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Media Contact: Naomi Thompson

Phone: 775-737-8064

Email: [naomi@ncedsv.org](mailto:naomi@ncedsv.org)

### **United States v Rahimi**

#### Supreme Court Upholds Critical Protections for Victim-Survivors in Landmark Decision on Domestic Violence and Firearms

**[Reno, NV]** — Today marks a historic win for victim-survivors as the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) delivered a landmark ruling in the *United States v. Rahimi* case. The decision affirms that protective orders are a constitutional tool to prevent perpetrators of domestic violence from accessing firearms, reinforcing vital protections relied upon by millions for their safety.

In the case of *United States v. Rahimi*, SCOTUS recognized the fundamental importance of protective orders in safeguarding victim-survivors. Women are five times more likely to be murdered by an abusive partner when the abuser has access to a gun<sup>1</sup>. This decision empowers advocates and victim-survivors nationwide to continue creating safety plans with the assurance that legal measures are in place to prevent abusers from accessing firearms.

“NCEDSV is pleased with the court’s ruling that restricting firearms from those who use them to terrorize those closest to them is not against the second amendment,” said Elizabeth Abdur-Raheem, Executive Director at the Nevada Coalition to END Domestic and Sexual Violence (NCEDSV). “Last year in Nevada, 76% of those killed in domestic violence homicides died through the use of a firearm. Removing firearms from individuals named in domestic violence orders of protection is essential in keeping victim-survivors alive.”

The case of *United States v. Rahimi* underscores the urgent need for national reflection on the pervasive issue of domestic violence and the systems that perpetuate it. It signals a pivotal moment for policymakers and communities to engage in constructive dialogues and enact policies that prioritize the safety and well-being of all individuals affected by domestic violence.

“The mere fact that a case like *United States v. Rahimi* was brought forth is indicative of the need for our nation and the officials governing it to reflect on the long history of violence in our country and the need for hard conversations acknowledging the systems that perpetuate it,” said Nicole Winckelmann, policy specialist at NCEDSV.

Looking forward, NCEDSV envisions a future without any form of power-based violence. This ruling is only one small step in the continued advocacy needed to protect and enhance the policies needed to save lives. NCEDSV will continue to provide updates on relevant federal and state-level action, as well as advocate for victim-centered policies during the upcoming legislative session here in Nevada.

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<sup>1</sup> Campbell JC, Webster D, Koziol-McLain J, Block C, Campbell D, Curry MA... & Laughon K. (2003). *Risk factors for femicide in abusive relationships: results from a multisite case control study*. American Journal of Public Health. Retrieved from: <https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/10.2105/AJPH.93.7.1089>

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### **About NCEDSV**

The Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence (previously The Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence), is the statewide coalition of domestic and sexual violence programs. NCEDSV provides statewide advocacy, education and support to the front-line organizations that help those impacted by domestic and sexual violence. To learn more about services provided by NCEDSV, visit [ncedsv.org](http://ncedsv.org)