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Listen. Learn. Advocate.

The WATCH project, led by The Advocates for Human Rights, draws on international human rights standards and the practice of court monitoring to defend the human rights of survivors of domestic abuse, sexual assault, and sex trafficking. WATCH volunteers observe and document the court experience and analyze the legal response to gender-based violence.

Vision

Legal systems that **do not perpetrate or exacerbate** gender-based violence.

Legal systems that are person-centered, trauma-responsive, and focused on holistic problem solving, long-term safety, and healing.

Legal systems where survivors feel safe, heard, and treated with dignity.

Legal systems that **explore options beyond carceral approaches to stopping gender-based violence**, including prevention, restorative justice practices, trauma-centered domestic abuse programming, and social support models.

Grounding Principles

Our work is guided by the voices of survivors and by partnership with those impacted by gender-based violence.

We advocate **for the rights of ALL survivors regardless of how they intersect with the legal system**, including the many survivors who have been criminalized for circumstances that stem from abuse they experienced.

We believe that legal systems can and must uphold the safety and rights of survivors while also **dismantling the deep inequities and racial disparities embedded in the legal system**.

Our History

WATCH was originally founded in 1992 and became part of The Advocates for Human Rights in June of 2019.



WATCH has been active in the courts in various ways for over 30 years.



Since 2019, over 550 court monitoring volunteers have assisted WATCH with more than 13,000 hours of court observation.

Learn More About Volunteering:

www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/Volunteer/WATCH Questions: WATCH@advrights.org