Gov. Nikki Haley has now signed into law a bill that would create tougher penalties for repeat domestic violence offenders — including language that would bar the worst offenders from legally owning guns.

“I absolutely think this bill will save lives,” Haley said shortly before signing the bill in a Statehouse ceremony Thursday morning. “What I also want to say is what I’ve said from the beginning: legislation is not enough. This has to be from the ground-level up.”

Members of both the House and Senate had made revamping the state’s domestic violence laws a priority after a series of Pulitzer Prize-winning articles by the Charleston Post & Courier noted that more than 300 women had been killed by their spouse, ex, or partner in the past decade. A recent study by the Violence Policy Center found South Carolina had the second-highest rate of women killed by men nationwide, behind just Alaska.

The measure creates four new tiers for domestic violence offenses based on the circumstances and severity of the incident. The highest offense of domestic violence of a high and aggravated nature would require a sentence of up to 20 years in prison, the next tier of first-degree domestic violence would carry a maximum prison sentence of 10 years, second-degree domestic violence would be punishable by up to three years in prison and a $2,500-$5,000 fine. Those convicted of third-degree domestic violence would face a maximum sentence of 90 days in jail and a $1,000-$2,500 fine.

Previously, domestic violence charges were based on the number of prior criminal incidents.

The law also provides a lifetime gun ban for the worst abusers and has an automatic three- or 10-year ban in lower-tier cases. Efforts to include this language had generated the most debate among lawmakers over whether low-level offenders should lose their gun rights. Haley herself even dodged an October debate question about a potential ban, saying she believed domestic violence needed to be addressed as a “cultural issue.”

But she left no doubt of her support on Thursday. “This is making sure that the survivor is protected, not the convenience of the abuser,” she said in answer to a reporter’s question.

South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault director Sara Barber says the law is only the first step that needs to happen as the Palmetto State tries to reverse its reputation for having one of the nation’s highest rates of women killed by men.
OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH!

SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition, Seventh Circuit Solicitor's Office, Spartanburg County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, Spartanburg County Department of Social Services, Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office, and Spartanburg Police Department invite you to attend.

The 18th Annual Silent Witness Vigil to recognize past and present domestic violence victims and survivors.

Thursday, October 8, 2015
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Daniel Morgan Square (Main Street)
Please show your support by bringing your children, family & friends.

In an effort to be more green, we will be using email as a way to send out our April & October newsletter. Please contact us so that we can add your email address to our files. You can call SHRCC @ 864.583.9803, fax us @ 864.583.9611 or send your email to us @ SHRCC@aol.com.

Spartanburg Strut Against Domestic Violence 5K & 10K run/walk

Spartanburg Strut Against Domestic Violence is scheduled for October 10th, 2015 @ 8am. This is a 5K and 10K run or walk to benefit SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition. Let’s come together as a community, and honor victims and survivors of domestic violence.

Fees are $15 for the 5K and $20 for the 10K and include a processing fee. Race fees will double on packet pick-up and race day. The 5K and 10K race starts and finishes at Duncan Park with individual timing. Each participant will receive a T-shirt.

To access the on-line registration page go to www.go-green events.com and search for Spartanburg strut.

For more information, visit: https://spartanburgstrut.wordpress.com
Pre-race pickup: Oct. 9 from 3-7pm @ Gotta Run Spartanburg Race Day pickup: Oct. 10 from 7-7:45am @ Duncan Park
“If we want lasting and meaningful change, it is essential that we all commit to doing the necessary work to keep moving forward,” Barber said, adding that implementing the law will be her agency’s next goal. A task force created by the governor last year is already examining gaps in the current law and how incidents are handled differently across the state.

**Domestic Violence & Firearms in South Carolina**

*(Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence ~ Posted June 24, 2015)*

South Carolina law does not:

- Require the surrender of firearms or ammunition by domestic abusers who have become prohibited from possessing firearms or ammunition under federal law; or
- Explicitly authorize or require the removal of firearms or ammunition at the scene of a domestic violence incident.

South Carolina enacted a law in 2015 that generally prohibits the possession of firearms or ammunition by someone who has been convicted of:

- criminal domestic violence in the first degree for ten years;
- criminal domestic violence in the second degree and the court made specific findings and concluded that the person caused moderate bodily injury to their own household member;
- criminal domestic violence in the second or third degree for three years if the judge at the time of sentencing ordered that the person is prohibited from possessing guns;
- aggravated criminal domestic violence for life.

