



Protesting Violence Against Women Around the World

July 8, 2011

Dear Friend of Women Take Back the Night:

Women Take Back the Night (WTBN) is an international feminist tradition of marches and rallies that have been organized around the world since 1976 beginning in Belgium, where women attending the International Tribunal on Crimes Against Women marched together in solidarity, holding candles to protest the ways in which violence permeates the lives of women worldwide. WTBN events have occurred in Sacramento every year since 1979.

In 2010 Sacramento WTBN hosted the largest rally and march in years. The rally took place in Midtown Sacramento during Second Saturday and drew a crowd of over 400 supporters. Our goal of raising awareness and increasing activism around the epidemic of violence against women was so successful in 2010 that the WTBN Organizing Committee immediately began working on a community production of Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues", as part of the international V-Day movement. The two performances in April of this year raised nearly \$15,000, with ninety percent of the proceeds going to three local organizations working to end violence against women in Sacramento. The remaining ten percent went to support the empowerment and safety of Haitian women and girls in the aftermath of their tragic earthquake.

The 2011 WTBN rally will take place on the evening of October 8, again in Midtown Sacramento during Second Saturday. In order to continue the work of raising awareness and increasing activism around this issue, we need your help!

We invite your organization to join us in taking a stand against violence by becoming a co-sponsor of this year's rally and march. Depending on the level of co-sponsorship your organization chooses (see accompanying response form), there are a variety of benefits, including outreach, networking and publicity opportunities. For inclusion in the printed program and to reserve a booth (table and two chairs) at the rally's information fair, please respond by **August 15**.

With the support and involvement of your organization in this year's WTBN, we can continue to increase community awareness around issues of violence against women, empower individual women and men to take direct action against violence through activism, and provide a collective space for women to demand a world in which women's bodies, minds and spirits are not targets of violence. Only together can we create a world without violence.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at jolane@vdaysacramento.org or call (916) 541-5869 for further information or with any questions.

In Solidarity,

JoLane J. Blaylock
2011 WTBN Co-Sponsor Coordinator

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