MCBW Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 30, 2016

MINNEAPOLIS BRIDGES ARE PURPLE TO RAISE AWARENESS
I-35 and Lowry Bridges Honor Victims of Domestic Violence

MINNEAPOLIS – On Saturday night the I-35 and Lowry bridges will be lit purple to mark the beginning of Domestic Violence Awareness Month and honor Minnesota's survivors and victims of intimate partner violence.

"This year our focus is on community conversations," said Liz Richards, executive director of the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women. "We are too often silent when it comes to speaking about domestic violence to our children, our loved ones, our neighbors, and our coworkers."

At least 100 women have been killed by a current or former intimate partner in Minnesota in the last five years. In 2015, at least 34 people were killed due to domestic violence in Minnesota. At least 10 people in the state have been murdered due to domestic violence in 2016. Victims include Trisha Nelson, killed in a Plymouth intersection, and Saint Paul's Ashley Hasti, whose estranged husband went on to murder a professor on the UCLA campus.

"Engaging our communities in dialogues about domestic violence encourage everyone to look beyond the criminal justice system as our only resource," Richards said. "We need to focus on what we can do in schools, in work places, and in places of worship to support survivors and keep people safe."

In August, the Minneapolis City Council passed a resolution declared October Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Governor Mark Dayton issued a proclamation declaring the same on September 30th.

Over 100 public awareness and engagement events will occur across the state throughout the month of October to promote awareness of domestic violence in communities throughout Minnesota. More information about these events can be found on the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women's website www.mcbw.org

If you are a victim experiencing abuse, contact Day One at 866-223-1111 to connect with services.

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COMMUNITY SHARES MINNESOTA