



**For Immediate Release**

July 14, 2017

WomenRising Inc.

201-333-5700 | [WomenRising.org](http://WomenRising.org)

**The Devastating Reality of Domestic Violence in Hudson County**  
WomenRising's Speaker Series: Understanding Domestic Violence

**Jersey City, NJ:** On July 11th 2017, WomenRising held their first Speaker Series to help spread awareness to community members about the devastating reality of Domestic Violence in Hudson County. The Speaker Series included heart-wrenching testimonies from special speakers, Silena R. Shuta, Acting Victim Witness Coordinator (Office of the Hudson County Prosecutor), Domestic Violence Response Team Coordinator (WomenRising), Margaret Abrams, and Director of Domestic Violence Services (WomenRising), Joanelleen Coughlan.

The goal of this event was to discuss a crime that too often goes without discussion though it is the leading cause of injury to women - more than car accidents, muggings, and rapes combined. Domestic violence is a silent epidemic that is running rapid in the United States, and New Jersey is not excluded from that occurrence. According to New Jersey State Police Uniform Crime Reporting Unit, in 2015, there were 61,659 domestic violence offenses (homicide, assault, harassment, terroristic threats, etc.) reported by the police, 3,327 of them being in Hudson County. And, still, only about half of domestic violence incidents are reported to the police – meaning that a lot more of our loved ones, neighbors, and fellow community members and their children are being abused by their partner than we know.

WomenRising's Director of Domestic Violence Services, Joanelleen Coughlin explains, "Domestic violence is often seen as a private problem because it happens in the home, but it is not a private matter it is a crime that needs to be addressed and acknowledged in the community." The speaker series provided attendees with the knowledge necessary to understand a relationship that is overcome with domestic violence. With their new found knowledge, attendees will be able to advocate, address, acknowledge, and most importantly, support victims and survivors of domestic violence.

WomenRising plans to continue to spread awareness about domestic violence and its impact on community until Hudson County has zero tolerance for domestic violence and all victims and survivors can be safe, heard and correctly supported.

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**About WomenRising**

WomenRising assists women and their families to achieve self-sufficiency and live safe, fulfilling and productive lives, through social services, economic development, and advocacy services. The organization's programs include advocacy, counseling, domestic violence services, family services, neighborhood revitalization, transitional housing, and workforce development for the community. WomenRising believes that individuals must be provided with the tools and solutions necessary to fight against all road blocks towards self-sufficiency and empowerment in order to break the cycle of poverty. More than 9,500 women and families benefit annually from the services of WomenRising.

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