



United to end sexual abuse,
assault, and harassment

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PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Respect Together Connects Violence Prevention and the Assassination Attempt

HARRISBURG, PA – It's critical that we speak up about [violence prevention](#). The attempted assassination of former President Donald Trump highlighted what we already know from other instances of violence happening across many [communities](#), that violence is a widespread urgent public health problem that affects all regardless of economic status, race, gender, and/or age.

Yolanda Edrington, CEO of [Respect Together](#), had this to say, "The assassination attempt at the Pennsylvania rally serves as a stark example of the violence that has become all too common in our communities over the years. Extensive research conducted by the CDC has shown that violence profoundly impacts individuals and communities, causing physical, emotional, and economic harm. What is particularly disheartening is the knowledge that, while violence is measurable and often preventable, funding for prevention and treatment efforts remains insufficient. This lack of resources hampers our ability to effectively address the root causes of violence and implement comprehensive strategies to reduce its occurrence. It is crucial that we advocate for increased funding and support for violence prevention and intervention programs to build safer and healthier communities for everyone."

Respect Together knows that the issues of sexual violence and gun violence are intertwined, as such the mission to eradicate all forms sexual violence; domestic violence and gun violence are one and the same. While these categories of violence have their own distinctions, they all call for us to act in a prevention-focused and survivor-centric manner. Everyone has a role in creating safer communities free from violence. It is imperative that we invest in programs that address the root causes of violence, provide support to at-risk individuals, and promote a culture of non-violence and respect. We urge Congress to support public health and safety by rejecting the proposed elimination of funding for the [Centers for Disease Control's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control](#).

It is our collective responsibility to condemn all acts of violence and to actively work towards building safer communities. As an organization based in Pennsylvania, we are aware of the profound impact of what occurred at the rally. We extend our thoughts and condolences to those who were harmed or traumatized at the rally, as well as their loved ones. You are not alone. Contact your [local victim service agency](#) in Pennsylvania or the [National Center for Victims of Crimes](#). Please contact us if we can assist with additional resources.

ABOUT RESPECT TOGETHER

Together with its main divisions, the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC) and the Pennsylvania Coalition to Advance Respect (PCAR), Respect Together supports survivors, promotes research, identifies best practices, and shapes public policy. Our mission is to disrupt inequity and mobilize service providers, communities, and leaders to create and uphold safe, equitable communities with a culture of respect for all people.