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NEWS RELEASE

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UM WOMEN PREPARE TO 'TAKE BACK THE NIGHT'

MISSOULA—

The University of Montana Women's Resource Center will team up with other community groups for the annual "Take Back the Night" rally Friday, April 18, on the Missoula County Courthouse lawn.

Speakers kick off the rally at 7 p.m., and a march through the downtown area will follow.

The Women's Center and the "We Are Missoula" Coalition – including YWCA Missoula, the Student Assault Resource Center, the Western Montana Gay and Lesbian Community Center and Forward Montana – will specifically address violence that, organizers say, makes women think twice before walking Missoula's streets alone after dark.

"We hope the community will join us to reclaim our streets for survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence and bias crimes," said Rachel Wanderscheid, a UM student organizing the event.

The rally will concentrate on all forms of violence against women, ranging from domestic abuse to rape to random assaults committed because of a person's sexual orientation or gender.

For more information call the Women's Center at 406-243-4153 or the Western Montana Gay and Lesbian Community Center at 406-543-6691.

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