## Men must step forward to combat domestic violence

If Longmont is to successfully address the problem of domestic violence, it will be done through the men of this community.

It is they who must be examples and the carriers of the message that violence against women will not be tolerated, and that a gentleman is defined by the gentleness with which he treats others.

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Today continues a small but significant effort to turn the tide on this "scourge," as Longmont Police Chief Mike Butler calls it. It is the day when men around the community will make public their pledge not to commit, condone or stand in silence in the presence of domestic

violence. They will do so by wearing white ribbons.

Because a disproportionate percentage of domestic violence is committed by

PRIAL young men, it is imperative that honorable men of all ages step forward to make this pledge and this statement. It is they whom young men

and boys will look up to, listen to and ultimately emulate.

So, men of Longmont, starting today and continuing through June 22, put on a white ribbon to support this cause, and in doing so, let it remind you that in your family, your neighborhoods and other circles of influence, you are the one who can step forward to be the example of a true gentle man.