



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***ONE BILLION RISING -RVA
JOINS GLOBAL CAMPAIGN - ONE BILLION RISING - TO STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST
WOMEN AND GIRLS***

February 14, 2013 Valentine's Day - the Largest Day of Worldwide Action Ever

Chances are someone you know has been deeply affected by domestic or sexual violence. One out of three women, even here in Virginia, will be abused, beaten or raped in her lifetime. Verbal, sexual, emotional violence – it all takes its toll on the very fiber, the very core of the person affected as well as those near and dear to them. It simply cannot continue.

Violence against women is the unspoken horror of our times, the elephant in too many living rooms, and a fact of life for over one billion women worldwide. Now, all over the globe, in 189 countries women and men are rising and asserting the right and intention to live a life free of violence and abuse. A tsunami of woman power is on the rise and it will strike, worldwide, on February 14th as part of the **One Billion Rising** campaign. In Richmond, Virginia, from 11 AM – 2 PM, Virginians will join with activists around the world for **One Billion Rising**, the largest day of action in the history of V-Day, the global activist movement to end violence against women and girls.

Here in Richmond, as all over the globe, we will educate, empower and express our outrage, demand change, strike, dance, and RISE in defiance of the injustices women suffer, demanding an end at last to violence against women and girls. In Virginia alone, we know that over 354,000 women will experience at least one incident of sexual violence in her lifetime. Further, 971,900 (1 out of 3) Virginian women will experience at least one incident of severe physical violence

from her intimate partner, including rape, physical violence, and stalking. These are your daughters, sisters, mothers, friends and colleagues.

Many concerned members of our local and even the global community will be joining us for the One Billion Rising here in Richmond. **Mayor Dwight Jones** of Richmond will speak about men's role in ending violence against women. **Sergeant Carol Adams**, Richmond Police Department, will share her personal story and will talk about how she has taken her personal tragedy and transformed it into a passion to help others. **Claire Hylton Sheppard** will speak about the murder of her daughter Beth and what it has taken to transform her grief into compassionate action. The Nobel Peace Prize nominee **Rebiya Kadeer**, a prominent human rights activist from the Uyghur region of China, will speak about the global nature of violence against women. **Gaye Adegbalola**, an American blues singer and guitarist, teacher, and activist, with her band **The Wild Roots** will bring her own powerful music to the stage to inspire and move the participants.

One Billion Rising RVA will be a joyful and empowering event that will include informative, sobering, and uplifting talks, slam poetry, music, dance, and art that is appropriate for all ages. It will also include a community resource fair with free information about sexual and domestic services and community resources in Virginia. Participants may make a pledge to resolving to do *one thing* in the next year to contribute to ending violence against women and girls.

The rally being held at the Coliseum on February 14th is free and open to all but it is not the only event associated with One Billion Rising RVA. There are also many complementary events including Women Rise!, an art exhibit at Crossroads Art Center; Cranksrising, a bike ride taking place February 9; Beyond Barbie, a theatre performance series taking place at Unity of Richmond Four Fridays in February at 7:30; and performances of The Vagina Monologues scheduled for the end of March. The RVA campaign is a fundraiser in partnership with the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance in support of their work in connecting survivors to services and resources. The Alliance is a coalition of over 70 sexual and domestic violence programs statewide serving victims in every county in Virginia.

More information on our rally and related events can be found at:

<http://onebillionrisingrva.wix.com/onebillionrisingrva>

To learn more about ONE BILLION RISING - RVA call 804-267-3455 or e-mail the organizing team at viriniasrising@gmail.com. To learn more about OBR-RVA visit us on FaceBook: OneBillionRisingRVA

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About One Billion Rising



One in three women on the planet is raped or beaten in her lifetime. That is ONE BILLION WOMEN violated. One billion daughters, mothers, grandmothers, sisters, lovers and friends. On 14th February 2013, V-Day's 15th Anniversary, we are inviting ONE BILLION women and those who love them to WALK OUT, DANCE, RISE UP, and DEMAND an end to this violence. ONE BILLION RISING will move the earth, activating women and men to dance across every country. V-Day wants the world to see our collective strength, our numbers and our solidarity across borders. Join V-Day and ONE BILLION RISING today and SAY NO to violence against women and girls. To sign up and learn more, visit www.onebillionrising.org

About V-Day

V-Day is a global activist movement to end violence against women and girls that raises funds and awareness through benefit productions of Playwright/Founder Eve Ensler's award winning play *The Vagina Monologues* and other artistic works. In 2012, over 5,800 V-Day benefit events took place produced by volunteer activists in the U.S. and around the world, educating millions of people about the reality of violence against women and girls. To date, the V-Day movement has raised over \$90 million and educated millions about the issue of violence against women and the efforts to end it, crafted international educational, media and PSA campaigns, reopened shelters, and funded over 14,000 community-based anti-violence programs and safe houses in Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, Kenya, South Dakota, Egypt and Iraq. Over 300 million people have seen a V-Day benefit event in their community. V-Day has received numerous acknowledgements including Worth Magazine's 100 Best Charities, Marie Claire Magazine's Top Ten Charities, one of the Top-Rated organizations on Philanthropedia/Guidestar and Great Nonprofits. V-Day's newest campaign is ONE BILLION RISING which will culminate on 021413 with a global action worldwide. www.vday.org

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For More Information on the global efforts visit: Onebillionrising.org.

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