



For Immediate Release

April 24, 2008

Contacts:

Susan Berryman-Rodriguez
404.870.9605 or 404.273.0008
susan@padv.org

**Women are dying at work and
employers may be held liable**
New opportunity to reduce risk of workplace violence

ATLANTA - April 24, 2008 – When domestic violence follows a woman to work, the human and financial costs can be staggering. Just this month, a gunman shot an employee and a customer to death in the bank where his ex-wife worked, then killed his ex-wife before killing himself in Mississippi. And in another high-profile case last year, an Omni Hotel employee was shot and killed by her ex-boyfriend at the CNN Center in Atlanta. Protecting employees from workplace violence is the responsibility of companies. Failing to do so can result in deadly and costly consequences for the company and its employees. Atlanta-based Partnership Against Domestic Violence (PADV) is educating and preparing human resources and security personnel at companies, educational institutions and government agencies to handle domestic violence situations at work to avoid workplace tragedies.

“Homicide is the second leading cause of death for women in the workplace. We know that domestic violence doesn’t always stay at home – it can explode at work, often fatally,” said Cathy Willis Spraetz, president and chief executive officer of PADV.

“Companies that are proactive may be able to avert workplace tragedies. We often get

calls from companies requesting domestic violence training and guidance but only after they have had an incident that could have been prevented with some advanced planning.”

PADV is hosting its sixth annual conference titled “When Domestic Violence Goes to Work” on April 24. During the conference, experts will address how to create a safer workplace, how to develop a domestic violence policy and when to involve law enforcement.

Vincent J. Bove, board certified crime prevention specialist and spokesperson for the families of the victims of the Virginia Tech shootings will be the keynote speaker at the conference.

The conference will be held at The Loudermilk Center in Atlanta from 7:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. The cost is \$195 for regular registration and \$35 for nonprofits and government agencies. To register for the conference, or for more information, please call 404.870.9605.

In Georgia, there were more than 54,000 reported incidents of family violence in 2006. Consider these facts:

- Georgia ranks seventh in the nation in the rate of men killing women.
- According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, jury awards for inadequate security suits average \$1.2 million nationwide and settlements average \$600,000.
- Ninety-four percent of corporate security directors surveyed rank intimate violence as a major security problem in their company.
- Obvious warning signs of domestic abuse can often be missed by workplace colleagues: absenteeism at work, tardiness and leaving early from work, frequent personal phone calls at work, clothing that is inappropriate for season (i.e. turtle necks or long sleeves in the summer to hide injuries).

About PADV

Partnership Against Domestic Violence is the largest and one of the oldest nonprofit domestic violence organizations in Georgia. For more than 30 years, PADV has been providing professional, compassionate, and empowering support to battered women and their children in metro Atlanta. Support includes a 24-hour crisis line, two emergency shelters in metro Atlanta, supportive housing, legal advocacy, support groups and a teen

dating violence prevention program. To learn more about domestic violence and PADV programs and services, please visit www.padv.org.

###