

June 10, 2007

Sunday

TIMES- CALL

Open Forum

Wear a white ribbon

Having been a member of the Domestic Violence Unit for the Longmont Police Department since 1997, I have had the opportunity to make numerous public presentations on the seriousness of domestic violence.

During the course of the presentations, I am frequently asked why do women stay in the abusive relationships (statistics show women to be victims in approximately 75 percent of the reported domestic violence cases.) There are a multitude of answers to this question, but a more important question to ask is why does the perpetrator believe they have the right to inflict emotional, physical or sexual abuse? It's wrong, it's immoral, and it's illegal.

In an effort to address the issue and raise community awareness, the Longmont Ending Violence Initiative (LEVI) is commencing the Longmont White Ribbon campaign today through June 24. The campaign is easy. We are asking men to wear a white ribbon for this 14-day period to make the statement, "There's no excuse for domestic abuse." Ribbons can be obtained at business establishment throughout the city, at the Longmont Police Department or by contacting the LEVI coordinator at 303-774-4534. Help us protect our mothers, daughters, sisters and friends by putting an end to this terrible crime.

OFFICER GREG MALSAM
Longmont Police Department

Things to Do

TODAY

The Father's Day White Ribbon Campaign to rally against domestic violence will be held today through June 24 by the Daily Times-Call and L.E.V.I.

Men can show their support by wearing a white ribbon, encouraging others to wear a white ribbon, talking about positive male roles and attending the free event "Voices of Men" on June 18.

Visit www.longmontdomesticviolence.org/fathersdaycampaign.htm.