



Statement of Esta Soler,
President and Founder, Futures Without Violence
September 13, 2024
Contact: [Lisa Lederer](mailto:Lisa.Lederer@futureswithoutviolence.org), 202/371-1997

Soler: Biden/Harris Actions for 30th Anniversary of VAWA Build On Their Remarkable Work to Stop Violence, Support Survivors

“The work President Biden and Vice President Harris have done to stop domestic and sexual violence and help survivors heal is among the proudest accomplishments in both of their legendary careers. That work continues this week, as the nation celebrates the 30th anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) with a series of executive actions that will do even more to make our country safe and bring us closer to becoming a place where every woman, girl and child can live free from violence.

The [actions the Biden/Harris administration announced](#) today are meaningful advances. We are especially pleased about the enhanced work and additional funds to help states keep guns away from people under domestic violence-related restraining orders and to further narrow the so-called boyfriend loophole, which prohibits people convicted of misdemeanor crimes in dating relationships from purchasing or possessing firearms for at least five years. The new grants to help meet the needs of children exposed to family, domestic, or dating violence and to support their non-abusing parents are badly needed. We are thrilled that the U.S. Department of Justice is stepping up funds and actions to stop online harassment and abuse; and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will establish an Office on Gender-Based Violence.

VAWA’s passage 30 years ago was a turning point for our country. It helped transform not just our government and our laws but also our culture. In the years after it was enacted, domestic violence against adult women [declined by more than 60 percent](#). But the work is far from done and the actions the Biden/Harris administration announced today will drive needed advances. We must not stop until everyone in our country can live free from violence and abuse.”

#

ABOUT FUTURES WITHOUT VIOLENCE:

For more than 35 years, FUTURES has been providing groundbreaking programs, policies and campaigns that empower individuals and organizations working to end violence against women and children around the world. Striving to reach new audiences and transform social norms, FUTURES trains professionals such as doctors, nurses, judges and athletic coaches on improving responses to violence and abuse. FUTURES also works with advocates, policymakers and others to build sustainable community leadership and educate people everywhere about the importance of respect and healthy relationships. More information is available at www.futureswithoutviolence.org