

ACTION OHIO COALITION FOR BATTERED WOMEN
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**10:30 A.M. JAN. 17th STALKING AWARENESS NEWS CONFERENCE
In the Atrium at the Statehouse**

13.1 percent of female college students become stalking victims, according to a national study published in 2000 (“Sexual Victimization of College Women”). And although the word “stalking” conjures up images of strangers lurking in the shadows, the vast majority of stalkers are known to their victims.

College campuses are ideal environments for stalkers because they are typically closed-in communities where stalkers can follow and monitor their victims with ease. Information about students, schedules and housing is often provided online by the educational institution, and students frequently elect to disclose even more detailed personal information in an effort to develop dating relationships. When asked about their experiences, students often disclose that they have been stalked or that they know someone who has been stalked.

Stalking also impacts the workplace. 15 percent of workplace homicides are the direct result of stalking. 90 percent of corporate security and safety directors have experienced three or more incidents of men stalking women at work. 45 percent of all stalking cases disrupt the workplace and have harmful effects on the productivity of organizations and on the environment for employees. (*Domestic Violence Report*, February/March 2002)

In observance of National Stalking Awareness Month, ACTION OHIO will convene a news conference at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, January 17th, in the Atrium at the Statehouse to focus attention of one of the most misunderstood crimes – Stalking.

Scott Corbitt will represent U.S. Senator Mike DeWine, sponsor of National Stalking Awareness Month legislation, and Ohio Senator Patricia Clancy of Cincinnati and Ohio Representative Linda Reidelbach of Columbus will present General Assembly resolutions marking the month.

Phyllis Carlson-Riehm of ACTION OHIO will talk about the organization’s Campus Stalking Project and there will be a display of a Stalking Survival Kit, campus brochures and a student safety card.

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