



# COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

The Santa Cruz County Commission on Justice & Gender (JAG) works to improve the lives of women directly impacted by the criminal legal system, to reduce recidivism and intergenerational trauma by holding individuals and systems responsible for the harm caused to women and their families.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and the JAG Commission is launching a Healing Campaign in accordance with this year's national campaign theme, #Every1KnowsSome1. At least one in four women and one in seven men will experience domestic violence in their lifetime and anyone, regardless of gender, race, sexual identity or orientation, or socio-economic status can become a victim and survivor of domestic violence.

JAG is inviting people to share stories of healing and resiliency in writing, video or audio recordings. Individuals may choose to be anonymous or not; videos can be blurred or otherwise unidentifiable. The goal is to uplift stories and recognize the powerful ways in which people who have experienced domestic violence, as a survivor or a witness, heal. Some questions to consider for submissions:

- What has helped you heal?
- What exists in your community, or could exist to help people heal and thrive?
- How do we heal from the stigma and shame associated with domestic violence?
- What more do people need to know about healing from domestic violence?

The commission honors the bravery of those who share their stories to help reduce stigma and promote healing. Please send written statements, recordings or questions to: [jasminenajeralcsw@gmail.com](mailto:jasminenajeralcsw@gmail.com) so that they may be shared. Those needing assistance or support should contact Monarch Services' 24-hour Bilingual Support & Crisis line at 888-900-4232, or the Walnut Avenue Family & Women's Center Hotline 866-269-2559.