

## Sample Letter to the Editor On Domestic Violence Related Homicide

[DATE]

[Editor  
Newspaper  
Mailing Address]

To the Editor:

The murder of [victim] (“title of article” and date article ran) should serve as a wake-up call to our entire community. Domestic violence is a tremendous problem in [city/community] and across the country. [Add a statistic about domestic violence and/or domestic homicides in your area.] In 2000, 1,247 American women--on average more than three women per day--were murdered by their husbands or boyfriends, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

When a murder occurs, everyone wonders how it could have happened. But we all need to look to ourselves, because we all have a role to play in preventing domestic violence and helping those who are facing abuse.

Health care providers in particular are well positioned to help victims, who come to them for routine and emergency medical care. The health setting is often the safest place for battered women to seek help--if doctors and nurses know how to detect abuse, and provide referrals and support. That is why, at the [name of your clinic], we routinely screen patients for domestic violence. We ask the simple question: Is someone hurting you? And we let patients know that they can talk to us about domestic violence.

Anyone facing domestic violence should get help—from [local program] or from her health care provider. We need to work together to make [victim], the last victim of abuse who is ever murdered in our community.

Sincerely,

[Your name, title and daytime phone]