MEDIA ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE • OCTOBER 2026

Progressive National Baptist Convention Calls Churches Nationwide to Break the Silence on Domestic Violence

"Safe in the Sanctuary, Safe at Home"

WHAT	During Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the Progressive National Baptist Convention (PNBC) is calling its member churches across the United States and the Bahamas to become places of safety, support and healing for survivors. PNBC congregations are invited to: • Wear purple during Sunday worship in October. • Speak openly about domestic violence from the pulpit. • Train pastors and ministry leaders to recognize warning signs and respond safely. • Connect survivors with trained advocates and local resources. • Pray for survivors, families and those lost to domestic violence.
WHO	• Rev. Dr. Keith W. Byrd Sr., President, Progressive National Baptist Convention • Rev. Dr. Jacqueline A. Thompson, First Vice President, PNBC • Rev. Dr. Willie D. Francois III, Second Vice President, PNBC • Rev. Thomas L. Bowen, General Secretary, PNBC • PNBC member churches nationwide
WHEN	Throughout October 2026, Domestic Violence Awareness Month
WHERE	PNBC member churches across the United States and the Bahamas PNBC Headquarters: 601 50th Street NE, Washington, DC 20019
WHY	Domestic violence touches every community, including our congregations. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, more than 4 in 10 Black women experience physical violence, sexual violence or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime. Many survivors turn first to their faith community for help. The church must be ready to respond with safety, compassion and resources, not silence. PNBC believes that every person is created in the image of God and deserves to live free from fear. Love does not hurt, control or intimidate. No one should ever be counseled to remain in an unsafe home.
VISUALS	• Congregations wearing purple during Sunday worship • Prayer and candlelight moments for survivors and those lost to domestic violence
INTERVIEWS	PNBC leadership is available for interviews by phone or Zoom throughout October. To schedule an interview, please contact Media Relations.
CONTACT	**Dr. Tonya Merriweather Gipson Miller** Director of Media Relations and Public Affairs Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. 469.810.8718 | pnbcpress@gmail.com | www.pnbc.org

GET HELP: If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse, contact the **National Domestic Violence Hotline** at **1-800-799-7233**, text **START** to **88788**, or chat at **thehotline.org**. Help is free, confidential and available 24 hours a day. In an emergency, call 911.

About PNBC

The Progressive National Baptist Convention was founded in 1961 by pastors who would not separate faith from freedom. PNBC became the denominational home of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and today represents 1.5 million congregants across the United States and the Bahamas. Guided by its motto of Fellowship, Progress, Service and Peace, PNBC continues to advance justice, healing and wholeness in the communities it serves.

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