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"Exposing Reproductive Coercion Toolkit Created for Health Care Workers, Domestic Violence Advocates and Women Experiencing Intimidation Regarding Pregnancy"

The National Organization for Men Against Sexism (NOMAS), in collaboration with the Feminist Women's Health Center of Atlanta (FWHC) and the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV), announces the publication of Exposing Reproductive Coercion: A toolkit for Awareness-Raising, Assessment, and Intervention. Because reproductive coercion is an overlooked but life-changing form of intimate partner abuse, this toolkit is an invaluable tool for health care workers, domestic violence advocates and women who are suffering from this violation of choice and control over their bodies and lives. The toolkit provides credible, unbiased information for victims as well as individuals working in the domestic violence and reproductive health fields.

The toolkit defines reproductive coercion as manipulation, intimidation, threats and/or acts of violence used to pressure or coerce a woman into becoming pregnant or into continuing or ending a pregnancy against her will. Women victimized by reproductive coercion may not immediately recognize some of these behaviors as abuse, especially if there is no history of physical or sexual violence in their relationship.

Studies show that women experiencing reproductive coercion by their intimate partners have an increased risk of unintended pregnancy as well as sexually transmitted infections (commonly known as STDs) as a result of birth control sabotage and pressure to become pregnant or end a pregnancy.

"NOMAS is pleased to have partnered with NCADV and NWHC to produce this toolkit. For the first time, reproductive health and domestic violence service providers will have information to recognize and address reproductive coercion. Individuals may download a self-test to raise their awareness of this form of abuse and control," stated Moshe Rozdzial, NOMAS National Council Chair. "NOMAS encourages interested parties to <u>download the toolkit here</u> or on our website: <u>www.nomas.org</u>."

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