Tonight's Vigil

[Day, Date] · [Time] · [Place]

Welcome [Name]

Reading or Poem [Reader]

Reading of the Names [Readers]

Moment of Silence

Candle Lighting

Music [Title]

Closing Words [Name]

We Remember

[Name], [age] · [City], [Year]

[Name], [age] · [City], [Year]

[Name], [age] · [City], [Year]

[Name], [age] · [City], [Year]

[Name], [age] · [City], [Year]

[Name], [age] · [City], [Year]

The Unknown Victim

For those whose names we do not know, whose deaths were never counted, and those living in danger today.

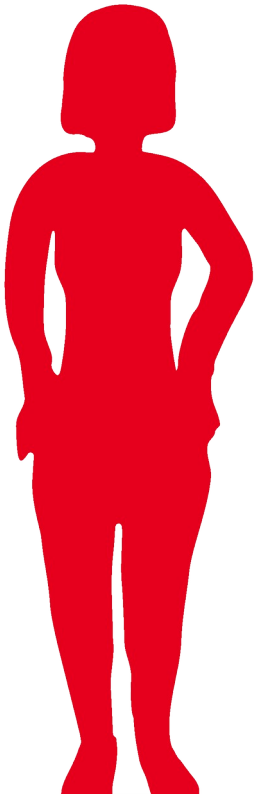
silentwitness.net

Scan to learn more, find an exhibit, or light a candle in memory.

Silent Witness Exhibit

Sponsored by

[Organization name]



Remember my name.
Remember my story.

[Date] · [Place]

About Us

[Tell who you are, what you do, and how long you have served your community. Two or three sentences.]

Our Exhibit

[Tell when your exhibit began, how many figures it has, who each figure represents, and where it has been shown.]

Optional: delete this section if you need the space.

A Brief History of Silent Witness

Silent Witness began in Minnesota in 1990, a year when 26 women in that state were killed by domestic violence. Volunteers made 27 life-size red figures: one for each woman, and a 27th for those whose deaths were never counted. The figures were first shown in 1991.

On October 18, 1997, figures from all 50 states gathered in Washington, D.C., for the March to End the Silence.

Each figure wears a shield that tells the story of a real person. Today, exhibits in communities across the United States and beyond carry on the work. Learn more at silentwitness.net.

Help in Our Community

[Name of community or campus]

In danger right now? Call 911.

24-hour crisis line
[Name and phone]

Shelter / safe housing
[Name and phone]

Report an incident
[Police non-emergency / campus police / Title IX office and phone]

Victim advocate
[Name and phone]

Counseling
[Counseling center or agency and phone]

Protective orders and legal help
[Court or legal aid and phone]

Medical care / forensic exam
[Hospital or clinic]

National Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-799-7233 · Text START to 88788
thehotline.org · free, private, 24/7

Your phone or computer history can be seen by others. Use a safe device.

What You Can Do

Know the signs

- Checks phone, money, or where a partner goes
- Cuts a partner off from friends and family
- Extreme jealousy, insults, or put-downs
- Threats, pushing, or hitting
- A friend seems afraid, makes excuses for injuries, or stops showing up

What to say

- *"I believe you."*
- *"It is not your fault."*
- *"You don't deserve this."*
- *"I'm here when you are ready."*

Avoid "Why don't you just leave?" Leaving can be the most dangerous time. Let the person decide; offer the numbers in this handout.

Stand with survivors

- Speak up when abuse is excused or joked about.
- Wear red or purple to show you remember.
- Support [local program].

How to Use This Tri-fold Template

Silent Witness Initiative · Generic vigil handout · Version dated November 2, 2026

Do not print this page. Print pages 1 and 2 only, double-sided, landscape, “flip on short edge.” Then fold in thirds so the red figure is on the front.

Have it reviewed

Before printing, have someone from your local domestic violence support organization review the wording, especially Help in Our Community and What You Can Do.

Fill in the yellow

Everything highlighted in yellow is for you to replace. When you type over it, select the text and set Highlight to “No Color.”

Front cover: use your own photo (optional)

Right-click the red figure and choose Change Picture, then pick a photo of your exhibit. Keep the height about 4 inches so the banner and date still fit on the panel.

Where each panel lands

Page 1 (outside), left to right: Tonight’s Vigil + We Remember (folds inside), Back cover with the Silent Witness logo and website, Front cover.

Page 2 (inside), left to right: About Us + Our Exhibit + optional history, Help in Our Community, What You Can Do.

Tips

- Too many names? Make them smaller, list names only, or shorten the program.
- The brief history is optional; delete it if you need room for About Us or Our Exhibit.
- Use names only with the family’s permission, as with the shields.
- Call each phone number to check it before printing.
- Keep text inside its panel. If something jumps to the next panel, shorten it.

Hotline information from the National Domestic Violence Hotline (thehotline.org), checked November 2, 2026.