



Frequently Asked Questions

Why do women straw buy guns for men?

Women are easy prey for men willing to exploit them to buy, hide and carry guns illegally. They think they're in love. They plan to "ride or die"—stand by their man until the end of the line. They need money, protection, or prestige. They have low self-esteem. They're afraid to say no. Often, they have no idea of the consequences. We know a woman who straw bought guns for Pampers. "Three Dollar Mary" bought guns for beer. Instead of judging them, we need to show them a better way.

How does LIPSTICK reach women?

It's all about peer-to-peer education, outreach and leadership development. We reach women where they are: domestic violence and homeless shelters; churches, community centers; beauty salons; schools; public housing; and more. Our workshops and events train hundreds of women. Our mass transit billboard campaign—the first of its kind in the country—warns thousands of riders with the message: *His Crime, Your Time: Holding his gun can land you in jail.*

How do you know you're making a difference?

Boston's District Attorney credits LIPSTICK with a 1/3 drop in gun crimes by women. Thousands of women have taken The Pledge not to buy, hide or hold guns illegally, and they're getting their daughters, sisters and girlfriends to sign too. Women who were part of the problem are now part of the solution. "If I knew then what I know now," said one former gun smuggler now a LIPSTICK leader, "I would've made different choices." These women are creating a new social norm that says, "We refuse to be used to take a life."

Where do you get your funding?

From foundations, corporate sponsors, and YOU! Please consider giving to LIPSTICK today at www.operationlipstick.org.