



National Task Force  
to End Sexual and  
Domestic Violence Against Women

March 1, 2016

## **ACTION ALERT ~ Urge the Senate to Fill the Supreme Court Vacancy!**

We share the nation's sorrow at the sudden loss of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, one of the most influential Supreme Court Justices in history.

The vacancy left by his passing must be filled as soon as possible to avoid harm to victims and survivors of gender-based violence. **The Supreme Court is slated to issue rulings this session on several domestic violence and violence against women-related cases.** These include cases challenging the law that prohibits convicted abusers from owning firearms and challenges to tribal jurisdiction in the arena of domestic and sexual violence and in general.

Not only is a full bench essential to timely and effective governance, but **a prolonged judicial vacancy stands in the way of prompt and decisive rulings in these cases.**

It is vital that President Obama fulfill his constitutional duty to nominate Justice Scalia's successor, and Senators fulfill their duty to "advise and consent" regarding the nominee.

**[Call or email](#) your Senators and tell them to consider and vote on President Obama's nominee.**

### **Talking Points:**

- If a new Justice is not confirmed quickly, it will harm the Court's ability to efficiently carry out its duty for *two* Supreme Court sessions. Waiting for a new President to nominate and a new Senate to confirm the Court nominee will mean that the Court will remain at only eight members for the rest of this term and almost all of the next term, which ends June, 2016.
- A full panel of judges is crucial to ensure fair hearings for all persons before the Court.
- There is a historic precedent for taking a vote. Presidents have nominated Supreme Court Justices in the final year of their presidencies, and Senates controlled by the opposition party have confirmed them. *Most recently, the Democrat-led Senate confirmed Justice Kennedy 97-0 during President Reagan's last year in office.*
- Without a ninth justice, 4-4 split rulings by the Court let the lower court rulings stand, opening the way for future Supreme Court challenges and creating a mix of constitutional protections, based on geography.

You can find your Senators and their contact information [here](#), or you can call the Senate switchboard at (202) 224-3121.

Additionally, please contact [Senate Majority Leader McConnell](#) and [Senate Judiciary Chair Grassley](#) to impress upon them the importance of scheduling timely hearings and floor votes on the nominee.

**Social media** is an easy and highly effective way of thanking Congress. Following are a sample Tweet and a sample Facebook post. Suggested hashtags are #SCOTUS and #JusticeNow

***Sample Tweet:***

@XYZ Protect victims and survivors of gender-based violence nationwide by voting on the #SCOTUS nominee. #JusticeNow

***Sample Facebook Post:***

Protect victims and survivors of gender-based violence nationwide by following historical precedent and voting on the President's SCOTUS nominee.

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For more information please contact Jenna Oliver at [joliver@ncadv.org](mailto:joliver@ncadv.org) or call 303-832-1852 extension 104.