

# The Source

Summer 2005

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Michigan Resource Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence

## In Brief: Violence Against Women and the Role of Religion

By Rev. Dr. Marie Fortune and Rabbi Cindy G. Enger  
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Religion is a personal and institutional reality in the lives of the majority of the population in the U.S., so it is no surprise that religious teaching and affiliation provide a significant context for many women as they address experiences of victimization. Through texts, traditions, teachings and doctrine, religious communities and institutions convey values and belief systems to their members. In addition, members often have direct support or counseling relationships with religious leaders who may provide guidance or instruction. Religious texts and teachings can serve as resources to assist those who have experienced abuse in finding safety and in the process of healing. Yet, religion also can be misused to excuse or condone abusive behavior. In the context of violence against women, religious teachings and communities will play a role; they will never be neutral.

*Violence Against Women and the Role of Religion* covers some of the basic issues and questions that confront religiously identified women who have experienced abuse. The reality is that regardless of the particular religious affiliation, alongside the trauma of violence, a majority of women will be dealing with some aspect of religious beliefs and teachings which will serve either as a resource or a roadblock.

The task for both religious and secular leadership is twofold: 1) to recognize that religious beliefs, texts, and teachings can serve both as roadblocks and as resources for victims of violence and 2) to deepen our examination of religious texts and teachings and explore new interpretations so that we minimize the roadblocks and maximize the resources for women. No woman should ever be forced to choose between safety and her religious community or tradition. She should be able to access the resources of both community-based advocacy and shelter and faith-based support and counsel.

To adequately respond to the needs of battered women and rape victims, it is imperative that clergy learn about violence against women and reach out to secular advocates and services. Likewise, it is imperative that secular advocates and counselors appreciate the importance of women's religious backgrounds and reach out to clergy and religious groups to find resources to meet the needs of victims. Religious leaders also can utilize their positions as community leaders to help shape the discussion of issues concerning violence against women.

To access a full copy of this report, please visit [http://www.vawnet.org/DomesticViolence/Research/VAWnetDocs/AR\\_VAWReligion.pdf](http://www.vawnet.org/DomesticViolence/Research/VAWnetDocs/AR_VAWReligion.pdf).

## Religion and Violence Against Women Resources

Available to borrow from the Michigan Resource Center on Domestic & Sexual Violence

### Print Resources:

- Ending Violence in Teen Dating Relationships: A Resource Guide for Parents and Pastors
- Domestic Violence: What Every Pastor Needs to Know
- Through the Fire: Spiritual Restoration for Adult Victims of Childhood Sexual Abuse
- Violence in the Family: A Workshop Curriculum for Clergy and Other Helpers
- Keeping the Faith: Questions and Answers for the Abused Woman

### Video Resources:

- Broken Vows: Religious Perspectives on Domestic Violence (Study Guide Included)
- Intersections: Michigan Clergy Discuss Issues of Race, Faith and Sexuality
- When You Preach...Remember Me
- Not In My Congregation
- Hear Their Cries: Religious Responses to Child Abuse
- La Confianza Perdida (Spanish Language

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1-800-799-SAFE (7233)  
TTY 1-800-787-3224

Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN)  
1-800-656-HOPE (4673)

## New Print Resources

- **Patriarchy Matters: Toward a Gendered Theory of Teen Violence and Victimization**
- **Women's Stay-Leave Decisions in Relationships Involving Intimate Partner Violence**
- **The Complete Guide to Mental Health For Women**
- **White Privilege and Male Privilege: A Personal Account of Coming to See Correspondence Through Work in Women's Studies**
- **How Connections Heal: Stories From Relational-Cultural Therapy**
- **The Complexity of Connection**
- **Adolescent Boys: Exploring Diverse Cultures of Boyhood**
- **How to Start Your Own Self-Help Group**
- **Diversity Training Resource Manual for Victim Care Providers**
- **Healing Through Group Writing**

## Building Comprehensive Solutions to Domestic Violence Initiative Releases New Publication

The National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, through its Building Comprehensive Solutions to Domestic Violence Initiative (BCS), announced the release of its 18<sup>th</sup> policy paper, *Economic Education Programs for Battered Women: Lessons Learned from Two Settings* by Katie Ciorba VonDeLinde and Amy Correia.

