

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

September 30, 2025

**Proclaiming October 2025 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and  
Strengthening Countywide Strategies to Support Survivors**

Domestic violence (DV) and intimate partner violence (IPV) are not private matters or isolated incidents. They are urgent public health and public safety crises with devastating ripple effects across Los Angeles County. Survivors live in every community, yet they are disproportionately represented in the homelessness and justice systems. Their experiences often reveal the systemic failures that leave individuals without safe housing, access to healthcare, access to employment or tools for financial self-sufficiency, or meaningful alternatives to cycles of trauma and criminalization.

The impacts of DV and IPV extend far beyond the immediate harm of abuse. They compromise long-term health, erode stability, and undermine safety, while placing additional strain on our healthcare, social service, and justice systems. At the same time, behind these statistics are people, survivors whose resilience, strength, and leadership demonstrate the need for a response that is survivor-centered, trauma-informed, and rooted in equity. Addressing DV and IPV is not only about breaking the cycle of violence; it is about creating systems that affirm dignity, prevent harm, and ensure that every person in Los Angeles County has the opportunity to heal and thrive.

**MOTION**

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Mitchell	_____
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According to the 2025 Los Angeles Continuum of Care Point in Time Count, 42% of people experiencing homelessness reported a history of DV or IPV, and 10% became unhoused as a direct result of fleeing violence. For women, the impact is even more severe: 60%<sup>1</sup> of unaccompanied women reported DV/IPV histories, and one in five identified violence as the immediate cause of their homelessness. The 2025 Count also reported 4,420<sup>2</sup> unsheltered adults in need of DV-specific beds, while fewer than 1,000 interim housing beds are currently available countywide.

Financial instability is another factor that both frequently contributes to continued control by an abuser and also contributes to DV survivors facing homelessness. According to a study published in the National Library of Medicine, the economic impact of domestic violence is estimated to be over \$12 billion per year. This economic impact is attributed to the fact survivors are often left without employment or their own finances. Maintaining a job while enduring an abusive relationship can be difficult and often employers are unaware of how to manage domestic violence when it impacts their worker or the workplace. Broad studies show up to 75% of DV survivors had faced harassment by their abusers in the workplace. The Society for Human Resource Management states 65 percent of companies in the nation do not have a formal

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<sup>1</sup> 2025 Greater Los Angeles Count – Unaccompanied Women,  
<https://www.lahsa.org/documents?id=9402-hc-2025-unaccompanied-women-data-summary-2025-07-23>

<sup>2</sup> 2025 Greater Los Angeles Count- Los Angeles Continuum of care  
<https://www.lahsa.org/documents?id=9350-hc-25-coc-data-summary>

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workplace domestic violence prevention policy. It is pertinent that a wholistic approach to address domestic violence includes workforce development and employment opportunities to help survivors achieve financial independence, and ensure they have the tools to rebuild their lives.

The connection between DV and justice system involvement is also clear. National studies show up to 95%<sup>3</sup> of incarcerated women report histories of physical or sexual abuse and many survivors are criminalized for survival behaviors stemming from domestic violence.<sup>4</sup> Addressing the needs of survivors in custody and reentry contexts is critical not only to reduce recidivism but also to improve public safety outcomes more broadly.

Survivor experiences of domestic and intimate partner violence are shaped by intersecting identities and systemic barriers, requiring tailored and inclusive responses. Survivors in LGBTQIA+ relationships experience abuse at comparable or higher rates, and services must also be LGBTQIA+ competent to ensure safety and access. Los Angeles County must leave no one behind on the path of reducing DV and IPV. This includes providing services and support to survivors of color, with disabilities, and who are justice-involved. Special attention must also be given to survivors from immigrant

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<sup>3</sup> The Criminalization of Survival: National Information, <https://gcadv.org/sji/criminalizedsurvival/national/>

<sup>4</sup> Safety and Justice Challenge 2023, <https://safetyandjusticechallenge.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/2023DomesticViolencePeerSupportReport.pdf>

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communities, especially in the current climate, who may be afraid to report DV and IPV, leading to the risk of greater violence and death. These communities face compounded barriers to accessing survivor services, including cultural stigma, language access issues, discrimination, lack of trust in law enforcement, and systemic inequities. A truly effective County response must address these disparities and ensure services are survivor-centered and culturally responsive.

