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North Dakota Council on Abused Women's Services To Hold Annual Unity Month Conference

Bismarck, ND – The N.D. Council on Abused Women's Services (NDCAWS) will hold its 6th Annual Unity Month Conference on October 5-6, 2011, at the Doublewood Inn in Bismarck. Attendees of the statewide conference will include prosecutors, law enforcement, judges, social workers, counselors, probation / parole officers, and domestic violence advocates. The conference is expected to have over 150 attendees this year.

This year's conference theme "*Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking: A Lifetime of Effects*" is reflective of the impact violence has on individuals, families and communities. This violence effects everyone over their lifetime; whether through personal experience, in the work we do, or what we see in the world around us. Janelle Moos, NDCAWS Executive Director, states "October Unity Month activities emphasize the importance of all disciplines and community members working together to end domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. Building professional expertise is one way the coalition hopes to build that unity, and we have assembled an extraordinary group of trainers to assist us."

Speakers for the conference are from across the nation and include well known author Laura van Dernoot Lipsky who will address secondary trauma in addition to nationally recognized speakers Joseph Vess from Men Can Stop Rape who will speak on men supporting survivors and Dr. David Adams from Emerge who will speak about men who murder their partners. An agenda is attached.

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ND Council on Abused Women's Services/Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NDCAWS/CASAND)

The ND Council on Abused Women's Services/Coalition Against Sexual Assault is a membership organization representing the 21 ND domestic violence and sexual assault crisis centers. It is the mission of NDCAWS/CASAND to provide leadership and support in the identification, intervention, and prevention of domestic and sexual violence. For more information, please visit www.ndcaws.org