



Virtual events are not a new phenomenon, but in the current time of COVID-19, [awareness events](#) have become more creative than ever. Around the globe, advocates are coming up with innovative ideas to commemorate [Domestic Violence Awareness Month](#) (DVAM) while observing social distancing recommendations. Although virtual events can be [less engaging](#) for some, for many this is a tremendous opportunity to reach a wider audience. For those with access to the internet, virtual activities and [social media campaigns](#) can be a great way to connect with diverse communities.

Below are some ideas that will help you plan DVAM #1Thing virtual awareness activities.

- Start an online fundraiser for your local program. [These resources](#) will assist local programs with fundraising needs in connection with responding to the increased needs of survivors and their families in the face of COVID-19. The images are downloadable by right-clicking and saving to your desktop. You will also find [sample social media posts](#) to accompany the images.
- Host a [community Twitter chat](#), other social media event, or group [Zoom](#) session to talk with your friends and followers about the #1Thing campaign and how easy it is to jump into action. The #1Thing Action Guide [Sample Social Media Posts](#) and the [Supporting Older Survivors of Abuse Sample Social Media Posts](#) are great ways to engage your followers.



Virtual events may cost less money, but they still take planning to be successful.

- Host a [virtual event](#) using the [Facebook Live](#) feature to stream content to your Facebook audience in real-time. You can invite speakers or follow NNEDV's [Conversation Guide: Starting the Discussion About Domestic Violence](#). Another great resource from NNEDV is the [10 Tips to Have an Informed Conversation About Domestic Violence](#) guide. A great example of a Facebook Live event for DVAM is [NRCDV's 2019 Call for Unity: #1Thing, One Movement](#).
- Organize a [virtual candlelight vigil](#). Participation in a virtual candlelight vigil consists of three simple steps: **post**, **tag** and **share**. Ask your followers to **post** a photo of a lit candle, or a picture of themselves holding a lit candle, and use the [#1Thing photo frame](#) to either Facebook, Twitter or Instagram. Make sure to ask everyone to **tag** their post with **#1Thing** and your personalized hashtag. After they upload and **share** their post, make sure that they encourage everyone to participate.
- Host a [virtual book club](#) on behalf of your agency. You can lead remote conversations about a book or article chosen by the participants.
- Access online prevention education and activism resources from the [PreventIPV Tools Inventory](#).
- Organize a [virtual dance party](#). The [Three Questions and a Song videos](#) highlight empowering songs selections that will surely make everyone dance.
- Join or start a [community mutual aid project](#). Mutual aid projects build community by taking care of the specific needs of members of your community including those that might be overlooked by traditional systems.
- Organize a **#1Thing** car parade in lieu of a walk/run fundraiser. You can ask participants to submit their donations online prior to the parade. Those participating can receive goodie bags filled with **#1Thing** signs to decorate their cars.



Remember, once you choose the type of online event you will like to host, you must think about [accessibility](#), especially during the planning process. A new toolkit by the national disability advocacy nonprofit [RespectAbility](#) aims to help organizations do so. Also, check out Vera Institute of Justice's [Accessibility Tip Sheet for Virtual Meetings and Events](#) to learn about language and disability accessibility needs for all virtual meetings.

Don't forget to submit your event to the [Domestic Violence Awareness Project's](#) calendar of events. This [calendar](#) features an interactive map of community-based domestic violence awareness events throughout the year. Click on the map or search to find events near you.