

**For Immediate Release**

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**YWCA INVITES EVERYONE TO SPECIAL WALK  
BRINGING AWARENESS TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
6 P.M. THURSDAY, OCT. 18**

BIRMINGHAM, AL, Sept. 17, 2018 - The YWCA of Central Alabama will hold a walk and vigil honoring victims of domestic violence at 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 18. The walk will start at the YWCA of Central Alabama at 309 23<sup>rd</sup> Street North, and go seven blocks to the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Baptist Church where we will read the names of this year's victims. Seven blocks represents the minimum number of times it may take a woman to flee an abusive relationship. Unfortunately, Birmingham has the highest rate of domestic violence in the state. In 2017, there were 596 felony DV cases and 4,919 misdemeanor cases.

“In the past years we have held a candlelight vigil in Linn Park to bring awareness to the growing issue of domestic violence in our city, but this year we wanted to bring more awareness and really get people to come out and join us,” said Knetta Adkins, YWCA Outreach Coordinator. “We have pledge cards that people can sign, committing to do one thing this month to help bring awareness to domestic violence. Whether it’s joining us on a walk, making a post on social media about where to find help – just doing one thing can help someone leave an abusive relationship and get help.”

The YWCA will provide purple ribbons for everyone to wear for the event and candles will be provided.

The YWCA provides emergency shelter both here and in St. Clair County for victims of domestic violence, manage a 24/7 crisis hotline, 205.322.HURT (4878), provide court advocacy and group counseling for those in need. We are also the only provider for supervised visitation in Jefferson County, which is often necessary in DV cases.

**About the YWCA**

The YWCA Central Alabama is a United Way organization dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. To learn more, visit

[www.ywcabham.org](http://www.ywcabham.org).

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