*Economic Education Programs for Battered Women* discusses economic education, also called "financial or economic literacy." The discussion describes well-established economic education programs based in domestic violence agencies in Iowa and Missouri and explores the effects of different settings on program development and evolution. The authors share the lessons learned from these programs' experiences and key issues to consider when developing economic education programs for battered women. The paper also includes an appendix by Laurie Holmes describing the Personal Economic Planning Curriculum published by Elizabeth Stone House in 1997.

The Building Comprehensive Solutions to Domestic Violence Policy and Practice Series explores the intersection of domestic violence and poverty, and calls for collaboration and advocacy to meet battered women's safety, financial, and other needs. Recent papers discuss how domestic violence programs can support battered women's financial stability, and how to integrate anti-poverty work into advocacy.

*Economic Education Programs for Battered Women* and the BCS policy series are available at [www.vawnet.org](http://www.vawnet.org) or [www.nrcdv.org](http://www.nrcdv.org).

## Nonprofit Good Practice Guide

The Nonprofit Good Practice Guide captures and organizes good practices to assist nonprofits and foundations in improving their efficiency and effectiveness. The free online Guide provides nearly 7,000 tips and resources organized within ten topic areas including Accountability and Evaluation, Advocacy, Communications and Marketing, Foundations and Grantmaking, Fundraising and Financial Sustainability, Governance, Management and Leadership, Staff Development and Organizational Capacity, Technology, and Volunteer Management. "Training Essentials" within each topic area offer a framework for capacity building and staff training. Visit the online guide at <http://www.npgoodpractice.org>.

## The Use of Expert Witnesses in Cases Involving Sexual Assault

Based on the widespread and powerful rape myths in society, jurors often have certain expectations about the dynamics of sexual assault, including stereotypes about victims and perpetrators. As described by Estrich (1987), jurors expect the case to fit their stereotype of "real rape," with a violent rape being perpetrated by a stranger, in a dark alley, using a weapon, and resulting in physical injury. Jurors expect the victim to be extremely emotional or hysterical after the incident and then report it to police immediately. When presented with a case and victim that do not fit this stereotype, jurors may doubt the credibility of the victim and the veracity of the case. It can therefore be extremely helpful for jurors to have a sexual assault expert explain the realistic dynamics of the crime and common reactions of victims. The report, *The Use of Expert Witnesses in Cases Involving Sexual Assault*, primarily focuses on expert testimony that is provided for the prosecution in a criminal case and discusses the general dynamics of sexual assault and common reactions of victims. This paper was written both on the basis of a literature review of published material and contributions provided by numerous experts in the field.

Ultimately, it is expected that expert witnesses will be used increasingly in cases involving sexual assault. This resource offers advice on how to proceed carefully to insure that expert witnesses are used in responsible ways that truly assist both individual victims as well as the criminal and civil court systems. For a full copy of this report, please visit <http://www.vaw.umn.edu/documents/commissioned/svandexpertwitnesses/svandexpertwitnesses.pdf>.

## A Guide for Friends and Family of Sexual Violence Survivors

This 23-page guide contains a general overview of sexual violence information and is an excellent resource for significant others of victims and anyone new to the field. It includes details about the immediate concerns when dealing with a recently victimized person, tips for communicating with victims, basic explanations of sexual violence (including child sexual abuse, male sexual violence and acquaintance rape). Also included are common myths and facts, answers to common questions and concerns, descriptions of possible long-term effects, information on how significant others can be affected, and risk reduction strategies. To borrow this resource, please contact the Michigan Resource Center at (517) 381-4663.

