

About Schott Productions

Voices4Change is a project of Schott Productions, a film production company whose mission is "Finding and sharing the stories of our lives that matter". Schott Productions creates film and video content specializing in amplifying voices seldom heard.

<http://voices4change.net>

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Original Source: www.newswire.com