SOME DEFINITIONS OF DOMESTIC/ INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

1. **AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION AND THE NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE:** "The misuse of power in a relationship in order to coerce, control, intimidate or dominate another person. It can be understood as a pattern of behaviors used (by one partner) to control or exert power over another person in the context of an intimate relationship."

2. **UNITED NATIONS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE'S OFFICE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN:** "A pattern of behavior in any relationship that is used to gain or maintain power and control over an intimate partner. (Domestic Abuse or Domestic Violence or Intimate Partner Violence) is physical, sexual, emotional, economic …, psychological (or technological) actions or threats of actions that influence another person. This includes any behaviors that frighten, intimidate, terrorize, manipulate, hurt, humiliate, blame, injure or wound someone…"

3. **NATIONAL COALITION AGAINST 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, psychological violence, and emotional abuse. The frequency and severity of domestic violence can vary dramatically; however, the one constant component of domestic violence is one partner's consistent efforts to maintain **power and control** over the other."

4. **NORTHWEST NETWORK OF BISEXUAL, TRANS, LESBIAN AND GAY SURVIVORS OF ABUSE:** "Domestic Violence objectifies survivors. Abusers attempt to change people from subjects (people who can act, make choices, experience reasonable consequences, reflect and act again) into objects (things that do not act, but that are acted upon). Surviving is all the ways that people resist this objectification. Some ways are small. Some are heroic. Some are lovely. Some are ugly. People involved in this process are called 'survivors.'"