



## 2018 Legislative Priorities

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### Economic Justice

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Survivors' concerns about being able to provide financially for themselves and their children can be a significant barrier to leaving an abusive relationship. When survivors have access to policies and programs that help them build economic resiliency, they and their families are more likely to remain safe and secure. ACESDV supports policies such as equal pay, affordable child care and other financial protections that promote independence.

### Over Criminalization

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ACESDV is dedicated to looking for solutions to the ever growing concern with overcriminalization in our state and nationwide. Currently little has been done to address existing policies and practices that perpetuate the unbalanced penalties imposed on individuals without adequate justification. We support changing laws that provide real solutions to prompting change among the criminal justice system.

### Sexual Violence Services

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Addressing the need for sexual violence services in Arizona is necessary in our goal of meeting the needs of survivors. Arizona is behind in providing services for survivors of sexual violence and there needs to be a larger focus on providing additional resources for survivors and people who have committed acts of sexual violence. There is currently no state funding dedicated to ending sexual violence in Arizona. We support creating a funding stream dedicated to addressing sexual violence in the state through services and resources survivors need.

### Reproductive Justice

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ACESDV supports the belief that all individuals especially women have the right to make decisions regarding their own bodies and healthcare without pressure from other individuals and institutions. All women should have access to the care they need that's safe, affordable and accessible that provides the opportunities they deserve to be in command of their own lives. This includes access to birth control, adequate sexual education, abortion, and other vital services women depend on to make the right decisions for themselves and their families.

### Child Welfare

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We will continue our work with various advocacy groups to ensure that the Department of Child Safety maintains its ability to provide services to families. We will encourage those in the child welfare field to develop new ways to intervene and support families and children who have been impacted by domestic violence. Failure to properly address domestic violence in child protection cases can potentially compromise the safety of the child and the victim. We will additionally advocate for further funding and will work with DCS to encourage the continued use of these best practices that protect survivors and children.

### Firearms

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Common sense guns laws that protect survivors and keep guns out of the hands of dangerous perpetrators are needed to address domestic violence related fatalities. There is an undeniable correlation between gun violence and domestic violence. Accessibility to firearms in this country facilitates and amplifies violence as well as increases the likelihood of lethality. We will remain committed to ensuring that those who commit dangerous acts of domestic violence do not have access to firearms and to educating the public about the risks associated with firearms, and their link to gender-based violence.

### Other Areas of Interest

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ACESDV believes in enhancing survivors' ability to maintain safety and promote social justice for the betterment of those affected by violence. We will continue to focus our efforts on additional legislative issues such as family law, healthcare, education, immigration and others areas that may have an impact on sexual and domestic violence survivors and their families in Arizona.