



**SANTA BARBARA RAPE CRISIS CENTER
CENTRO CONTRA LA VIOLACION SEXUAL**

VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

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Happy New Year!

DOD DATABASE WOULD TRACK ARMY SEXUAL ASSAULT REPORTS

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Army is planning a centralized database for information on alleged sexual assault victims and assailants, according to the Defense Department. The database will have information including alleged victims' and assailants' names, social security numbers, police reports and medical records on treatment, according to the Federal Register, a daily publication in which the government publishes rules and proposed rules. The records will be available to authorized personnel only, the Register says. Dr. Kaye Whitley, of the Defense Department's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office, wrote via e-mail that the database would serve a valuable purpose. "The Army is developing a tool to help them manage the sexual assault prevention and response program," Whitley wrote. "It is designed to help them detect trends, apply resources, and to ensure victims are getting the needed care and support." The database is part of the Army's effort to eliminate sexual assaults in the service, wrote Army spokesman Lt. Col. Bryan Hilferty via e-mail.

But advocacy groups claim the Army's proposed database goes too far by recording personal information, including name, rank and serial numbers, of alleged rape victims. "We understand this is a sensitive topic and we hear the concerns of advocates," Hilferty wrote. "However, the inclusion of some identifying information is necessary to ensure accurate data correlation and integrity. Without accurate data we cannot determine if program components such as victim advocacy, medical, investigative and legal services and activities are working."

The Army would take "great care" to ensure the privacy of both alleged victims and assailants, Hilferty wrote. "Fewer than 10 individuals in the entire Army could have access to the personal identifying information," he wrote. "All other users would only be able to access aggregated, report-based, nonpersonal identifying information." But the Miles Foundation, a nonprofit advocacy group for military-related victims of violence, is concerned about who can access that information, said spokeswoman Anita Sanchez. Another worry is that the database will have a chilling effect on reporting rapes, Sanchez said. "A victim, for example, may think two, three, four times before they went forward to report that to military authorities, realizing that to report being sexual assaulted would result in very private and personal information being collected about them," she said.

UN CALLS FOR STRONG ACTION TO ELIMINATE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The United Nations marked November 25, 2005, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, with calls for states to take legal action against the global scourge, for societies to change a mindset that permits such abuse, and for women themselves to stand up and speak out against a culture of shame. 'Violence against women remains pervasive worldwide,' Secretary-General Kofi Annan said in a message. 'It is the most atrocious manifestation of the systemic discrimination and inequality women continue to face, in law and in their everyday lives, around the world. It occurs in every region, country, and culture, regardless of income, class, race or ethnicity.' Noting that leaders at September's UN World

Summit pledged to redouble efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and the girls, he stressed that this required a change of the mindset, still all too common and deep-seated, that violence against women is acceptable. 'That means leadership in showing, by example, that when it comes to violence against women and girls, there are no grounds for tolerance and no tolerable excuses.'

'Violence against women is the most pervasive violation of human rights, occurring every day, in every country and every region, regardless of income or level of development,' UNIFEM Executive Director Noeleen Heyzer said, citing a UN World Health Organization (WHO) estimate that nearly one in four women will be raped, beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused in her lifetime, sometimes with fatal consequences. She called for three major actions to break 'this vicious cycle' of violence: countries must pass and enforce laws to deter acts of violence against women and reduce the spread of HIV; women who have suffered abuse must speak out to break the culture of shame and stigma; and awareness must be raised on the links between violence against women and HIV/AIDS, especially by the media.

Urging stronger efforts to fight violence against women, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour also called for a change of mindset. 'We urge States to challenge societal values that support discrimination against women and legitimize violence against them, adopt specific legislation addressing domestic violence and end impunity for crimes committed against women,' she said in a message co-signed by the Special Rapporteur of the UN Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Yakin Ertürk.

The first-ever WHO study on domestic violence, released yesterday, shows that intimate partner violence is the most common form of violence in women's lives - much more so than assault or rape by strangers or acquaintances. The study reports on the enormous toll physical and sexual violence by husbands and partners has on the health and well-being of women around the world and the extent to which partner violence is still largely hidden. 'This study shows that women are more at risk from violence at home than in the street and this has serious repercussions for women's health,' WHO Director-General Lee Jong-wook said. 'The study also shows how important it is to shine a spotlight on domestic violence globally and treat it as a major public health issue.'

