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THE CLOTHESLINE
PROJECT
BREAK THE SILENCE



Bearing
Witness to
Violence
Against
Women

What is the Clothesline?

The Clothesline Project is a visual display that bears witness to the violence against women. During the public display, a clothesline is hung with shirts. Each shirt is decorated to represent a particular woman's experience, by the survivor herself or by someone who cares about her.

We started with thirty-one shirts hung in Hyannis, Massachusetts in the Fall of 1990. Since that time, projects have begun in communities all across the country and in other countries as well.

The purpose of the project is four-fold.

1. To bear witness to the survivors as well as the victims of the war against women.
2. To help with the healing process for people who have lost a loved one or are survivors of this violence.
3. To educate, document, and raise society's awareness of the extent of the problem of violence against women.
4. To provide a nationwide network of support, encouragement and information for other communities starting their own Clothesline Projects.

Creating a shirt.

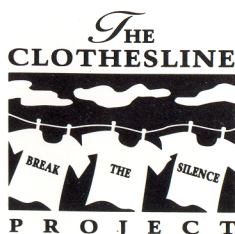
We would like each shirt to reflect the woman's personal experience. You may include a name, date, and memorabilia such as tools of a trade or symbols of interest. Some suggestions for enduring durability:

- use a natural fabric
- sew rather than using glue
- photocopy photographs onto iron-ons.
- use acrylic or textile paint, color-fast dye or indelible ink

At each display, shirts and materials will be available for people who wish to design a shirt at the time.

Some facts about violence against women:

- One out of two women will be in a violent relationship. *(National Victim Center)*
- Every single minute of every day more than one woman is raped in America. *(U.S. Justice Department)*
- Before the age of 18, one out of three girls and one out of five boys will be victims of incest or sexual assault. *(Survivors of Incest Anonymous)*



The Clothesline Project is a group of people from all backgrounds. We stand together committed to challenging our outward and internalized homophobia, racism, and sexism and other oppressions. We make the connections between these violences and the violence we experience as women.

For women killed.

You may want to submit a shirt that belonged to her. Please show on the shirt the woman's name, date of birth and death and hometown. When the shirt is complete you may wish to take the time to write a description of the person you have memorialized.

Please include information you wish to share about her death. Tell us what this person meant to you and how you think she should be remembered. Enclose a photograph of the person if you have one you are willing to part with. We cannot be responsible for returning photographs or mementos.

Donations to the Clothesline Project, however small, are greatly appreciated.

To participate, make a donation or request further information contact:

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For survivors.

Because making a shirt is part of the healing process for survivors of violence, shirts should be submitted by the survivor. If not possible, a shirt for a survivor should be submitted with her written permission.

We ask that you respect their anonymity by not using their name. Last name or hometown are not required.

We would appreciate whatever information you or she would like to share.

We will respect requests for confidentiality.

Names.

Naming the perpetrator is an important part of the healing process. But, for legal reasons, we cannot display shirts with full names of the perpetrators. We ask that shirt makers use first names or initials if they wish to name their violator.

Publicizing the Clothesline.

We require advance publicity for any event at which the Clothesline Project will be displayed. We hope that this will ensure that women whose shirts are displayed will not come upon the Clothesline unprepared.

If you would like to start a Clothesline in your area or organize a display.

Please write for guidelines, ideas, lessons from our experience and other information. Please contact us when you begin so you can be included in national and regional events.

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