## New FRONTLINE Series

**I**n January 2001, five-year-old Logan Marr was found dead in the basement of her foster mother's home in Chelsea, Maine. The foster mother, Sally Schofield, was a highly respected former caseworker for Maine's Department of Human Services. FRONTLINE: Failure to Protect: The Taking of Logan Marr examines the girl's short, troubled life and asks a series of tough questions: Why was a little girl who had never been abused taken from her birth mother? Was her mother given a real opportunity to regain custody? Did the state miss significant clues that she was in danger? Through extensive interviews with key figures involved in the case—including exclusive access to Schofield herself—FRONTLINE rewinds the story to look closely at the events that led up to Logan's death—from the state's decision to remove her from her birth mother's home, to her troubled decline and eventual death in foster care.

In "The Caseworker Files," FRONTLINE follows caseworkers in Maine's Department of Human Services as they confront the heart wrenching decision of whether or not to remove children from their homes.

This video also includes Failure to Protect: A National Dialogue which features child welfare experts as they gradually—and sometimes uncertainly—work their way through the various steps of the child welfare decision-making process. To borrow these videos, please contact the Michigan Resource Center at (517) 381-4663.

## Internet Safety

**T**here's no denying that it is a scary world when it comes to children and the Internet. This outstanding curriculum is a "must-have" for educators, trainers, and others who are entrusted with keeping our children safe. Designed with safety in mind and loaded with useful content, this interactive curriculum is divided into four parts: "Click on Safety" for grades 4-6; "Techknowledgy" for grades 7-8; a Parent's Program; and a Teacher's Program. Programs for students contain assignments to test their problem-solving and Internet skills and provide them with action steps for reporting inappropriate activities. Adult programs are intended to present important information to assist them in understanding the Internet and its potential dangers to unsupervised children, while providing reassurance that the Internet is a tool that can provide access to a vast and exciting world of knowledge, fun, and resources. To borrow this resource, please contact the Michigan Resource Center at (517) 381-4663.

## Project Access: Helping Programs Serve Survivors of Sexual Assault with Disabilities

**P**roject Access, a program of the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA), is a collaboration of several national and state organizations addressing violence against women and disabilities.

The goals of *Project Access* are to create greater options, services and remedies for women with disabilities experiencing sexual assault, stalking and/or domestic violence. The project will challenge barriers that exist within the service provider community and public institutions that limit women with disabilities who have experienced violence from accessing services. Project Access will also create a national coordinated response among service providers, advocate for persons with disabilities with policy makers to enhance support for survivors with disabilities.

*Project Access* will expand a National Clearinghouse on violence against women with disabilities and publish a monthly e-newsletter with resources for agencies to help serve women with disabilities who have experienced violence. The e-newsletter, *Access News*, is available by e-mailing [projectaccess@calcasa.org](mailto:projectaccess@calcasa.org).

*Project Access* also convened a task force of national experts from the field to create a list of recommendations for service providers who want to reach out to women with disabilities and women who are deaf. For a copy of the report, *Creating Access: Serving Survivors of Sexual Assault with Disabilities*, please contact the Michigan Resource Center at (517) 381-4663.

## Let's Get Real

**N**ame-calling and bullying have reached epidemic proportions in schools today. *Let's Get Real* gives young people the chance to speak up in their own words about the real issues behind the problem. With amazing courage and candor, the students featured in this video discuss racial differences, perceived sexual orientation, disabilities, religious differences, sexual harassment and more. From the youth who are targeted to the students who pick on them to those who find the courage to intervene, *Let's Get Real* examines bullying from the full range of perspectives. This poignant film educates audiences of all ages about why we can no longer accept name-calling and bullying as just a normal rite of passage. To borrow this resource, please contact the Michigan Resource Center at (517) 381-4663.

## New Video Resources

- **A Survivor's Story**
- **PowerPlays: Violence in Relationships Education Program**
- **Hope of Awakening: Empowering Victims of Domestic Violence**
- **Abused Boys, Wounded Men: Taking Responsibility for Ending the Cycle of Pain**
- **Speaking of Money: A Guide to Fundraising for Nonprofit Board Members**
- **Let's Get Real**
- **That's a Family**

Visit us on the Web!



