

The Source

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

Ending Violence Against Women Must Be A Global Priority

Reprinted and adapted from the December 16th, 2003 edition of "News Flash" (<http://www.fvpf.org/newsflash>), an online newsletter of the Family Violence Prevention Fund

One in three women around the world will be raped, beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused during her lifetime, and countries are not doing enough to stop the violence. This is the conclusion of *Not A Minute More: Ending Violence Against Women*, a new report released last month by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). The report finds that, despite progress at the international, national and grassroots levels to address gender-based violence, there has not been a dramatic reduction in violence against women.

"We must make the eradication of violence against women a serious global priority. Clearly efforts so far have brought results—there are better legal frameworks and policies, awareness and partnerships, including with men and youth," said Noeleen Heyzer, UNIFEM Executive Director. "And yet, women do not appear to be substantively more free from violence than they were a decade ago. We are walking up a down escalator. There are structures and processes that generate violence. We need to break the cycle of violence by ensuring that women have the voice and power to assert their priorities in an increasingly violent world."

Not A Minute More is designed to provide advocates who are working to end violence against women with a snapshot of what has been achieved so far and what more remains to be done to end violence. The report charts the progress of the movement to eliminate gender-based violence and highlights successful violence prevention initiatives that have been implemented in countries around the world. It looks at the challenges the movement will face in the future, including globalization and the spread of HIV/AIDS, and it offers recommendations to develop a

universal framework to eliminate violence against women.

The report is based on a series of regional reviews of violence prevention efforts conducted by UNIFEM in 2002. The reviews looked at the prevalence of violence against women and explored the efforts that have been made to eliminate gender-based violence and raise awareness of the issue. UNIFEM released the report to coincide with International Women's Day on November 25. It also marks the tenth anniversary of the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights, when women's advocates succeeded in placing women's rights issues on the international agenda for the first time.

Gender Inequality and Violence Against Women

Violence against women is "the most universal and unpunished crime of all," states *Not A Minute More*. Despite progress in raising awareness about violence against women globally, the challenges to eliminating violence are "more complex and the resistance to change, the backlash against the empowerment of women more blatant and the methods used to uphold the status quo more sophisticated and insidious" according to the report.

Violence against women is linked to the status of women worldwide. To date, at least 45 nations have specific legislation on domestic violence, 21 more are drafting new laws, and many others have amended criminal assault laws to include abuse. But, the report states, legislation and policies alone are insufficient tools to eliminate gender-based violence because it is linked to systemic gender discrimination and societal norms that devalue women. "Solving the problem of violence requires solving the problem of gender inequality," according to *Not A Minute More*.

"Gender inequality fuels violence against women and the power imbalances it creates are not easily rectified," writes Heyzer in the Preface of *Not A Minute More*. "As long as women in diverse countries do not have access to property and employment and equal wages, to the seats of power, to education, it is possible for governments to ignore them and their needs. Our work to end

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A Place to Start: A Resource Kit for Preventing Sexual Violence

www.health.state.mn.us/svprevent

This FREE, in-depth, online manual includes information & strategies for preventing sexual violence for a variety of community members.

New Books

Available to borrow from the Michigan Resource Center

- **Boys Will Be Boys: Breaking the Link Between Masculinity and Violence**
- **Can't Buy My Love: How Advertising Changes the Way We Think and Feel**
- **Controlling People: How to Recognize, Understand, and Deal with People Who Try to Control You**
- **Colonize This! Young Women of Color on Today's Feminism**
- **Women On War: An International Anthology of Writings From Antiquity to the Present**
- **How to Stop a Stalker**
- **Creating Partnerships with Faith Communities to End Sexual Violence**
- **Stalking: Psychology, Risk Factors, Interventions, and the Law**
- **Screening Your Patients for Sexual Assault: A Guide for Health Care Professionals**
- **May I Kiss You?**
- **Sexual Assault Crisis Centers in the United States: 2003**

violence against women must be a conscious part of our work towards the empowerment of women in general.”

Eliminating Violence Against Women

Eliminating violence against women requires a “coordinated and sustained effort on many levels,” concludes *Not A Minute More*. This includes national governments and international organizations committing the necessary resources to fund violence prevention efforts. In 1996, UNIFEM established its Trust Fund to Eliminate Violence Against Women to fund efforts to eliminate gender-based violence around the world. The report also highlights other international organizations including the Inter-American Development Bank, and corporations including Liz Claiborne and The Body Shop, that provide resources to violence prevention efforts. But, despite these efforts, the “scale of the problem vastly exceeds these modest beginnings,” states *Not A Minute More*. “Greater investment is clearly needed.”

