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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

**San Diego, CA – October 2, 2015: Are you aware that the** most recent data from the 2011 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) indicates that over 10 million women and men in the United States experience physical violence each year by a current or former intimate partner. Further, over 1 in 5 women (22.3%) and nearly 1 in 7 men (14.0%) have experienced severe physical violence by an intimate partner at some point in their lifetime, translating to nearly 29 million U.S. women and nearly 16 million U.S. men. [See CDC Report on Intimate Partner Violence.](#)

**Most children (66%) grow up with some level of trauma in their lives.** The majority of victims of domestic violence grew up in homes with domestic violence. ([Casey Gwinn, Cheering for the Children 2015](#)).

"If we as a nation invested the money and time necessary to help every victim and every child exposed to trauma, we would empty our prison and mental health facilities within two generations. Alliance for HOPE International is focused on Creating Pathways to HOPE for survivors and their children," said Casey Gwinn, President of Alliance for HOPE International.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and Alliance for HOPE International (Alliance) is proud to honor and celebrate survivors by hosting a national webinar on October 6, 2015 at 10 a.m. from our downtown San Diego office entitled: "Surviving After the Crisis." This hour and a half program will be hosted by Alliance President, Casey Gwinn, Esq. and will look at the complexities of domestic violence and the power and control issues that arise. During the webinar, members of the San Diego VOICES Survivor Committee will share how they were able to break the cycle of violence for themselves and their children.

"Being involved in VOICES has helped me fulfill my dreams because I found understanding, compassion and love. Now, I am sharing that same passion with others as we help victims of domestic violence," said Lisbet Perez, survivor.

VOICES is a network of survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault who volunteer their time to help others through advocacy, education, and empowerment. VOICES members support each other as well as those experiencing domestic violence and sexual assault. Members of this committee offer a unique perspective in regards to established programming and help identify gaps in services.

[www.allianceforhope.com](http://www.allianceforhope.com) | [www.familyjusticecenter.com](http://www.familyjusticecenter.com)

Family Justice Center Alliance ♦ Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention ♦ Camp HOPE America

Justice Legal Network ♦ VOICES Survivors Network



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“During the month of October and throughout the year we highlight the strength of survivors and their children. Accountability to survivors is one of our core strategic directions for our organization,” said Gael Strack, CEO of Alliance for HOPE International.

To register for the webinar, [click here](#).

Alliance for HOPE International operates the **Family Justice Center Alliance, Camp HOPE America** (the first camp in America focused on helping children exposed to domestic violence), **the Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention, the Justice Legal Network, and the VOICES Survivor Network.**

Alliance for HOPE International serves as the clearinghouse, research center, and national membership organization for all Family Justice Centers and similar multi-agency, multi-disciplinary service delivery models serving victims of domestic violence and related sexual assault and child abuse.

Alliance for HOPE International and its allied Centers serve more than 150,000 survivors of domestic violence and their children each year in the United States. In addition, Alliance for HOPE trains more than 10,000 multi-disciplinary professionals every year. We serve as the comprehensive technical assistance and training provider for the U.S. Department of Justice for federally funded Family Justice Centers and we support Centers in more than 10 countries.

Learn more at: [www.allianceforhope.com](http://www.allianceforhope.com).