

## TAKE ACTION!

Want to celebrate Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month (TDVAM) this February? Here are some ideas for you to consider in helping raise awareness about teen dating violence in your school or community.

### Candlelight Vigil



Candlelight Vigils are an effective and powerful way to involve community members and to bring attention to survivors and information about teen dating violence. Pick a date and location for your vigil, create a Facebook event page and invite your community, create flyers and post around town and email out. Pick a planning date to buy and assemble materials. There are different ways a vigil can be conducted. One way is similar to a Talking Circle. Everyone is given a candle. The first person to speak lights their candle before they speak. Participants can speak the names of family members, friends who have affected by teen dating violence, or are currently dealing with or living in abusive dating situations. They can read a teen's story aloud or even tell their own story. When they are finished they will light the candle of the person next to them and so on around the circle. The circle can be closed with a prayer and an invitation to everyone to speak and share in the movement to end teen dating violence. A drum or music is appropriate, along with a community snacks/feed and/or give-away following the ceremony.

### Wear Orange ribbon

The color orange and the orange ribbon are a symbol for teen dating violence awareness month. Be creative and incorporate the color orange into your school and community!

### Morning Run



Wear orange and organize a group for a morning run to greet the sun, on Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. Follow *UNite to End Violence: Native Women's Empowerment* group who organize a morning run every 25<sup>th</sup> of the month while wearing orange, using #UNitetoendviolence & #NIWRCStrongHearts on social media.

### Cup Message



You will need lots of plastic cups and a chain-link fence in your school or community that has high traffic of people passing by. Messages you create and be “#TDVAM”, “NO To Dating Violence!”, “Girls Are Sacred”, “Healthy NativeLove” or any short message you want. Take it a step further and spell out your message by utilizing your tribal language! You can also tie orange ribbon on the fence instead of using cups.

### Sidewalk Chalk



Help share TDVAM statistics (<http://nativelove.niwrc.org/statistics/>) or messages or use as a way to announce your TDVAM community events! Remember to get permission before using sidewalk locations.

### USE SOCIAL MEDIA

Take photos at your pre-planning and community events and use the #TDVAM #NativeLoves and post what you’re up to on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter to raise awareness of teen dating violence in your community.

Want help promoting your activities? Send your TDVAM event activities to [predcorn@niwrc.org](mailto:predcorn@niwrc.org) and we will post on our social media channels!