



# IOWA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

October 2017

## News from the Office on the Status of Women

### October 11th is the International Day of the Girl

In December 2011, the United Nations declared October 11 as the [International Day of the Girl Child](#). The mission is “to help galvanize worldwide enthusiasm for goals to better girls’ lives, providing an opportunity for them to show leadership and reach their full potential.”

This day (and movement) is based on the following beliefs:



- Girls are the experts on issues that affect girls. The solutions to these issues must come from girls. Their voices need to be centralized and elevated in social justice conversations.
- Girls from marginalized communities must be central in conversations about social justice issues involving those communities.
- Truly effective social change cannot come without girls' leadership.
- Girls' issues are intersectional. We must intentionally include people who are different from ourselves in our social change work.

To learn more about the movement in the U.S. for the International Day of the Girl Child, click [here](#).

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### October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Since 1981, October has been nationally recognized as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The idea was brought forth by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, an organization whose goal is to end violence against women and children.

## What is Domestic Violence?

“Domestic violence is the willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault, and/or other abusive behavior as part of a systematic pattern of power and control perpetrated by one intimate partner against another. It includes physical violence, sexual violence, threats, and emotional/psychological abuse. The frequency and severity of domestic violence varies dramatically” (NCADV, 2015).



### Statistics:

- 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have been victims of [some form of] physical violence by an intimate partner within their lifetime.
- On a typical day, there are more than 20,000 phone calls placed to domestic violence hotlines nationwide.
- 61% of bisexual women have or will experience rape, physical violence or stalking by an intimate partner, compared to 44 percent of lesbians and 35 percent of heterosexual women.
- 23.1% of gay men have or will experience rape, physical assault or stalking by an intimate partner.

### If you or someone you know has been affected by domestic violence, here are some resources:

Iowa Domestic Violence Helpline: 1-800-770-1650 (or text "iowahelp" to 20121)

National Domestic Violence Helpline: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

National Sexual Assault Hotline 1-800-656-HOPE (4673) 24/7

Sources: [ICADV](#), [NCADV](#), [Human Rights Campaign](#), [National Domestic Violence Hotline](#)

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## October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

**According to the National Cancer Institute, 12.4% of women born in the United States will develop breast cancer at some point in their lives.**

Due to its high rate of occurrence in women, many of us know or have known someone who was diagnosed with breast cancer. For advice on how to support a loved one who has been diagnosed, consider reading [this article](#).

For women, it's important to know how to perform self examinations because recognizing the signs of breast cancer early-on will increase the possibility of successful treatment. For step-by-step instructions and information on self breast examinations, click [here](#).

To learn more about the signs of breast cancer, check out the informational graphic in [this article](#).

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## Iowa Commission on the Status of Women meeting to be held on October 12th

The next [meeting](#) for the [Iowa Commission on the Status of Women](#) will take place on October 12th, 2017 at the Iowa Secretary of State's office (large conference room off of main lobby/entrance), 1st Floor, Lucas State Office Building, in Des Moines, Iowa from 2-5:00 p.m.

Call-in number: 844-891-9182

Conference code: 233-539-3699

Meetings are open to the public. For accommodations, please contact Kristen Corey in advance of the meeting at 515-281-4470 or [kristen.corey@iowa.gov](mailto:kristen.corey@iowa.gov).

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## Remember the 1977 Women's Convention?

If you attended or know someone who attended the 1977 Houston Women's Convention, then this opportunity may interest you. The same group that organized the international women's march in early 2017 is organizing a National Women's Convention in Detroit, from October 27th to 29th. If you are willing to share your story of the 1977 Houston Women's Convention, the Women's March would like to invite you as a guest to their convention.

If interested, please contact the organizers at [iowa@womensmarch.com](mailto:iowa@womensmarch.com).