The definition of “domestic violence” is limited to crimes against household members, and the definition of “household member” does not include dating partners.

The law also prohibits the possession of firearms or ammunition by someone who is subject to a domestic violence order of protection, if the court ordered the person not to possess firearms, and at the time of the hearing the court made specific findings of physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or that the person offered or attempted to cause physical harm or injury to a person’s own household member with apparent and present ability under the circumstances, reasonably creating fear of imminent peril.

The 2015 law also provides that these prohibitions apply if the person was convicted of a similar crime under the laws of another jurisdiction, or is subject to a similar protective order issued under the laws of another jurisdiction.

"This project was supported by Federal Formula Grant # 2013-VA-GX-0006, 2014-VA-GX-0006, awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. department of Justice through the South Carolina Department of Public Safety. The Assistant Attorney General, Office of Highway Safety and Justice Programs, coordinates the activities of the following program offices and bureaus: Bureau of Justice Assistance, Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Institute of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Office for Victims of Crime. A point of view or opinions contained within this document are those of the author and does not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice."

("Frontlines Page 3")
United We Stand...Putting the Pieces Together
(11th Annual Interpersonal Violence Conference)
Friday, October 23, 2015

NEW TIME AND LOCATION!!
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Family Life Center ~ First Presbyterian Church
393 East Main Street, Spartanburg

Featured Speaker: Megan L. Madsen
Survivor & Community Advocate

Registration Fee is $100.00;
$25.00 Additional fee after October 9, 2015.
$50.00 for Undergraduate, Full-time students
On-line Registration Available:
www.spartanburgregional.com/CEEvents

Fee includes light continental breakfast, handout materials, refreshments, lunch, and certificate.
Deadline for registration is October 8, 2015.
No refunds will be made.
Substitutions are accepted and encouraged.

Sex Trafficking
www.TraffickingResourceCenter.org

Sex trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery in which individuals perform commercial sex through the use of force, fraud, or coercion. Minors under the age of 18 engaging in commercial sex are considered to be human trafficking, regardless of the use of force, fraud, or coercion. Sex traffickers frequently target victims and then use violence, threats, lies, false promises, debt bondage, or other forms of control and manipulation to keep victims involved in the sex industry for their own profit. Sex trafficking exists within diverse and unique sets of venues and business including fake massage businesses, escort services, residential brothels, in public on city streets and in truck stops, strip clubs, hostess clubs, hotels and motels, and elsewhere. In the United States, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) defines sex trafficking as: “the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purposes of a commercial sex act, in which the commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age” (22 USC § 7102). The term “commercial sex act” is defined as any sex act on account of which anything of value is given to or received by any person (22 U.S.C. 7102). See the Federal Laws page for more detailed definitions. Sex trafficking may be distinguished from other forms of commercial sex by applying the Action + Means + Purpose Model. Human trafficking occurs when a trafficker takes any one of the enumerated actions, and then employs the means of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of compelling the victim to provide commercial sex acts. At a minimum, one element from each column must be present to establish a potential situation of sex trafficking. The presence of force, fraud or coercion indicates that the victim has not consented of his or her own free will.

United We Stand Topics Include:
2015 Domestic Violence Reform Act
Synthetic Drugs
The Church & Domestic Violence
Play Therapy w/children
Domestic Violence Homicide
Domestic Sex Trafficking
Bipolar, Schizophrenia & Borderline
Interviewing and Interrogation
Judicial Ethics
IPV in LGBTQ Population
Darkness to Light training
Erin’s Law
Court System

CE Credits Approved Include: Nursing Contact Hours, Social Work, Therapists, Victim Service Providers, Law Enforcement Officers, Attorneys, Judges, & Other. Ministers are eligible for scholarships.

For more information contact Marlene Evans at 864.583.9803 or 1.800.273.5066.
22nd Annual Auction For A Cause
Silent & Live Auctions
November 13, 2015
Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium
5:30 PM - 10:00 PM
Proceeds benefiting...
SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition
The Bethlehem Center
Upstate Family Resource Center
Spartanburg Humane Society
The Haven & Camp Sertoma

Signature Sponsor:

Silent Auctions end at
7:30 & 7:50 pm
Live Auction starts at 8:20 pm
We have vacations, art work, gift certificates, a cruise, adventures and many more treasures to sell. Tickets are $15.00 (adults & children) in advance from each agency or $20.00 at the door. A 10% buyer’s premium will be added to all purchases.

www.auction4acause.org

Buy your tickets to the Auction from us at 236 Union Street, and we get to keep all of the ticket money!

