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## **GREENVILLE TEEN HOSTS SELF-DEFENSE WORKSHOP TO HELP LOWER DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RATES IN SOUTH CAROLINA**

*Greenville Tech Charter High School student Bayan Abunijem participated in the Riley Institute's Emerging Public Leaders program at Furman University*

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

GREENVILLE, S.C.—Bayan Abunijem, a senior at Greenville Tech Charter High School in Greenville, has organized a self-defense workshop to help lower domestic violence rates in South Carolina. It will take place Friday, November 2nd, 2 p.m. -3:30 p.m. at Furman University, 3300 Poinsett Hwy, Greenville, SC 29613.

The event, “Self-defense training women at Furman University” is open to the public. Bayan Abunijem is hosting this self-defense workshop as part of her service project for her participation in the Emerging Public Leaders program at Furman University’s Riley Institute and High School senior project.

Bayan is hosting this event in hopes to raise awareness about domestic violence in South Carolina and help women achieve certainty in their ability to protect themselves.

The self-defense workshop will be an hour and a half long and is open to women from all over the Greenville community. Abunijem has teamed up with The Raja Academy to help her professionally train the Greenville Community women. Sonay Browning, a Muay Thai Boxing instructor at The Raja Academy, will be leading the self-defense class. During the workshop, they will learn very basic self-defense moves that could help them protect themselves from domestic relationships and/or sexual assault.

After South Carolina ranked number one in the nation for deaths caused by domestic violence, Bayan Abunijem knew something had to be done. Abunijem said, “Seeing SC rank so high for deaths caused by domestic violence was not something I could ignore, so I decided to create this project in hopes of teaching women that they can fight back! Through the self-defense

workshop, I want women to gain confidence in their ability to stand up for themselves and lower SC's rank for deaths caused by domestic violence.”

EPL is made possible by generous sponsors including State Farm, Cox Industries, Walmart, and the Riley Institute at Furman University. For more information, contact Melanie Armstrong at Furman University, 864-921-8367, or Bayan Abunijem at 864-553-8602. Learn more about the Riley Institute’s Emerging Public Leaders program.

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