

For Immediate Release

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DOVE Welcomes Mick Hirsch as New Permanent Executive Director

DOVE is the only domestic violence shelter and community-based service provider based in Norfolk County

QUINCY, MA – Following an extensive professional search process, DOVE, Inc. welcomes Mick Hirsch as its new permanent Executive Director. This strategic leadership appointment aligns with DOVE's commitment to expanding its reach and strengthening its sustainable model to help more of those in need with essential services and with secure, safe, and stable housing.

Hirsch brings over two decades of experience in violence prevention, trauma recovery, and humanitarian leadership. Most recently, he served as Executive Director of the Monadnock Center for Violence Prevention in New Hampshire, where he led initiatives to combat domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking through direct services and prevention education.

An active community leader, Mick serves on multiple regional coalitions, committees, and advocacy groups, while also engaging the public through speaking engagements and media outreach to advance awareness and support for violence prevention.

"We are thrilled to welcome Mick Hirsch to take the helm at DOVE. Mick's innovative fundraising strategies, operational expertise, and dedication to empowering vulnerable populations make him uniquely qualified to lead DOVE in its mission," said Stephanie Neal-Johnson, Chair of the DOVE Board of Directors. "DOVE has evolved and grown, and I know that Mick is the right choice to guide our work to the next level and help as many people as possible."

A Career Committed to Social Justice and Advocacy

Prior to his time at Monadnock, Hirsch served as President and Executive Director of THRIVEGulu, an international humanitarian organization supporting trauma recovery, gender equity, and economic empowerment for survivors of sexual violence in Uganda from 2017-2023. Under his leadership, the organization expanded its impact through a five-year strategic plan, modernized communications and operations, and developed culturally inclusive, evidence-based programs.

Hirsch also has extensive experience in refugee advocacy and program management. As the Refugee Program Manager for UNHCR and HAGAR International in Cambodia, he designed and implemented a nationwide humanitarian program, ensuring refugees had access to healthcare, economic self-sufficiency programs, and literacy initiatives. His work also included specialized support for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence and advocacy for refugees' legal rights. Earlier in his career, he contributed to refugee resettlement efforts at the International Institute of New England in Lowell, coordinating housing, education, and employment programs while administering grant aid and teaching cultural orientation courses.

Mick's background also reflects a compassionate approach to community development and spiritual care. His previous experience as an oncology chaplain at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

involved supporting patients and families navigating cancer diagnoses, contributing to interdisciplinary healthcare teams, and promoting staff well-being.

Academic Contributions and Public Engagement

Trained as a pastoral counselor at the Yale University Divinity School and later as a psychiatric chaplain at the Georgia Center for Care and Counseling and as a global mental health specialist at the Harvard Program in Refugee Trauma, Mick has focused his 23-year career on bringing hope and healing to survivors of sexual- and gender-based violence.

His holistic approach to trauma recovery is evident in his service as psychiatric chaplain at the Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center in Hartford, CT and as Adjunct Professor in the Department of Holocaust & Genocide Studies at Keene State College. Across his work, Mick prioritizes gender equity, risk management, child protection, disability rights, and support for immigrant and refugee communities.

About DOVE, Inc.

DOVE (DOMestic Violence Ended), Inc. is a leading organization dedicated to providing comprehensive support to individuals affected by domestic violence. Through crisis intervention, housing assistance, legal advocacy, and prevention education, DOVE works to create safe, sustainable futures for survivors and their families. For more information, visit dovema.org.