

interfaith coalition against domestic & sexual violence

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Fact Sheet: H.R. 3130/S.1520

Domestic Violence and Guns

- Domestic violence is an epidemic in the United States, with 1 in 4 women experiencing severe physical abuse by an intimate partner.¹
- Guns in the hands of abusers escalate an already volatile situation, and vastly increase the risk that domestic violence will turn into homicide.
- Women in the U.S. are five times more likely to be killed by guns than women in other developed countries, and 55 percent of all women murdered by intimate partners are killed with a gun.²
- The presence of a gun in an abusive home raises the risk of homicide for a woman by five hundred percent.³

Closing Loopholes, Protecting Women

- Despite protections passed in the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) of 1994, dangerous gaps in the law remain.
 - The federal prohibition on gun possession by convicted domestic abusers does not include individuals convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence who have not cohabited with their victim or do not have a child with their victim.⁴
 - The federal prohibition also fails to include individuals convicted of stalking misdemeanors, even if the parties are former intimate partners or the conviction arose from a domestic violence incident.⁵
- Dating violence between non-cohabiting intimate partners is unfortunately on the rise.
 - Nearly half of all intimate partner homicides are committed by a current or former dating partner, and dating partners account for significantly more non-fatal violence against women than current or former spouses.⁶
- 1 in 6 women will experience stalking in her lifetime.⁷
 - Stalking is an indicator of future violence, particularly in the context of domestic violence. One study found that over three-quarters of women murdered by an intimate partner were also stalked by the abuser in the preceding year.⁸

When convicted abusers and stalkers can freely purchase and possess guns, women's lives are endangered. Tell your representative and senators to act now by cosponsoring H.R.3130/S. 1520 to protect all women!

¹ "Statistics," National Domestic Violence Hotline (NDVH), available at thehotline.org.

² "Violence Against Women and Gun Violence: A Lethal Intersection," Americans for Responsible Solutions (ARS), available at americansforresponsiblesolutions.org.

³ "Firearms and Domestic Violence," NDVH, available at thehotline.org.

⁴ "The Zero Tolerance for Domestic Abusers Act," ARS, available at americansforresponsiblesolutions.org.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.*