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Angie Rodgers:

We are here celebrating this day as a recognition of the importance of seeing something, speaking up, and saying something about world elder abuse.

Speaker 2:

This year was the sixth annual DES World Elder Abuse Awareness Conference.

Angie Rodgers:

So thankful for all the work that our teams in the Division of Aging and Adult Services do to protect vulnerable adults and to all of you who are being aware in your communities about abuse.

Speaker 2:

This year's theme was, 'Be the One'. Advocates from all over the state gathered to share strategies to translate that awareness into action.

Katie Hobbs:

Last year, we launched the Speak Up AZ! Campaign to educate and bring awareness of elder abuse to Arizonans across the state. This was a critical step in tackling this issue because elder abuse can be incredibly difficult to identify. But the point of the Speak Up AZ! Campaign is to make sure every Arizonan feels empowered to report mistreatment or misconduct.

Rebecca Clayton:

We are 200 plus people here today, going to breakout sessions, learning about various aspects of a really complicated problem. But what we can do is to show up, listen, learn, take that information, bring it back to our communities, bring it back to our peers, and make a difference for somebody who might not be able to defend themselves or protect themselves.

Peggy Jo Archer:

Many elders grew up in times when discussing family issues were taboo and stigma to act as a barrier. Many cultures elders are viewed and held at high esteem because they are the carriers of wisdom and knowledge. However, we do know that elder abuse happens. So one thing that I think you can do is really run with the theme of today's, 'Be the One'. If you recognize it, you see it, it doesn't sound right, be the one to say something.

Jean Steel:

It's a heavy job. It's overwhelming seeing with the eyes of another, listening with the ears of another and dealing with the heart of another. My message resonates with mail carriers, with police officers, with nurses, and with people who are in the trenches working with elder care abuse. So teaching them basic resilience skills of how to practice self-care, which helps their mental health, their physical health, their happiness levels.

Kris Mayes:

I am continually inspired by the work being done by all of you in this room every day to protect our seniors and other vulnerable adults.

Katie Hobbs:

None of the progress we've made would've been possible without all of you. Your tireless advocacy, passion and commitment to care directly led to these changes. Please give yourselves a round of applause.