At the National Women's Conference in Houston, Texas, 20,000 women convened to debate the issues that affected them. Here, Congresswoman Bella Abzug (D-N.Y.), wearing her trademark hat, and Betty Friedan (left, in red coat). (AP Photo)

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## Remembering those we have lost

The Iowa Department of Human Rights' Office on the Status of Women and the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women would like to take this time to recognize and honor those we have lost over the last several months. These influential women have left the world a better place because of their activism, advocacy work, and much more.

## Iowa Women's Hall of Fame members

**Evelyne Villines**, passed away on September 30, 2017

- Des Moines Register: [Renowned Iowa advocate for Americans with disabilities dies](#)
- Obituary: [Evelyne R. Villines](#)

**Grace Amemiya**, passed away on July 22, 2017

- Obituary: [Grace Aiko Amemiya](#)

*Note: If you know of a member of the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame or a past commissioner we inadvertently missed, please let us know at [women@iowa.gov](mailto:women@iowa.gov). Thank you for your help.*

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## In the News: Women and girls in Iowa, the nation & the world

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### Women's Health

- Iowa Public Radio: [Mommy Mentors Help Fight the Stigma of Postpartum Mood Disorder](#)
- Des Moines Register: [Iowa's three-day wait for abortions is legal, judge says](#)
- New York Times: [Trump Administration Rolls Back Birth Control Mandate](#)

### Gender-based Violence

- Iowa Public Radio: [Campuses Cautious As They Adjust To New Sexual Assault Guidelines](#)
- Des Moines Register: [Stalled DNA testing leaves Iowa rape victim in limbo while her alleged attacker remains free; she's not alone](#)
- Des Moines Register: [\\$1.75 million settlement reached in Iowa Senate sex harassment lawsuit](#)
- Childtrends.org: [Preventing sexual violence starts with what we teach our boys](#)

### Breaking Barriers and Leadership

- The Washington Post: [The first woman Marine: In 1918, she couldn't vote but rushed to serve](#)
- Reuters: [Gender justice? Women judges to dominate Colombia war tribunals](#)
- The Washington Post: ['Let the black women lead': Marches converge on D.C. to highlight racial injustice](#)

- CNN: [Saudi women celebrate news they will finally be allowed to drive](#)
- Des Moines Register: [Iowa women bring their muscles, minds and morality to farming](#)

## Women in Sports

- CNN: [Why equestrianism will never see a 'Battle of the Sexes'](#)
- Radio Iowa: [Once-paralyzed Iowan is oldest female rider on BMX circuit](#)
- CNN: [Breaking with tradition in a rare duet between two ballerinas](#)

## Women in Business, the Workplace and Discrimination

- CNN: [How a woman's appearance affects her career](#)
- CNN: [How to find your own network without 'networking'](#)
- Association of American University Women (AAUW): [Frequently Asked Questions about the Gender Pay Gap](#)

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## Upcoming Events/Seminars

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- October 12: [Iowa Women Lead Change conference in Dubuque](#)
- October 17: Business and Professional Women/Iowa, [Salute to Women](#) in Cedar Falls
- October 21: Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence fundraiser, [Wine Women and Shoes](#) in Clive
- October 24: Women's Leadership Network monthly luncheon, "[Leadership Presence](#)" with [B'Ann Dittmer](#) in Dubuque
- October 26: [Iowa Women Lead Change conference in Central Iowa \(Des Moines\)](#)
- October 27: [5th Annual Iowa Civil Rights Symposium and 2nd Build It Right IOWA Conference](#)
- October 30: [Freedom in Action II: Fighting Human Trafficking in Iowa](#) in Ames
- November 2-3: [The Way Up Conference](#) in Des Moines
- November 3-4: [Women, Food & Agriculture Network Annual Conference](#) in Madison, Wisconsin
- November 9: Iowa Women Lead Change's [Networking, dinner, and discussion with international author, Laila Lalami](#) in Rock Island, IL
- February 15: [Iowa Women Lead Change conference in Siouxland](#)

Note: If you have an event taking place for women in Iowa that you would like to see added, please send it to [women@iowa.gov](mailto:women@iowa.gov).

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