



# Legislative Principles

## **Economic Justice**

Economic security and personal safety are linked for survivors of sexual and domestic violence. Survivors may need economic supports to recover from violence or leave an abusive relationship. ACESDV supports policies that promote economic justice, resiliency, and safety. This includes but is not limited to paid sick and safe days, equal pay, a living wage, safe and affordable housing, childcare, quality education, and workplace safety. Economic justice promotes independence and safety for survivors.

## **Over Criminalization**

Post approaches to sexual and domestic violence have heavily involved the criminal legal system, which has primarily been to the detriment of marginalized communities, especially communities of color. ACESDV is interested in looking to solutions that promote healing, not harm, and that center the voices of survivors, especially of those who have been most impacted by the system. We will be supporting efforts that aim to end mass incarceration, that promote healing for both individuals and communities through alternative/transformative justice strategies, and that hold systems accountable for perpetuating racial and gender biases.

## **Sexual Violence Services**

Survivors of sexual violence need accessible, safe, and appropriate services to heal from the harm they have experienced. There is no one path to healing, which means that having robust service delivery without barriers is necessary for supporting sexual assault survivors. Through centering the survivor and their choices, ACESDV seeks to promote these services through state funding, removal of accessibility obstacles, empowering advocate services, and public awareness.

## **Reproductive Justice**

ACESDV supports reproductive justice practices and believes everyone should have the freedom to govern their own bodies and access to safe and affordable care, including birth control and family planning services, sex positive sexual education, safe and legal abortion services, and other vital health services needed to make the right decision for themselves and their families.

## **Child Welfare**

Children are often the most vulnerable and impacted individuals in cases of sexual and domestic violence. They can also face challenges at a systemic level in terms of separation, treatment, and support. ACESDV will support policies that improve systems in their intervention and support of children experiencing sexual and domestic violence. Advocacy around these issues will center safety and look to better funding, long-term support, and evidence-based intervention for these children.

## **Firearms**

Firearm law reform that protects survivors and keeps guns out of the hands of those causing life threatening harm is needed to address domestic violence related fatalities. There is an undeniable correlation between gun violence and domestic violence and the accessibility to firearms amplifies the likelihood of a domestic violence lethality. We 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**

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 other areas that may have an impact on sexual and domestic violence survivors and their families in Arizona. We will also be analyzing and potentially taking positions on bills that have intended or unintended consequences to historically marginalized communities across the state. This is in line with our mission to end sexual and domestic violence by dismantling oppression and promoting equity among all people.