Despite this urgent need, DV/IPV services face severe funding instability. The federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) has seen significant reductions for three consecutive years despite state advocacy to backfill the cuts. Other federal streams through US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), US Department of Health and Human Services (DHS), and the US Department of Justice (DOJ) remain uncertain, while local resources remain insufficient to meet need. For example, the Fiscal Year 2025–2026 County budget allocated \$5.4 million for DV services, compared to the City of Los Angeles' \$17.8 million.<sup>5</sup> Meanwhile, demand continues to outpace supply: on a single day in 2024, California programs reported over 1,200 unmet requests for DV services, nearly half of which were for emergency housing.<sup>6</sup> This gap

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<sup>5</sup> LA City FY 25-26 Budget Summary

[https://urldefense.com/v3/https://cao.lacity.gov/budget/summary/2025-26\\*20Budget\\*20Summary\\*20Pamphlet.FINAL.pdf](https://urldefense.com/v3/https://cao.lacity.gov/budget/summary/2025-26*20Budget*20Summary*20Pamphlet.FINAL.pdf);JSUI!!LVq-52eSbsHOEHc!7FOOTpK1sXL85rEFikK80GnHcRltj5sRZfCOz-sELevtyiuE3fmRecymFdP0zP7KNZzp\_8wTqVaxYAOIUcy6s0gg9BxjFNu5b6E6yw

<sup>6</sup>National Network to End Domestic Violence, 2024 California DV Count, <https://nnedv.org/wp->

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between need and investment underscores the urgency of expanding and stabilizing funding for survivors.

Los Angeles County has strengthened its response to domestic violence by establishing the Office of Violence Prevention and the Domestic Violence Council, investing in programs through the Office of Women’s Health, collaborating with the Domestic Violence Homeless Services Coalition, and launching CareConnect to improve access to shelter. Yet, long-term success will require stable, flexible local funding and deeper cross-sector collaboration. In the near term, the County must also pursue creative solutions, including leveraging justice-related funds, aligning homelessness investments with survivor needs, and engaging philanthropy.

Proclaiming October 2025 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month is an important step in raising visibility of this crisis. But awareness alone is not enough. This motion seeks to pair awareness with action, advancing concrete strategies to stabilize funding, expand survivor-centered services, and ensure the County’s response is equitable, culturally responsive, and aligned with both public health and public safety. By doing so, Los Angeles County reaffirms its commitment to protecting survivors,

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preventing violence, and breaking the cycles of violence and instability that undermine community wellbeing.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Proclaim October 2025 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Los Angeles County.
2. Encourage the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health's Office of Violence Prevention, Office of Women's Health, Executive Director of the Domestic Violence Council, and the Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office-Countywide Communications to:
  - a. Uplift Domestic Violence Awareness Month;
  - b. Uplift the work the County does to address domestic violence and intimate partner violence to all residents and County staff; and
  - c. Raise awareness about the Signal for Help, which is a nonverbal hand signal that provides away to discretely ask for help.<sup>7</sup>

**I, FURTHER, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office, in collaboration with Department of Public Health's Office of Violence Prevention, the Department of Health Services' Office of Diversion and Reentry, the Department of Public Social Services, the Alternate Public Defender, the Public Defender, the Los

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.womensfundingnetwork.org/signalforhelp/>

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Angeles District Attorney's Office Bureau of Victim Services, the Justice, Care and Opportunities Department, and the Department of Youth Development, and other relevant departments to:

1. Assess federal and state funding risks for DV/IPV prevention and services, including VOCA, HUD, HHS, and DOJ funds, and propose strategies to mitigate or offset projected cuts.
2. Explore options for a sustainable local funding stream for DV/IPV services, including those for a dedicated revenue allocation to ensure stability over time, and make recommendations for any viable options identified.
3. Explore available options to leverage justice system resources by identifying criminal-justice-related funding that could be appropriately redirected to DV/IPV prevention, diversion, and survivor services, given the high prevalence of survivors in adult custody, juvenile detention, and reentry populations.
4. Expand public-private partnerships by working with the Center for Strategic Partnerships to identify philanthropic partners and opportunities to support survivor services and prevention.
5. Report back in writing within 120 days with findings and recommendations on directives 1 through 4, including proposed strategies for long-term sustainability, progress and outcomes.

**I, FURTHER, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Public

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Health's Office of Violence Prevention, in collaboration with the Chief Executive Office, the Homeless Initiative, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, the Director of the Department of Homeless Services and Housing, Department of Economic Opportunity, and other relevant departments to:

1. Work with CEO-LAIR to explore for the next California state legislative cycle potential legislation that would expand diversion, expungement, and vacatur opportunities to DV/IPV survivors charged with crime whose offenses are a result of the violence they have experienced.
2. Integrate survivor needs into homelessness policy to ensure equity and cultural responsiveness by developing strategies that expand access to emergency shelter beds across the County, including for marginalized communities through culturally responsive, language-accessible, and survivor-centered approaches.
3. Identify current and existing diversion or probationary programs that can address DV/IPV survivors charged with crimes, whose offenses are a result of the violence they have experienced and encourage the use of those diversion programs for DV/IPV survivors.
4. Establish an employment network with domestic violence survivor support organizations in Los Angeles County to create and promote workforce development opportunities and provide direct assistance to deliver job application support.

AGN. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

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5. Provide webinar trainings and toolkit for employers that include domestic violence facts and suggested policies to address domestic violence in the workplace.
6. Report back in writing within 120 days with findings and recommendations on directives 1 through 4, including strategies for long-term sustainability, progress and outcomes.

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