But ending violence against women requires more than a financial investment and the allocation of resources. The report offers ten recommendations to help create a framework to end gender-based violence around the world:

- **Data Collection and Research**—The report calls for national and international efforts to analyze data and research violence against women globally, as well as efforts to evaluate the efficacy of prevention initiatives.
- **Training**—All judges, prosecutors, law enforcement officers and others involved in the criminal justice system must be trained on violence against women and gender inequality.
- **Prevention Strategies**—These are “an essential component” of national plans to stop violence against women and should be aimed at women and men of all ages, states the report.
- **Public Awareness**—The report calls for campaigns to make women aware of their rights, to teach men about the legal and personal consequences of committing violence, and to educate the public about the devastating impact violence against women has on society.
- **Women’s Economic and Political Empowerment**—Economic independence and

political representation are “essential markers of gender equality” and necessary societal factors to help eliminate gender-based violence, according to the report.

- **Men’s Involvement and Responsibility**—Men can play a role in helping end violence against women by working with other men to teach them that abuse is wrong. Men’s involvement in violence prevention “holds great promise,” according to the report.
- **Community-Based Initiatives**—The report calls for community responses to gender-based violence that are aimed at transforming prevailing attitudes and norms, and are developed in coordination with social service providers, law enforcement and advocacy organizations.
- **Leadership**—“Leaders at all levels must speak up and join women in generating a momentum for ending violence against women,” states *Not A Minute More*.
- **Resources**—Governments, the international community and the private sector must contribute resources to efforts to end violence against women in order to develop sustainable and successful prevention efforts.
- **Partnerships**—Partnerships between governments, non-governmental organizations, advocacy groups, the private sector, the academic community and others are “extremely important” in efforts to end violence against women and develop successful violence prevention strategies, states the report.

“Progress depends on the ability to build on experience, to learn from each effort, no matter what the outcome... The progress made to date will help to chart future directions,” concludes *Not A Minute More*. “We need to expand proven strategies and develop new approaches so that women and men can turn hope into reality and truly live lives free of violence. We need to create a world where power and courage are honored in both women and men, and where both have the opportunity to reach their full potential.”

Not A Minute More: Ending Violence Against Women is available through UNIFEM’s web site: www.unifem.org.

New Video Resource for Parents

A new video, *Talk to Me: Talking to Your Teen about Teen Dating Violence and Sexual Assault*, is now available at the Resource Center. This video is an excellent guide for parents to talk with teenagers about sexual assault and dating violence issues. The 38-minute video offers communication tips to help parents effectively address these tough topics. Featuring realistic scenarios of parents talking with their teens, this film was made in Virginia with input by youth and adults who are working on this issue in their local communities.

National Coalition Against Violent Athletes

www.ncava.org

The NCAVA mission and purpose is to educate the public on a variety of issues regarding athletes and violent behavior, while also providing support to the victims, including but not limited to, advocacy, referrals, and research. Their Web site features articles, prevention materials and more.

Music Star Ashanti Raises Awareness About Abuse

Grammy Award winner Ashanti has taken a stand against domestic violence. The hip hop and rhythm & blues star is partnering with the Family Violence Prevention Fund (FVPF) to raise awareness about domestic abuse.

Ashanti's new music video, "Rain on Me," from the album Chapter II, deals directly and powerfully with domestic violence, telling the story of a woman who faces and then overcomes a violent relationship. The new music video is playing frequently on MTV, BET and other popular stations.

The 23-year-old singer is also speaking out against domestic violence in interviews with media of all kinds, in particular urging young women to get help and get out of violent relationships. Her public service announcement on domestic violence began airing in some 4,000 movie theaters around the country in October.

To expand its reach, the popular singer/songwriter has teamed with LidRock to produce a mini-movie version of the music video. It is available at lidrock.com for a \$5 contribution to help stop domestic violence.

"We wanted to make a short movie that was 'real'—that showed that, no matter if you're rich or poor, black or white, famous or not, domestic violence can touch your life," Ashanti said. The mini-movie is directed by Hype Williams and co-stars actor Larenz Tate.

"Ashanti wrote an amazing song that has incredible power and emotional resonance," said FVPF President Esta Soler. "The LidRock mini-movie enhances the song's power and its reach. We are so proud to partner with this talented star and with LidRock on a project that has such great potential to raise awareness and save lives."

