



*The Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.
We improve how communities respond to domestic violence and work to create a social intolerance for abuse.*

Refuse To Abuse®

The basics

Refuse To Abuse® is a statewide community education program that helps prevent domestic violence. The program is sponsored by the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Seattle Mariners, with significant assistance from the advertising firm Craters of the Moon. Television, radio, and print public service announcements have been produced featuring prominent Mariners players and managers, including Felix Hernandez, Jamie Moyer, Raul Ibañez, and Kyle Seager. An annual Refuse To Abuse® 5K at Safeco Field draws Mariners fans, runners, walkers, and community supporters, giving a broad audience the chance to join the Mariners and “refuse to abuse.”

Purpose

Refuse To Abuse® aims to raise awareness and help prevent domestic violence. High profile athletes and recognized community leaders are speaking out against domestic violence and asking for a commitment from others in the community to join them.

Why the Mariners are involved

Few professional teams have chosen to take such a public stand against domestic violence. For the past 21 years the Seattle Mariners have done more than just talk about helping raise awareness about this issue, they have stood firm in their leadership role. Having credible, professional male athletes speak out on this issue helps send a powerful message to young people.

About the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WSCADV)

WSCADV is a non-profit network of nearly 70 community domestic violence programs. We improve how communities respond to domestic violence and work to create a social intolerance for abuse.

The problem of domestic violence

Despite all the progress made in improving systems and community responses to both victims and abusers, domestic violence continues to pose a significant threat to public safety. In Washington State, nearly half of all homicides of women are a result of domestic violence. A recent study found that 1 in 3 teens has experienced some form of abuse in their dating relationships.