



**TOLEDO AREA NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN**

P.O. Box 8578 Toledo, Ohio 43623

October 20, 1994

The Editor  
Readers' Forum  
The Blade  
541 N. Superior St.  
Toledo, Ohio 43660

To the Editor:

During October, organizations around the country have focused on the issue of violence against women, particularly domestic violence. Recent news events, such as the alleged abuse of Nicole Brown Simpson by her husband, have dramatically demonstrated that this problem continues to affect women in all walks of life.

On Wednesday, October 26, the Toledo Area National Organization for Women will sponsor two events to raise awareness of this problem in our own community. The Take Back the Night March, beginning at 7 p.m. in front of University Hall at UT, will serve as a notice that Toledo women have the right to feel safe wherever their lives take them, whether it is to walk and drive freely on our city streets at night or to live without fear in their own homes. The march will culminate in Ottawa Park with the first display of the Toledo Clothesline Project. This moving display of tee shirts, decorated by women who have been the victims of violence as well as by their friends and loved ones, brings the issue of violence against women down to the most personal level. It allows individuals to publicly express their feelings and experiences, and at the same time allows the public to thoughtfully consider the personal toll of violence.

By pairing these two events, Toledo NOW hopes to communicate two important facts about violence against women. First, we must understand the cost of violence to individuals – women who are our own neighbors, friends, and family members – before we can begin to understand violence against women as a national problem. And, secondly, we must take our individual understanding and turn it into collective power as we demand vigorous protection of women's most basic right – to move freely inside and outside their own homes.

Sincerely yours,

(Ms.) Carol A. Williams-Young  
President

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