

# Program to counsel ‘abuser’ may lead to better understanding of roots of domestic violence (Editorial)

Updated Apr 16, 2021; Posted Apr 16, 2021

## By [The Republican Editorials](#)

A reasonable and logical approach in handling domestic violence incidents is to focus on the victim. Reacting to the victims’ needs and immediate safety could be a matter of life and death. A variety of programs have been successful in supporting and directing those in need help and many have saved lives.

A recent effort by mental health and social justice organizations have devised a new approach in reacting to domestic violence. Not only will help, support and resources go to the victim, but a program has been developed to focus on the abuser.

The effort, a collaboration with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, Behavioral Health Network and Growing a New Heart, a social advocacy coalition, is said to be the first of its kind in the country.

The program, [called “Ten to Ten,”](#) is a free, confidential helpline for people who abuse or may abuse their intimate partner. It was launched on April 15.

An advisory board as well as two rural domestic task forces from the Ware River Valley Domestic Violence Task Force and the Southern Hilltowns Task Force will oversee and guide the project.

Monica Moran, manager of domestic violence prevention projects at the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, said, “People who abuse their partners are our neighbors, the people we group up with, our family and sometimes our friends. That is the hard truth. This doesn’t mean they are not accountable for the harm they cause. But it does mean that if they want to learn how to be safe in their relationships, if they want to learn how to hold themselves accountable, we need to be ready to work with them. We need to build resources and services that can help them learn from people who are always safe in their relationships.”

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says one in four women and one in ten men experience intimate partner violence and most don’t seek help. Creating innovative measures to offer guidance and counselling opportunities to abusers --or potential abusers -- provides a path to get violent individuals to better understand the reason for their behavior. Simply having this service available and staffed with experienced counselors is a positive step in attempting to understand the roots domestic violence.

Experts suggest as we begin to relax quarantine and other restrictive measures due to the pandemic, we are likely to see an uptick in domestic violence reports. Having effective resources to attack all sides of domestic violence is a smart tactic to help stem the tide of this public health emergency. The toll-free number to reach a Ten to Ten counsellor is 877-898-3411.