Access the entire Resource Center collection and order materials online at [www.mcadsv.org/mrcdsv](http://www.mcadsv.org/mrcdsv)

**The Michigan Resource Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence is a collaboration of the Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board and the Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.**

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**Grief at Work: A Manual of Policies and Practices**

This 100-page manual addresses grief arising from the death of employees, the death of a family member of employees, and the long-term illness of employees or their family members. It provides guidance for managers, human resource personnel and employee assistance professionals. Specific topics include corporate policies for grieving employees; crisis planning; helping the bereaved return to work; dealing with death at the worksite; the role of supervisors, human resource managers, and employee assistance professionals; and conceptual models of the grief process. The appendix includes a detailed outline for a six-week seminar that can be conducted for grieving employees in the workplace. To borrow this resource, please contact the Michigan Resource Center at (517) 381-4663.

**Empowerment Evaluation: Principles in Practice**

*Empowerment Evaluation: Principles in Practice* presents the most current formulation of the 10 principles of empowerment evaluation and provides professionals and students with the tools to put these principles into practice. Empowerment evaluation signals the end of the days when evaluation was done in isolation of staff members and program participants. The “new age” of evaluation enables groups to achieve programmatic goals by putting the power in the hands of those individuals who know their programs and have a stake in seeing the programs succeed. The authors, David M. Fetterman and Abraham Wandersman, give us the principles and the tools to build stronger communities through empowerment evaluation and to develop systems that incorporate evidence-based strategies. This text is easy to use and takes the reader from an overview of classic evaluation methods to the heart of empowerment for success. To borrow this resource, please contact the Michigan Resource Center at (517) 381-4663.

**Teen Coalition Against Sexual Assault**

The Teen Coalition Against Sexual Assault (Teen CASA) became an intricate part of the North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NCCASA) in April of 2003. What makes Teen CASA so unique is the amount of hands on involvement by teens. The project consists of a diverse group of teens, working together to create brochures, magazines, posters and other unique items geared towards educating young adults and encouraging healthy discussion on sexual violence prevention. For more information, please visit <http://www.teencasa.org/teen/index.htm>.

**Top Coaches From Every Level Across Major Sports Team Up To Stop Dating Violence and Abuse**

Aggression may win you points on the field or on the court, but outside of sports, that behavior is not tolerated. For the first time, coaches from every level and from every major sport are coming off the sidelines and taking an offensive role in preventing violence and sexual assault in dating relationships through the *Coaching Boys into Men Playbook*.

The *Coaching Boys into Men Playbook* is the first tool to engage both coaches and young athletes in the prevention of this nationwide problem. According to a recent survey about teen relationship abuse:

- More than half of teens (57 percent) know friends or peers who have been physically, sexually or verbally abused.
- 13 percent of teen girls in a relationship admit to being physically hurt or hit.
- More than one in four teen girls (26 percent) in a relationship reports enduring or repeated verbal abuse.
- One in four teenage girls who have been in a relationship reveal they have been pressured to perform oral sex or engage in intercourse.

Based on input from coaches and athletes, the playbook offers coaches a step-by-step approach on how to discuss dating violence and sexual assault with their players. From the motivational speech on the first day of practice to post-season activities, the guide shows how to incorporate positive, anti-violence messages in season or practice plans. Whether it’s on a weekly, daily or as-needed basis, the playbook provides suggested dialogue, tips and “teachable moments” on how to approach players, in the locker room, in practice and in play. It slides easily into a coach’s pocket and reads like a sports playbook.

The playbook will initially be distributed to high school sports coaches nationwide in partnership with the National High School Athletic Coaches Association and can be downloaded at [www.founding-fathers.org](http://www.founding-fathers.org).

**The (Help!) I-Don’t-Have Enough-Time Guide to Volunteer Management**

This book presents a step-by-step framework for creating a team approach to volunteer management. With this realistic, no-nonsense book, you’ll learn how to map the boundaries of your job and clarify expectations; find administrative volunteers and put them to work in vital ways; and share ownership and the work of the volunteer program with everyone in your organization. To borrow this resource, please contact the Michigan Resource Center at (517) 381-4663.