With your continued support, we can help so many...

____ $95 to provide shelter for one night
____ $190 to provide shelter for two nights
____ I wish to make a gift of my own choosing ___________________
____ I would like my gift to be made in honor/memory of:
   In honor of ______________________________
   In memory of _________________________________
____ I would like more information about volunteer opportunities
Name __________________________________________
Address ________________________________________
City ___________________________ State ________ Zip ____________
Email ________________________________________

Please make checks payable to SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition
Mail to: 236 Union Street, Spartanburg, SC 29302

Donations are tax deductible according to the tax regulations regarding 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organizations.
When Pregnancy Triggers Violence

August 03, 2015  By domesticshelters.org

Mamas-to-be average about 12 to 13 prenatal visits from the time they find out they’re expecting to when the baby arrives. During these visits, they are routinely screened for high blood pressure, anemia, gestational diabetes, chromosomal disorders and preeclampsia, among others. Yet, there’s one condition they’re hardly ever screened for but which some research suggests they’re more at risk for than anything else—intimate partner violence.

According to the CDC, intimate partner violence (IPV), or domestic violence, affects as many as 324,000 pregnant women every year in the U.S. from every age group, religion, ethnicity, socioeconomic level and educational background. And that number is thought to be significantly higher because most incidents of IPV are never reported, according to CDC research. IPV can come from either current or former spouses or boyfriends/girlfriends and doesn’t only include physical abuse, but can also be sexual, psychological or emotional in nature.

Below, some frightening, but important, stats and facts to know about IPV and pregnancy.

Studies show IPV increases the risk factor for delayed prenatal care, possibly because abusive partner are preventing women from leaving their home, or because a woman is missing appointments because of injuries or fear of abuse being discovered because of evidence of injuries, reports the World Health Organization (WHO).

IPV increases behavioral risk factors in pregnant women, such as smoking, drug or alcohol abuse, possibly because these are coping mechanisms for survivors.

IPV during pregnancy has been found to lead to higher rates of preterm labor and low birth weight, as well as higher rates of miscarriage and abortion.

The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) reports that roughly 25 percent of women who are being physically or sexually abused by their partners also report reproductive coercion, or being forced to become pregnant.

WHO reports that physical, sexual and psychological violence during pregnancy is associated with higher levels of depression, anxiety and stress in expecting women. Survivors also report more frequent problems bonding with their babies and have lower rates of breastfeeding.

The majority of women who experience physical violence during pregnancy have been battered by their partner before, according to WHO.

WHO also reports that IPV during pregnancy is linked to an increased risk of intimate partner homicide. In other words, partners who batter pregnant women are often particularly more dangerous and more likely to kill their partners.

Homicide was found to be the second-leading cause of injury-related death for pregnant women, after car accidents, in a study by the National Institutes of Health. The NCADV found that between 1990 and 2004, 1,300 pregnant women in the U.S. were murdered, with 56 percent being shot to death (the rest were stabbed or strangled). More than two-thirds were killed during their first trimester. During one survey, only 18 percent of pregnant women seen at an urgent care triage center were asked by the physician about intimate partner violence.

The NCADV also found that 26 percent of pregnant teens in the U.S. reported being battered by their boyfriends. Approximately half reported that the abuse began or intensified when the teens found out they were pregnant.

If you are experiencing abuse or know someone who is, you can reach a domestic violence advocate 24 hours a day, seven days a week, confidentially, at The National Domestic Violence Hotline, 1-800-799-SAFE.
Last year we made several procedural changes to our Christmas program. We created a Christmas Gift Store in which victims will fill out an application and once approved will be able to shop and wrap gifts they choose for their children. The qualifications for assistance are that the victims must have received services @SHRCC within the past year. These parents will be required to invest $5 per child or $20 per family. Those parents who cannot afford to pay the required amount(s) will be given a voucher to shop for gifts. We are asking our sponsors to purchase new items for children ages 0-18, adult women, and/or household supplies. We believe this will empower our victims as well as offer them the opportunity to be involved in the gift selection process for their children.

Last year, SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition was able to provide gifts to 109 adults and children that have been impacted by violence. The sponsors who made this effort possible all came from our local community. We appreciate all that YOU did to make this program possible and look forward to working with YOU again this year.

Celebrate the holidays by helping others!

