



## **Statement in Response: Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence commends U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in U.S. v. Rahimi for protecting survivors from gun violence**

In a landmark 8-1 decision on Friday, June 21, 2024, the [United States Supreme Court](#) upheld a significant gun control law by [ruling in favor](#) of restricting access to firearms for domestic violence abusers in the case of [U.S. vs. Rahimi](#). This case challenged the constitutionality of a federal law [[18 U.S.C. 922\(g\)\(8\)](#)] prohibiting individuals subject to qualifying domestic abuse civil protection orders from possessing firearms. This common-sense ruling is a critical acknowledgment that abuse survivors need multiple and timely options for safety and marks a decades-old recognition of the increased risk of harm when guns are involved.

Staggering statistics confirm that domestic abusers with guns create an extraordinary public safety threat to victims, families, law enforcement, and communities. [One in two women](#) in the United States experience intimate partner violence in their lifetime. Although the number of women and children threatened and terrorized by guns dramatically exceeds the number of domestic abuse homicides, the presence of guns makes it [five times](#) more likely a female partner will be murdered.

Guns kill [55% of women](#) murdered by an intimate partner, including [75% of Black female](#) homicide victims in 2020, and cause nearly two-thirds of related [child fatalities](#). Responding to domestic abuse routinely accounts for the highest number of service-related [fatalities for police officers](#). And tragically, over two-thirds of [mass shootings](#) have a connection to domestic violence.

Civil protection orders cannot guarantee safety for victims – no law can. However, civil protection orders restricting violent partners from having guns can save lives by offering a timely option for legal protection from urgent threats to safety. The Court recognized what victim service providers know about the important role civil protection orders can play as part of a larger safety plan. While this ruling provides widespread relief, it also underscores persistent challenges faced by crime victims seeking support. [Iowa victim service providers](#) will continue to advocate tirelessly for policies that prioritize survivor safety and for increased funding for crime victim services to ensure statewide access to support.

This case was about so much more than either domestic violence or guns. This case was about ensuring the U.S. Constitution continues to allow policymakers to address crisis levels of violence eroding our collective freedom to live safely in our homes and communities. The destruction of lives that occurs at the intersection of guns and domestic violence – two dangerous public health crises in this country – threatens *all of us*. The United States Supreme Court's decision provides clarity in confirming that the U.S. Constitution does not render elected officials powerless to protect people from violence and *should not* be used to undermine policies protecting the best interest of public safety or the rights of abusers over survivor safety.

**– Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence**