

Fierce Boxing Rivals Leave the Punches for the Ring to Stand Up to Abuse in Sport

Advocates Heather Hardy and Shelly Vincent Team Up with the U.S. Center for SafeSport

DENVER, COLO., UNITED STATES, October 26, 2018 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Professional boxers [Heather Hardy](#) and [Shelly Vincent](#) are no strangers to throwing punches in the ring, but just days ahead of their long-awaited

rematch at Madison Square Garden, the outspoken fighters announced they would put down their gloves to unite with [the U.S. Center for SafeSport](#) and share the importance of athlete well-being through abuse-prevention in sport.



"As a sexual assault survivor, I really appreciate the crucial work the U.S. Center of SafeSport is doing by educating athletes on what all forms of abuse look like and providing crucial resources that empower athletes," said professional boxer and MMA fighter Heather Hardy. "Through their efforts I've learned so much about abuse-prevention and encourage young women and girls, especially in male-dominated sports like boxing, to familiarize themselves with the Center and its important mission."

"The competitive nature of sport provides an environment where unacceptable behavior is often swept under the rug," said professional boxer and advocate Shelly Vincent. "I know first-hand that athletes are hesitant to step up and say anything because they fear retaliation. The U.S. Center for SafeSport is changing the game by providing accessible abuse-prevention resources and working diligently to make sure the well-being of athletes is a priority."

"Partnering with Heather and Shelly as they're making history is an honor," said Shellie Pfohl, CEO of the U.S. Center for SafeSport. "They understand the importance and positive impacts of speaking up and out against abuse. We're thrilled to have such fierce fighters of advocacy in our corner."

As an independent non-profit headquartered in Denver, the Center provides services to sport entities on abuse prevention techniques, policies and programs, and provides a safe, professional and confidential place for individuals to report sexual abuse within the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movements.

Hardy and Vincent will box on Oct. 27 at the Hulu Theater at Madison Square Garden in New York. The fight will be telecast by HBO. It's the second women's boxing fight of more than 1,100 matches aired in the network's history.

About the U.S. Center for SafeSport

The Center is the first and only national organization of its kind focused on ending all forms of abuse in sport while carrying out its mission of making athlete well-being the centerpiece of our nation's sports culture through abuse prevention, education and accountability. As an independent non-profit headquartered in Denver, CO, the Center provides services to sport

entities on abuse prevention techniques, policies and programs and provides a safe, professional and confidential place for individuals to report sexual abuse within the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movements. For more information please visit www.safesport.org.

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