

Domestic Violence Movement Timeline

1500: American settlers “rule of thumb” laws

1824: Mississippi Supreme Court rules husband can only use “moderate chastisement” in emergency

1829: England abolishes husband’s power of chastisement

1871: Alabama first state to rescind husband’s legal right to beat wife

1874: North Carolina abolishes abuse rights, but states “if no permanent injury” should be ignored

1882: Maryland first state to criminalize wife beating ; punishment = 40 lashes or 1 year jail

1919: 19th Amendment gives women right to vote

1945: California passes felony law for willful infliction of corporal injury on wife or child

1965: U.S. Congress passes laws prohibiting discrimination against women in work and equal pay

1967: Maine opens one of first shelters

1971: London, England “advice center” opens, later becoming domestic violent center

1972: Minnesota starts first hotline for battered women

1972: First emergency rape crisis center hotline opens in Washington, D.C.

1972: California opens first shelter for battered women

1974: England book “Scream Quietly or the Neighbors Will Hear” First book about domestic violence from woman’s perspective

1975: Book “Against Our Will: Men, Women, and Rape”

1975: National Organization for Women (NOW) establishes international task force on domestic violence

1976: La Casa de la Madres in San Francisco, California opens first shelter established by women of color

1976: Pennsylvania establishes first state coalition against domestic violence

1976: Florida introduces warrantless arrest legislation

1976: Domestic Violence Act creates First Protective Order

1977: Washington state landmark case regarding battered women's syndrome

1977: Take Back the Night marches begin across the United States

1977: Minnesota first state to provide funds for domestic violence services

1978: National Coalition Against Domestic Violence created

1978: First shelter in Georgia opens (YWCA of Northwest Georgia)

1978: California makes spousal rape a crime

1978: International Conference on Battered Women

1979: Women create "We will not be beaten" campaign and organize across the U.S.

1979: Women of color in Boston join to create group against violence against women of color

1981: First Annual Domestic Violence Awareness Week

1981: Georgia General Assembly passes Family Violence Act

1982: Men Stopping Violence is founded in Atlanta

1984: Family Violence Prevention and Services Act passes: federal funding for domestic violence victim programs

1984: Lenore Walker book "Battered Women's Syndrome" discusses "learned helplessness," "cycle of violence"

1985: First federal case where police are sued by victim for failure to protect leads to “mandatory arrest”

1985: New York opens Asian women’s center and programs fighting violence against Asian women

1985: DHR Family Violence Unit begins in Georgia

1987: NCADV first national hotline for domestic violence

1988: U.S. Surgeon General declares wife abuse as leading health hazard to women

1988: Victims of Crime Act passes; money awards to domestic violence victims

1989: Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence started

1990: California first stalking law, first law prohibiting guns for people with a restraining order

1990: Beginning of “no drop” policies in prosecutors offices

1992: American Medical Association creates domestic violence screening guidelines for doctors

1992: Georgia Commission on Family Violence created by GA General Assembly

1994: Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) passes: funds for domestic violence and sexual assault, civil remedies, training for courts and police, full faith and credit for protective orders

1996: Standards for Georgia-DHR shelters created

1997: Statewide training initiative for DFCS on TANF and domestic violence clients

1997: Federal stalking law enacted

1997: TANF plan begins in GA, 7th state in U.S. to adopt family violence waiver

1997: October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

1998: 24 hour shelter coverage for DHR shelters begins

2000: VAWA reauthorized

2000: First domestic violence TANF assessors hired in GA

2000: INCITE! founders organized "The Color of Violence: Violence Against Women of Color" conference held at University of California-Santa Cruz on April 28-29

2000: Congress passes the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000

2001: ACS/NYC CPS worker cases involved domestic violence

2001: Incite! and Critical Resistance draft a statement about the intersections between gender violence and the prison industrial complex.

www.incite-national.org/index.php?s=92

2002: GA Protective Order Registry begins

2002: Statute in GA regarding Family Violence Intervention Programs: standards, certification, mandated attendance for family violence convictions and TPO's

2003: Congress passes Prison Rape Elimination Act

2005: VAWA reauthorized

2005: DHR Family Violence Unit expands to include sexual assault

2006: Me Too - Tarana Burke, a social activist and community organizer, began using the phrase "Me Too" in 2006, on the Myspace social network to promote "empowerment through empathy" among women of color who have been sexually abused

2006: Renewal of the Federal Violence Against Women Act extends coverage to 2011

2011: FVPSA reauthorized in December

2012: Advocate privilege passed in GA

2012: Marissa Alexander was prosecuted for aggravated assault with a lethal weapon and received a mandatory minimum sentence of 20 years in prison

2012: Beth Richie's book Arrested Justice: Black Women, Violence, and America's Prison Nation is published

2013: VAWA reauthorized

2014: GA: strangulation is felony offense

2015: Unemployment benefits for domestic violence victims

2015: Criminal Family Violence Orders added to GA Protective Order Registry

2015: Harassing Communications Statute includes Electronic Communication

2013: Tribal courts had no authority to prosecute a non-Indian who commits domestic violence

2013: LGBTQ individuals and programs can receive funding through VAWA

2015: Marissa Alexander is released from prison under a plea deal that capped her sentence to the three years she had already served

2017: Me Too. Alyssa Milano encouraged use of the Me Too hashtag after accusations against Harvey Weinstein surfaced

2020: Forty-seven states and territorial coalitions signed on to the "[Moment of Truth Letter](#)", which details the harms caused by the mainstream movement and articulates the commitment of the signatories to move into the future divesting from the criminal legal system and in community with BIPOC leaders.