The Women's Health and Domestic Violence Against Women study, based on interviews with more than 24,000 women from rural and urban areas in 10 countries: Bangladesh, Brazil, Ethiopia, Japan, Namibia, Peru, Samoa, Serbia and Montenegro, Thailand and Tanzania, calls for action by policy makers and the public health sector, including integrating violence prevention into a range of social programs.

Source: UN News Centre: www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=16674&Cr=violence&Cr1=women

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

As the 2005 legislative session has closed, here is a final look at how vital legislation that CALCASA and local rape crisis centers supported fared:

- AB 70 (Maze) which allows victims of sexual violence to obtain new license plates in an effort to secure their safety was signed by Governor Schwarzenegger.
 - AB 190 (Negrete-McLeod) provides a mechanism for taxpayers to donate to the California Sexual Violence Victim Services Fund was signed by Governor Schwarzenegger.
 - AB 1088 (Oropeza) requires all California Colleges and Universities to provide information regarding sexual violence to all incoming students was signed into law just a day before the Governor's final signing deadline.
 - AB 632 (Chu), sought to create a statewide Sex Offender Management Board. The bill sailed through both sides of the legislature with unanimous bi-partisan support, only to be vetoed by the Governor. Both CALCASA and Assemblywoman Chu have vowed to bring the bill forward again next year.
- After a landmark legislative session from CALCASA, we are proud to announce these three additions to California law, and look forward to continued support for CALCASA at the Capitol.

VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER: NICK TOROK

SBRCC is honored to recognize Nick Torok as Volunteer of the Quarter. Nick joined the SBRCC Speakers' Bureau in December 2003, and has recently become part of SBRCC's Finance Committee. Nick's involvement is truly a gift to the agency and our mission to eradicate sexual violence.

Nick and his wife, Kay, had been discussing their desire to do something significant for others, when over lunch they came across a flyer for SBRCC's Crisis Intervention Training—with a deadline to apply of 5pm the same day! On an impulse, they both joined SBRCC's advocate team. Nick was motivated by his belief in equality and women's rights, as well by the anger and disgust he feels in response to sexual violence. Ten years ago, he read an article about the gang rape of a young Muslim woman in Serbia and felt outraged. Today, he is actively participating in dismantling the rape culture that allows atrocities like this to continue.

Nick has provided Sexual Assault Prevention presentations in many different settings, from an audience of 200 Westland Floral employees, to small groups who meet at Zona Seca to address issues of drugs and alcohol. Nick plays a key role in SBRCC's media outreach by participating in interviews on public affairs shows airing on Spanish-language radio station Radio Lazer and television station, La Buena. When not doing public speaking, Nick has taken on other projects—even filling cans with concrete in order to create signs for the Pathways to Peace Campaign in 2004. He expressed that his work in education is very gratifying. He remains motivated by the belief that each presentation changes the attitude of at least one person, and with this shift, he's contributed to someone, somewhere, being safe from rape. Nick hopes that education and outreach efforts will continue so that SBRCC becomes a household name and that many more members of the community will join our efforts.

Nick comes to Santa Barbara after a remarkable journey. Born in Hungary in 1945, Nick's family moved to Chile when he was only three years old. Nick came to the U.S. in 1963 to attend college, where he met and married Kay. The couple returned to Chile, but moved away in 1970 as a result of political upheaval. They found a new home in Nicaragua. Although they left briefly following the earthquake in 1972, they returned to continue working in the devastated country. When civil war broke out in 1979, they had to leave with their family under very trying circumstances. Nick and Kay returned to the U.S. and spent a year together that Nick describes as one of the highlight of his life. They lived with their children on a self-sustaining ranch in Northern California. Kay home-schooled the children, and the whole family helped maintain the ranch by caring for the animals, working in the gardens, picking and canning fruit, etc.

Today, Nick leads a very active life in Santa Barbara, including his professional work in Real Estate, his volunteerism with SBRCC, and his love for activities like skiing, scuba diving, and mountain climbing. He aims to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Africa --the highest freestanding mountain on Earth! Nick's dedication to his belief in non-violence is also expressed by his veganism. He hasn't consumed or used any animal products during the last 16 years. Nick is currently engaged in building a home in Costa Rica, and upon his retirement, dreams of creating an orphanage or similar center there to help the community, or of becoming involved in coordinating disaster relief efforts like those offered by Direct Relief International.

Nick shared that he is amazed by the dedication and passion of all the staff and volunteers at SBRCC. Right back at you, Nick! Thank you so much for your commitment to SBRCC and to a community free from sexual violence.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JANUARY ADVOCATE MEETING: JANUARY 9, 2006: 6-8 PM

Happy New Year! The topic for this month will be on surviving HIV in Santa Barbara. Please come and hear the story of a woman's epic story of dealing with her faith, family, and struggles to regain control over her life while living with HIV.

POSITION AVAILABLE AT SBRCC

Office Manager (Full-time position): Oversee use of office space and facilities; maintain an organized filing system for administrative, program and service files; provide technical support on computer systems and software to staff; and ensure facility and office equipment maintenance.

GET INVOLVED: SPREAD THE WORD!

It's that time of year again: training recruitment time! Another English Crisis Intervention Training is literally around the corner, and we need your help to get the word out. If you know someone who would make a good Sexual Assault Counselor, let him know about our upcoming training dates: January 17th - March 9th on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6pm - 10 p.m. Applications are available on our website at www.sbrapecrisiscenter.org or by calling SBRCC at 963.6832. As always, we extend a special invitation to individuals who are bilingual in English and Spanish and to men. In addition, if you would like to participate in this training as a guest presenter, Advocate Panel member, or helper with roleplays, contact Heather at 963.6832 x. 28 or heather@sbcc.net.

OFFICE CLOSURE

SBRCC's office will be closed on Monday, January 16th in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Of course, the 24-hour hotline will still be operational throughout the day.

SPEAKER'S BUREAU TRAINING IN SPANISH: SCHEDULING MEETING JAN. 13 AT 8PM

Here's your chance to overcome your fear of public speaking and help dismantle rape culture at the same time! If you're interested in becoming a member of SBRCC's Speaker's Bureau, please come to a Scheduling Meeting after the Advocate Meeting in Spanish on **Friday, January 13th, at 8pm**. Bring your calendar so that we can try to schedule training in a way that works for everyone interested! Speaker's Bureau Training is open to all certified Rape Crisis Advocates. After the 12 hour training, you will be ready to give presentations about Sexual Assault Awareness and Rape Prevention to middle and high schools, colleges and universities, parenting cooperatives, faith-based organizations, and other community groups.

This training will take place in Spanish. The next training in English will take place in May or June, depending on participant availability! If you would like more information about Speaker's Bureau, please contact Alena at alena@sbcc.net or 963-6832 ext. 29.

V-DAY SANTA BARBARA 2006

SBRCC will be working with community members to produce Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues" at the Lobero Theater. The date is tentatively set for Friday March 17, 2006. V-Day is a global movement to stop violence against women and girls. V-Day is a catalyst that promotes creative events to increase awareness, raise money and revitalize the spirit of existing anti-violence organizations. V-Day generates broader attention for the fight to stop violence against women and girls, including rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation (FGM) and sexual slavery. There are many volunteer opportunities including cast, crew, stage design, sponsorship, advertising and ushering. If you are interested in getting involved, please email hilary@sbcc.net for more information.

CELEBRATE THE 33RD ANNIVERSARY OF ROE VS. WADE!

SBRCC is a member of the Santa Barbara Pro-Choice Coalition, which works to educate the local community about and advocate for reproductive rights. Please join us in celebrating reproductive freedom on the 33rd anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, the landmark court case granting abortion rights in the United States. The event will feature Maggie Crosby, an attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union who has worked tirelessly to protect reproductive rights for almost 30 years, particularly for poor and young women. Crosby was instrumental in the recent successful campaign to defeat California Proposition 73, which would have required teenagers to notify their parents before seeking abortion services.

Monday, January 23, 2006

5:30-7:30pm

*Faulkner Gallery, 40 East Anapamu St.,
Santa Barbara, CA 93101*

For more information, please contact Brianna Eardley at (805) 963-2445 x147

We hope to see you there!



Happy Birthday to:



- **Erin E. on January 10th**
- **Jemie S. on January 12th**
- **Candy on January 23rd**
- **Natalie P. on January 28th**
- **Guadalupe P. on January 31st**