



COLORADO COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND HIP-HOP GROUPS TEAM UP TO STOP THE VIOLENCE

Spoken Word Performances and New Public Service Announcement Encourage Youth to *Speak Up, Speak Out*

(DENVER, CO – October 10, 2003) Hoping to reach Denver youth with a powerful, culturally relevant message, the Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) and the Colorado Hip Hop Coalition (CHHC) are teaming up with local women poets and hip-hop artists on two nights of spoken word performances. “Speak Up, Speak Out: Stop the Violence,” will take place on October 17-18 at the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Theater, 119 Park Avenue West on the corner of 20th and Washington St. in Denver. CCADV and CHHC are also releasing a new domestic violence Public Service Announcement targeted at young people.

Once considered strictly an underground, urban style of entertainment, hip-hop is now widely considered to be the most dominant force in popular culture. For the first time ever, all top ten songs on the Billboard chart this month were recorded by Black artists.

“It is critically important to communicate with young people in a culturally relevant way,” said Cheryle Clarke of CCADV. “The younger we reach people, the better our chances become of ultimately ending domestic violence. That’s why we are so excited to partner in this effort with the Colorado Hip Hop Coalition.”

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The event is a fundraiser. Tickets are \$10 at the door starting at 6:30 each evening. Performances start at 7:30. For more information call the Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence: 303-831-9632 x 17.

Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) - www.ccadv.org - is a 25-year old statewide, grassroots, nonprofit organization providing resources, education, and training, and serving as a voice to more than 80 members and 60 programs serving some 40,000 battered women and children in Colorado each year.

Founded in 1997, the Colorado Hip Hop Coalition (CHHC) is a non-for profit organization dedicated to community empowerment for artists and youth through hip-hop culture. CHCC after-school programs develop leadership skills from creative self-expression, media literacy and entrepreneurship.