NATIONAL STALKING AWARENESS MONTH 2027
KNOW IT. NAME IT. STOP IT.

COMMITMENT PLEDGE

January 2027 marks the twenty-third annual National Stalking Awareness Month (NSAM) and we all have a role to play to spread awareness about this criminal, traumatic, and dangerous victimization.

Signing this pledge is a commitment to elevate the issue of stalking by building public awareness, supporting victims and survivors, learning more about stalking, and taking a proactive role in elevating the dialogue around stalking. Post it on your fridge at home as a personal reminder, by your desk at work or on social media as a public reminder, and/or wherever else you're comfortable sharing it. Encourage friends, family, colleagues, classmates, and community to join you and sign their own pledges as well!

Stalking is prevalent and impacts every population in the United States, but too often remains unrecognized and unnamed. More than 1 in 5 women and approximately 1 in 10 men in the U.S. experience stalking in their lifetimes.[1] Despite frequently being used to describe trivial behaviors that may simply be annoying or creepy, stalking is a serious and pervasive crime with a specific definition.

Stalking is a pattern of behavior directed at a specific person that causes fear. Most stalkers use a variety of different tactics to watch, contact, threaten, and otherwise scare and harm their victims. From unwanted calls and messages to sharing intimate images without consent, stalkers often sabotage and terrify their victims in highly specific and contextual ways that only sometimes appear alarming to outsiders. Stalkers usually target people they know (like current or former romantic partners, friends, neighbors, or colleagues).

Stalking will not be taken seriously until all of us — victims, survivors, friends, family, neighbors, service providers, and legal professionals — demand that stalking be recognized for the urgent and dangerous crime that it is. Too often, victims suffer in silence and responders fail to identify what is happening, minimizing the fear and harm that stalkers cause. Movies and TV shows often popularize the "secret admirer" stalker who has good intentions and falls in love from afar, but in reality, stalkers typically intend to frighten their victims, don't stop when the victim is scared, and engage in behaviors that are invasive, disturbing, interfering, and violent. Research shows that stalking is a significant risk factor for violence, weapon use,[2] sexual assault,[3] and intimate partner homicide.[4]

Learn more about stalking and getting involved with NSAM and the Stalking Awareness Day of Action on January 19th at www.StalkingAwareness.org/NSAM-2027!

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[1] Smith, S.G., Stevens, M.R., Yue, X., Chen, J., Basile, K.C., Breiding, M.J., & Zhu, S. (2025). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2023/2024 Stalking Data Brief. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

[2] Mohandie, K., Meloy, J.R., McGowan, M.G., & Williams, J. (2006). The RECON Typology of Stalking: Reliability and Validity Based upon a Large Sample of North American Stalkers. *Journal of Forensic Sciences, 51*(1): 147-155.

[3] Logan, TK, Shannon, L., & Cole, J. (2007). Stalking Victimization in the Context of Intimate Partner Violence. *Violence and Victims. 22*(6), 669-683.

[4] Spencer, C.M. & Stith, S.M. (2018). Risk Factors for Male Perpetration and Female Victimization of Intimate Partner Homicide: A Meta-Analysis. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse 21*(3): 527-540.

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COMMITMENT PLEDGE

I promise to elevate the issue of stalking and do my part to

KNOW IT, NAME IT, and STOP IT.

I pledge to:

- Build awareness around stalking — this National Stalking Awareness Month and beyond.
- Listen to and believe stalking victims and survivors.
- Educate myself on what stalking is and the impacts it has.
- Use my voice to name stalking when I see it and educate others about it.
- Speak up when I see stalking presented inaccurately and/or trivialized.
- Encourage others to learn about stalking, name it when they see it, and join me in stopping it.

In addition, I pledge to _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Name

_____ _____

Signature Date