

Ashli Alexander

Platform: Diminishing Domestic Violence against Women

Leadership, compassion, and camaraderie are a few of the things I have learned through these short 17 years that I have walked this Earth. I hope to add courage to my list after this experience that I am sure I will enjoy very much. As a junior in high school I know that I am probably at one of the hardest steps that I will have to take coming from child to adult with added responsibility. I am very grateful to be able to participate in the Miss Mahogany Scholarship Pageant. I chose "Diminishing Domestic Violence against Women" as my platform for the simple fact that domestic violence has been in America's history since its beginning and the change that it needs has been long coming.

As we all know domestic violence should be paid much more attention than it has been. All over America from home, school, and in everyday living women and girls are being abused domestically by men and in some cases other women. Not only is this morally incorrect it also adds to the instability that other countries see in the U.S. As a young woman I believe that there can be a substantial change in the attention paid to these women.

Across America there are many battered women's shelters but the fact that they exist is not enough to bring in the women young and old who need help and attention. Just like dentist offices post ads on billboards and buses these shelters should be funded to do the same. Every woman is someone's daughter and many are mothers, sisters, aunts, and nieces. People should place themselves in the shoes of these beautiful women's families, close nit or not every person is special to someone and we are all special to God. It is understood that change this immense cannot be made within the blink of an eye but the fact that these institutions are willing to change means so much to the victims, their families, and others who love them.

The major issue with these institutions dedicated to catering battered women is the detail that many people do not know they even exist. Support from outsiders may just be the thing to help these women remove themselves from these abusive and life threatening situations. Through the help and support of the entire country I believe that a ground shaking change can be made in the amount of women hurt mentally and physically in America. In order for this change to come about it has to be wanted and I am sure that it is. Living and loving should be what people see when they think of America and not the killing and crying that they witness on television.