

PRESS RELEASE

AG Eric Holder Needs to Put an End to Domestic Violence Myths

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WASHINGTON / February 22, 2011 – Attorney General Eric Holder is being called upon to correct a false statement he made about partner abuse, and to set up a task force empowered to review and correct all erroneous domestic violence claims that appear on the DoJ website. The request comes from Stop Abusive and Violent Environments (SAVE), a victim rights group working for evidence-based solutions to domestic violence: www.saveservices.org

At a Domestic Violence Awareness Month event, Attorney General Eric Holder made this claim: “Intimate partner homicide is the leading cause of death for African-American women ages 15 to 45.” <http://www.justice.gov/ag/speeches/2009/ag-speech-091019.html>

But a February 4 *USA Today* article by Christina Hoff Sommers reveals Holder’s claim is wrong. The leading causes of death for these persons are heart disease, cancer, and accidents, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control: <http://www.saveservices.org/2011/02/for-the-record-leading-causes-of-death-for-black-women/>

“It’s hard to understand why Attorney General Holder is condoning false information on the Department of Justice website,” according to SAVE spokesperson Dr. Claudia Cornell. “Misleading claims give rise to policies that leave abuse-reduction programs ineffective, and in the case of mandatory arrest policies, place victims’ lives at risk.”

Hoff Sommers will headline a press conference to be held in Washington, DC on Thursday, February 24. The event will analyze Attorney General Holder’s claim, as well as other domestic violence myths that have been repeated so often that the American public has come to accept them as true.

Panelists at the press conference will include Philip Cook, author of *Abused Men*, and Carl Starling, a victim of domestic violence who was falsely accused by his wife.

SAVE recently released a report that shows how often programs fail to provide a truthful depiction of the problem of partner abuse. The analysis concludes that nine out of 10 training, education, and public awareness programs fail to meet minimum standards of objectivity: <http://www.saveservices.org/pdf/SAVE-DV-Education-Programs.pdf>

Each year the federal government spends \$76 million for domestic violence training, education, and public awareness programs. Few of these programs are required to meet quality assurance standards.

The press conference will be held 12:00 – 1:30pm at the Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave, NE, Washington, DC. Media representatives who wish to attend the conference, or to interview Christina Hoff Sommers or other panelists, can register here: tstoddard@saveservices.org .