

# SOUTHWEST PA SAYS

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# NO MORE

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## **Pittsburgh Leaders Say “NO MORE” to Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault**

*- Supporters fill the Courtyard for 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Signing of Father’s Day Pledge to End Gender Violence -*

**PITTSBURGH – June 17, 2016** – Corporate and civic leaders joined elected officials and supporters to create a sea of teal in the Allegheny County Courthouse Courtyard for the second annual *Father’s Day Pledge to End Gender Violence Day* on Friday, June 17. The event was organized by Southwest PA Says No More, an initiative of FISA Foundation, The Heinz Endowments and United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania that leads the region’s efforts to end domestic violence and sexual assault. Allegheny County leads the state in the number of domestic violence related homicides.<sup>i</sup>

“We have made a lot of progress in our region since the last Father’s Day Pledge to End Gender Violence Day, but there is still much work to be done,” said Kristy Trautmann, executive director, FISA Foundation, “Everyone is stepping up as we all have a role to play in ending gender violence and sexual assault.”

Ms. Trautmann joined Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, Pittsburgh Action Against Rape executive director Alison Hall, United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania president and CEO Bob Nelkin, and The Heinz Endowments president Grant Oliphant and others as they stand up and say “NO MORE” to sexual violence.

University of Pittsburgh Chancellor Patrick Gallagher addressed the importance of making real institutional change to ending campus sexual assault.

Nearly a dozen men involved in the Mentors in Violence Prevention Cohort, led by Elio Wade from Family Services of Western Pennsylvania, also stepped up and said “NO MORE.”

After Pittsburgh faith leaders led the recitation of the pledge with the standing-room crowd, the public also signed the four-point pledge, an adaptation of “10 Things Men Can Do to Prevent Gender Violence” by Dr. Jackson Katz.

Southwest PA Says No More calls on everyone to take action by signing the pledge online at [southwestpasaysnomore.org/fathers-day-pledge](http://southwestpasaysnomore.org/fathers-day-pledge) and “living the pledge” each day: speak out if you witness someone being disrespectful or abusive; encourage your company to join STANDING FIRM: The Business Case To End Partner Violence; and express support for survivors of abuse.

This event is part of the statewide campaign organized by Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV), PA Says No More and Southwest PA Says No More. The teal NO MORE symbol signifies a future free of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Currently 25 partner organizations have pledged their support. Pittsburgh became the first city in Pennsylvania to participate in the Father’s Day Pledge in 2014, and the first public signing event was in 2015.

As of June 16, more than 1,000 southwestern Pennsylvanians have signed the pledge [online](#).

**About Southwest PA Says No More**

Southwest PA Says NO MORE is a growing community of organizations and individuals who are working to end domestic and sexual violence. FISA Foundation, in partnership with The Heinz Endowments and United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania, developed Southwest PA Says No More to showcase the important prevention-focused work happening in this region, and to make it easier for individuals and organizations to take action to stop gender-based violence. More than 20 organizations across the region have partnered with Southwest PA Says No More, including the Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh, YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh, and Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh.

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<sup>i</sup> Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence. (2015). “2015 Domestic Violence Fatality Report.”