



VIOLENCE FREE
MINNESOTA
THE COALITION TO END RELATIONSHIP ABUSE

Elected Officials Must Take Responsibility for January 6th Attacks

January 15, 2021

Every day, we work towards our vision of a violence free Minnesota. In a violence free state, no person is beyond accountability and every person has a right to safety.

The actions in Washington D.C. on January 6, 2021 were a coordinated, large-scale, violent attack, fueled by white supremacy and toxic masculinity. Ultimately, it was and is a direct result of government leaders refusing to condemn violent threats and the rhetoric of white supremacy. The violence at the Capitol took many forms, which all echoed tactics of abuse: vitriolic speech, ongoing threats, intimidation, and ultimately physical violence. Five people lost their lives and hundreds, if not thousands more, were and remain at risk including lawmakers, their staffers, and Capitol workers.

As survivors and advocates, we empathize deeply with those who were traumatized during Wednesday's events. We know the events of January 6th and the looming threat of future violence exact a heavy toll as the violence displayed in our nation's Capitol employed the same tactics of violence, power, and control that victim-survivors of intimate partner violence experience. The harm goes much deeper and remains much longer than what is visible on one day.

We call for government and community leaders to take responsibility for contributing to the conditions that led to the violent actions in Washington D.C. on January 6th and continued threats of violence. It is our core belief that every person must take responsibility for our actions, inactions, and the harms that result from both. Acknowledging and taking responsibility for contributing to harm is the first step towards repair. Everyone involved in perpetuating the violent attack at the Capitol, including elected officials who continue to use their positions of power to gaslight the nation and sanction violence, must be held accountable to repair the harm they have caused.

To end violence, we must choose the path of action and creation. To live in a world without violence, we must work together to end violence in our homes, communities, systems, and institutions. We must eliminate white supremacy and oppression while centering and uplifting the perspectives and leadership of Black communities, Indigenous communities, and all communities of color. We will continue to hold ourselves accountable for generating systems of safety; for acting on our values; and together creating a world where living free, without violence, is truly possible.