

Remember Me: Confronting Violence Against Women in the RGV

For the past five years, the CAVE (Coalition Against Violence & Exploitation) initiative, and now OVAVP (Office for Victim Advocacy & Violence Prevention), has been hosting the "Remember Me: Confronting Violence Against Women in the RGV" project. *Remember Me* features vinyl body outlines and crime scene tape as a powerful visual representation of gender-based violence leading to murder. *Remember Me* is a variant of the international campaign *Silent Witness*, which is described as follows.

Silent Witness International is the leading voice that honors the lives of domestic violence homicide victims through family support, community connections, and advocacy for change. Many women and men die each year in acts of domestic violence in the United States. Each one has a story. Join our efforts to end this tragedy. Because we need to remember their stories. We need to remember their names.

Our version of this project, held annually during October (Domestic Violence Awareness Month), is intended to raise awareness and promote change and features the names and brief stories of some of the victims (not the perpetrators, who are typically featured in news stories) of domestic/dating violence who were slain in the RGV. Based on significant and constructive feedback, we have decided to add a "personalizing" component this year and are featuring short audio descriptions (written by Professor David Carren, UTRGV Theatre Department) from the first-person perspective, read by local women, mostly UTRGV students. These descriptions are accessible on our website by scanning a QR code at the exhibit, which will be displayed on the Brownsville campus on October 17-19 in conjunction with the 1st Annual CAVE Advocacy Training Conference, and on the Edinburg campus the following two weeks in the ARHU gallery on the first floor of the building in conjunction with the art display: *Deconstructing Myths of Blaming the Victim*, by artist Marilyn Carren.