



Media Release
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Put domestic violence out of work

Atlanta nonprofit offers training for businesses to protect against profit loss from workplace violence during economic recession

ATLANTA, April 20, 2009 – Partnership Against Domestic Violence (PADV) offers businesses an opportunity to build up their arsenal to combat a common workplace problem, intimate partner violence. Companies that tackle workplace domestic violence before it becomes costly have a competitive edge over others, which can help them weather the current economic storm. PADV is hosting its eighth annual *When Domestic Violence Goes to Work* conference to help employers take a preventive approach by developing practices and policies that will protect their employees and their profits. The event is scheduled for April 30, 2009, at the Loudermilk Center, downtown Atlanta.

The lackluster economy is not the only excuse for shrinking profits and higher costs. Domestic violence in the workplace can lead to increased health care costs, absenteeism, tardiness, lower productivity and turnover, and can compromise workplace safety. **According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, domestic violence expenses exceed \$8 billion in lost productivity and health care costs.** However, secondary victimization of co-workers who witness workplace domestic violence has the potential to make total costs even higher.

“Intimate partner violence incidents are not uncommon at workplaces. Nearly 50 percent of the individuals who attended PADV’s conference last year, indicated that their companies experienced a domestic violence occurrence,” said Cathy Willis Spraez, president and chief executive officer for PADV. “Recognizing the warning signs is the first step to averting a costly and potentially dangerous situation. The time to figure out what to do isn’t after a fatal shooting, but before the crisis happens. PADV can help employers plan in the quiet comfort of a conference room rather than in the aftermath of a frenzied crisis,” continued Willis Spraez.

In Georgia, one in four women will experience intimate partner violence. Domestic violence clearly affects the workplace. Consider the following facts:

- Twenty-six percent of employed women admit to being a victim of domestic violence, and 64 percent of them said their job performance was affected.
- Sixty-eight percent of corporate leaders think a company’s financial performance would benefit if intimate partner violence was addressed.
- Fifty-five percent of corporate leaders think intimate partner violence has a harmful impact on the productivity of their companies.

The conference will be held April 30, 2009, at the Loudermilk Center in Atlanta from 7:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Conference attendees will:

- Understand how domestic violence manifests in the workplace and learn to recognize the warning signs.
- Explore Georgia's employment laws and legal options that pertain to domestic violence in the workplace.
- Examine practices and strategies to implement when the same company employs both the survivor and batterer.
- Develop a policy that addresses domestic violence in the workplace.

For-profit business early registration is \$195 and early registration for nonprofits and government agencies is \$45. The deadline for early registration is April 10, 2009. To register for the conference, or for more information, call 404.870.9605 or visit www.padv.org.

About PADV

Partnership Against Domestic Violence (PADV) is the largest and one of the oldest nonprofit domestic violence organizations in Georgia. For more than 30 years, PADV has been providing professional, compassionate and empowering support to battered women and their children in metro Atlanta. PADV provides violence prevention, emergency intervention and long-term advocacy for battered women and their children including a 24-hour crisis line, two emergency shelters in metro Atlanta, supportive housing, support groups, legal advocacy, and a teen dating violence prevention program. To learn more about domestic violence and PADV programs and services, please visit www.padv.org.

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