

About WomenSV (www.womensv.org)



Our mission: to empower survivors, train providers and educate the community to break the cycle of covert abuse and coercive control in intimate partner relationships.

Our vision: a world in which every woman and child can exercise their fundamental human right to live in peace, safety and freedom in their own home.

WomenSV (Women of Silicon Valley) is a domestic abuse non-profit based in California with a unique focus on coercive control and covert abuse. These more subtle forms of abuse include emotional, financial, legal and technological. They often involve a pattern of isolating, threatening, controlling behaviors which may or may not involve physical or sexual abuse, yet can still pose a lethality risk.

After serving over 1400 survivors in the past 13 years, we have identified a need to provide specialized training for providers who work with survivors. By informing the systems that survivors interact with about how to recognize and address subtle forms of abuse, we can equip communities to more effectively serve and protect survivors.

To maximize our impact, we train providers such as physicians, therapists, attorneys, court staff, teachers and law enforcement. Our goal is to help them become more trauma-informed in serving survivors who often are struggling with the tremendous shame and social stigma that surround domestic abuse, especially in socioeconomic areas where it is not commonly expected to take place. In addition to trainings, we also provide public presentations and media interviews to raise public awareness about coercive control. We have also created an extensive social media campaign which can be accessed from our homepage at <https://www.womensv.org/>.

We serve women from all different racial, cultural and religious backgrounds, who, through no fault of their own, have become trapped in a relationship with a powerful, sophisticated abuser. Their partners are doctors, therapists, attorneys or celebrities who have one face in public and another very different one behind closed doors. Approximately 40% of our survivors have experienced non-fatal strangulation at the hands of their intimate partner. Our survivors are typically professional women who in many cases have sacrificed their own careers and financial independence to support their partners' careers and raise their families.

We also run educational support groups led by state-certified domestic violence advocates that provide validation, information and safety planning to survivors.

For more information, please see our website and sample videos:

- [WomenSV website](#)
- [Unmasking Dr Jekyll \(YouTube video\): introduction to coercive control](#)
- [Americas Conference to End Coercive Control](#)
- [YouTube channel](#)
- [From Trauma to Triumph: Executive Summary Workshop Presentation at the Domestic Violence Conference](#)
- [K-LOVE Interview with Ruth Darlene of WomenSV about Covert Abuse and Coercive Control](#)
- [Today Show interview with WomenSV's Executive Director and survivors](#)

- [KMVT Game Changers Show Interview: Part 1](#)
- [KMVT Game Changers Show Interview: Part 2](#)

We are honored to receive support from our community partners which include the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, El Camino Healthcare District, the city of Los Altos, Los Altos Mountain View Community Foundation, Los Altos Holiday Fund, Palo Alto Holiday Fund, Los Altos Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs.

While the majority of the survivors and providers we serve are in the Bay Area, we receive requests for our services from all over the country due to our unique focus and specialization in covert abuse and coercive control.

As a nonprofit we rely on donations to sustain our services. You can help support the work of WomenSV by visiting our [donation page](#). For more information, please write to info@womensv.org.

We look forward to partnering with you as we promote the right of everyone to live in peace and safety in their own home.