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**NEW CHRISTMAS SPONSORSHIP FORM**

| Individual Name/Company Name/Organization Name: |
|______________________________________________|
| Contact Person if Company/Organization:__________________________|
| Address (for tax receipt):________________________________________|
| City:______________________________________ State:__________ Zip:__________|
| Telephone (H):__________________________ (W):__________________________|
| Cell:__________________________ Email:__________________________|

*After we have received your sponsor form, we will mail or email you further sponsorship instructions/gift suggestions*

___ I would like to purchase holiday gifts for ____ infant, ____ child, ____ tween, ____ teen, ____ adult

Please check one of the following:

___ You (or your organization) will make arrangements to deliver the gifts to the SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Office no later than Friday, December 11, 2015.

___ You (or your organization) will need for a SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition representative to arrange for pick-up of gifts.

*Please Return Form ASAP To: Karen Martin-Wilkins @ SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition 236 Union Street ~ Spartanburg, SC 29302 or Fax to 864.583.9611*  

If you would like more information, please contact Karen Martin-Wilkins or Jennifer O'Shields @ 864.583.9803 or 1.800.273.5066 or @ karen.martinwilkins@shrcc.org or jennifer.oshields@shrcc.org.

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OFFICE USE ONLY: Date Wish List Mailed/Emailed To Sponsor: ________________

Date Wish List Faxed To Sponsor: ________________
SHRCC 2014 STATISTICS
Assisted 4,019 adults and 2,027 children traumatized by domestic violence and sheltered 328 adults and children
- Assisted 348 victims of sexual assault
- Provided 3,004 individual and 980 family therapy sessions for 532 people
- Provided 208 therapy/support groups which were attended by 212 individuals
- Accompanied 68 victims of sexual assault to the hospital
- Assisted 365 victims with filing order of protection petitions and attended 2,138 hearings with domestic violence and sexual assault victims
- We provided 529 education/prevention programs reaching 197,767 individuals
- 627 volunteers contributed 23,350.25 hours this year

TAKE ACTION!
We are looking for YOU! That's right...YOU!!
Look at the ways you could make a difference:

24-Hour Crisis Line: Listen, Help, Refer
Thrift Store: Sorting, Organizing, Pickups
Educations: Community Health Fairs
Emergency Shelter: Groups, Babysitting
Clerical Duties: Answer Phones, Make Copies
Legal Advocacy: File, Organize, Assist
Special Projects: Silent Witness Vigil, Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Folding & labeling Newsletters

If you are interested in more information, please contact Debbie or Karen at 864.583.9803.

Join SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition and Converse College Student Life for a screening of The Perfect Victim on October 6, 2015 at 6:30pm
Daniel Recital Hall ~ Converse College

The Perfect Victim is a Documentary Film by Elizabeth Rohrbaugh and follows the stories of three women incarcerated for over thirty years for killing their abusive husbands. A group of impassioned lawyers and law students form the Missouri Battered Women’s Coalition and begin a decade and a half long quest to secure their freedom. This film represents a system broken by media-sensationalized stereotypes and examines these women both as unique case studies and as a commentary on our society’s lack of understanding and support for victims of domestic abuse.

~https://www.facebook.com/SHRCCSpartanburg
~https://twitter.com/SHRCC
~https://www.pinterest.com/shrcc/
~https://instagram.com/shrcc/

Sexual Assault Closet Wish List:
New Children’s, Women’s & Men’s Underwear and Socks (all sizes), Children’s, Women’s and Men’s light-weight Drawstring type pants (S-XXL), Rubbermaid/ Sterilite Clear Containers with Lids (shoe size - medium size), White Butcher Block Paper

Shelter Wish List:

Therapy Team Wish List:
Toy Box
Dry Erase Boards (24” x 36”)
Kleenex
3-Ring Binders
Play-Doh
Play Money
Pastel Chalk
Oil Pastel Crayons
Magic Markers
Construction Paper
Glue or Glue Sticks
Colored Pencils
Ethnic Dolls
Children’s Costumes
Play Sand
Blow up Punching Bag

Frontlines is published by SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition, 236 Union Street, Spartanburg, South Carolina 29302. Issues are released during April, which is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and October, which is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. For more information about SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition or comments about Frontlines, please contact Jennifer O’Shields, Editor, @ 864.583.9803 or e-mail at jennifer.oshields@shrcc.org.
### SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition Mission

Our mission is to use our collective voice to address the impact of domestic and sexual violence by providing quality services to those affected and to create social change through education, training, and activism.

#### VISION:

We envision a community liberated from all forms of domestic violence and sexual assault.

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**Frontlines archives can be viewed on our website @ www.shrcc.org under heading About SHRCC**