



**VIOLENCE FREE**  
**MINNESOTA**  
THE COALITION TO END RELATIONSHIP ABUSE

## **NINE INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDES IN TWO WEEKS**

Within the past two weeks in Minnesota, there have been nine confirmed intimate partner homicides. Eight women were killed by a current or former intimate partner and one man was killed by his girlfriend's ex-boyfriend. Their names are **Manijeh "Mani" Starren, Fanta Xayavong, Angela Marie McClelland, Vickie Marie (Solmonson) O'Brien, Youa Vua Khang, William Lamont Hudson, Danicka Marie Bergeson, Darisha Tela Bailey Vath, and Jean Harriette Mart.**

Nearly every intimate partner homicide in Minnesota has the presence of misogyny, entitlement, and control. Power and control are the root causes of domestic violence in every abusive relationship. Socially and politically, we are seeing an alarming national increase in the normalization of misogyny.

Addressing misogyny's direct correlation to intimate partner homicides is vital in our movement to end abuse. Some form of misogyny, entitlement, and control through abuse were present in all nine recent homicides:

- Manijeh "Mani" Starren and Fanta Xayavong were both killed and dismembered by the same man. Manijeh was killed in April and found in late June. Fanta had been missing since 2021 and was found days after Manijeh. When the man who killed Manijeh and Fanta was arrested, there was a woman in his apartment with black eyes, red marks around her neck, and whom he had threatened to kill. These horrific acts of violence demonstrate a deep sense of ownership and control this man felt over the women in his life.
- When Angela Marie McClelland's husband was arrested for her murder, he told police his wife "had thrown a hissy fit ... just like every other [expletive] day." This statement reinforces misogynistic stereotypes of women being "hysterical" or overly emotional which trivializes and downplays the violence victim/survivors experience.
- Both Vickie Marie (Solmonson) O'Brien and Youa Vua Khang were killed in murder-suicides. Intimate partner murder-suicides are often viewed solely as mental health related matters rather than domestic violence. However, murder-suicides involving intimate partners in Minnesota are perpetrated almost exclusively by men against their female partners. Since we began gathering homicide data in 1989, we have found over 200 cases of intimate partner murder-suicide, and all but one involved a man killing his female partner. There has not been one single intimate partner murder-suicide, or murder-attempted suicide, in over 30 years that involved a woman killing her male partner.



## VIOLENCE FREE MINNESOTA

THE COALITION TO END RELATIONSHIP ABUSE

- Danicka Marie Bergeson's boyfriend had an extensive history of abusing her. He was arrested for assaulting her in April and May, and during the latter month, he threatened to kill her. Due to a plea deal for both of those assaults, he was released from jail and killed Danicka 11 days later.
- William Lamont Hudson was killed after a July 4 barbecue by his girlfriend's ex-boyfriend. When a man kills his ex-partner's new partner, it is a blatant act of power and control over his ex-partner. Since he cannot be with her, he does not want anyone else to be with her either.
- Darisha Tela Bailey Vath's ex-boyfriend was in a car with a male friend when the friend intentionally drove his vehicle into a group of people on July 16, striking Darisha and running her over. Friends and family say her death was premeditated and was caused by "her ex-boyfriend and his friend's actions."
- Jean Harriette Mart's husband hit her head against a granite floor, killing her, before going to bed. An autopsy report also revealed he had shot her in the head.

Violence Free Minnesota believes that we must explicitly name and address the oppressive dynamics that drive intimate partner homicide in our state, including belief systems, attitudes, and behaviors that normalize, condone, and encourage men's power and control over women.

To achieve a violence-free Minnesota, we must all work together to shift social norms and challenge systems of oppression that contribute to a sobering reality: in our past three decades of documenting intimate partner homicides, there has not been a single year in which we have recorded zero deaths.

### Resources:

- **DayOne** statewide domestic violence hotline: Call, 866-223-1111 and text, 612-399-9995
- Domestic violence **program listing**: [vfmn.org/find-a-program](https://vfmn.org/find-a-program)
- **Transforming Generations**, domestic violence program for Hmong community: 651-703-4169, and [transforminggenerations.org](https://transforminggenerations.org)
- Learn how to **address and prevent domestic violence**: [vfmn.org/get-help](https://vfmn.org/get-help).
- Connect with the **MN Men & Masculine Folks Network**, a community engagement effort aimed at ending gender-based violence through the prevention efforts of men, masculine, and male-identified folks:  
<https://www.menaspeacemakers.org/mmfj>