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For Immediate Release

Contact: Lilly Talbert, Communications Coordinator
Phone: 802-828-2841

STATE WOMEN'S COMMISSION HOSTS PUBLIC FORUM AT THE WOMEN'S FILM FESTIVAL IN BRATTLEBORO

(Brattleboro, Vermont): The Vermont Commission on Women, a non-partisan state agency dedicated to legislative, economic, social, and political fairness is partnering with the Women's Film Festival, the longest-running festival in New England with films mostly by and always about women, to present a public forum Saturday, March 26, 3:00 pm at The New England Youth Theatre, 100 Flat Street, Brattleboro, as part of the festival's closing day activities.

This forum presents an opportunity for the women of Southern Vermont to address some of the issues the festival's films have brought up, and to voice concerns they may have in their own lives.

Vermont's policy leaders, including legislators and state government officials, as well as staff from local community organizations, are eager to hear women speak about economic security, health care, work-life balance, educational attainment, women the military, and the concerns of young women. Thoughts and comments will help shape the Vermont Commission on Women's policy work for women and families.

The event is free and open to the public. A reception featuring food from local restaurants will follow the forum. Special bonus: the audience favorite "Best in Fest" film will be shown at 6:45.

Launched in 1964 by a call to action from President Kennedy, VCW is charged with reducing discrimination and encouraging opportunities for women. Volunteer commissioners and representatives from organizations concerned with women's issues guide the commission's public education, coalition building, and advocacy efforts. VCW offers many services to the public, including a toll-free information and referral service at 1-800-881-1561. For more information, visit www.women.state.vt.us

The Women's Film Festival is the longest-running festival in New England dealing with films mostly by and always about women. It is 100% volunteer-run. All proceeds benefit the Women's Freedom Center (formerly Women's Crisis Center) which for more than 30 years has helped women and children escape violent situations and rebuild their lives. Since the festival was begun in 1992, it has raised more than \$120,000 for the center. Please see the festival website for more details, news, potential interview contacts and additional events: www.womensfilmfestival.org