More information and a preview of the mini-movie are available at www.lidrock.com. To borrow a copy of the mini-movie, contact the Resource Center.

Intimate Partner Homicide Featured in NIJ Journal

The November 2003 edition of the *National Institute of Justice Journal* details information on intimate partner homicide. According to the journal, intimate partner homicide—the killing of a spouse, ex-spouse, boyfriend, or girlfriend—has declined significantly in the past 25 years. The findings presented in the feature articles examine which women are most at risk for being a murder victim and consider policies that may explain the declines or result in further declines. The full text of the NIJ Journal is available online at: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/journals/jr000250.htm>.

¡Ubicate! Haz la Diferencia

A first-of-its-kind Spanish language short film by and for Latino youth has just been released by Casa De Esperanza. *¡Ubicate!, Haz la Diferencia (Find Yourself, Make a Difference)* centers on a high school classroom where students are discussing healthy and unhealthy relationships. Their responses take the film into four separate stories; each presents a different issue, such as teen dating violence, gender roles, communication, and peer pressure. *¡Ubicate!* is filled with colorful storytelling, mixed with local and national Latin/Hip-hop music, that gets teens to watch, address issues, and help make a difference.

¡Ubicate! sets the stage for straightforward discussion, and is a valuable tool for peer educators, teachers, churches, and domestic violence organizations. The companion Facilitator's Guide provides ideas for activities and discussion. For more information or to purchase this film, visit Casa De Esperanza on the Web at www.casadeesperanza.org. To borrow this material on video or DVD, contact the Resource Center.

New Nonprofit Resources

The following new resources for nonprofit organizations are now available at the Resource Center:

- *Opening Doors: Pathways to Diverse Donors* by Diana S. Newman is designed to help nonprofit organizations both understand the rich philanthropic traditions of diverse communities and develop effective outreach efforts. Based in solid research, the book is filled with practical strategies, suggestions, and action steps fundraisers can implement today.
- The second and updated edition of *Conducting A Successful Capital Campaign* by Kent E. Dove offers an expanded blueprint for planning and managing a successful capital campaign. In an all-new handbook format, this resource also includes a resource section with samples of a strategic plan, market surveys, case statements, financial reports, pledge forms, newsletters, programs, brochures and more.
- *The Nonprofit Membership Toolkit* by Ellis M. M. Robinson shows how to create, manage, and sustain a dynamic membership program that will help a social change organization thrive. Written for both new and well-established social change organizations, this book is grounded in proven marketing techniques. It gives managers and executive directors the information and tools needed to understand their current members and attract new ones. The companion Web site also helps readers design a program that can be adapted to meet the unique needs of their individual organization.

New Videos

Available to borrow from the Michigan Resource Center

- **The Wash: A Cleaning Story**
- **Dangerous Games: Power and Control in Teen Dating Relationships**
- **Twisted Love: Dating Violence Exposed (English and Spanish Subtitles)**
- **Senorita Extraviada, Missing Young Woman**
- **The Preachers: Working to End Sexual and Domestic Violence**
- **Sister, I'm Sorry**
- **You Deserve to Be Safe: Advice to a Girl**
- **Once Were Warriors**
- **Battered Mother's Testimony Project**
- **Victims and the Media: Covering the Rape Victim**
- **I Think Something Happened Last Night**
- **Screen to End Abuse: A Practical Approach to Addressing Domestic Violence in Primary Care Settings**
- **Wrestling With Manhood: Boys, Bullying & Battering (VHS and DVD formats)**

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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MICHIGAN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION & TREATMENT BOARD



MICHIGAN COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Resources Available Via Fax-on-Demand from the Michigan Resource Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence

The Resource Center staff is pleased to offer a selection of frequently requested materials and other important documents to our patrons via fax-on-demand. This technology will allow our patrons to have immediate and 24-hour access to resources.

Instructions for Using Fax-On-Demand:

- 1) To access the system, please pick up the handset or press the Hook (or Unhook) button on the fax machine.
- 2) Dial (517) 347-1060 (Do Not Press Start).
- 3) You will be prompted by a welcome message. Next, you will be asked to enter the two digit box number of the desired material, followed by the # sign. You may request up to five boxes during this session.
- 4) If you need another box number please enter the number followed by the # sign.
- 5) When finished with your session please press ##. Then, press the Start button to begin receiving your requested materials.

If you have any questions, need assistance or are having problems with the system, please call us at (517) 381-4663. We are more than happy to assist you.

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- 38 Religion and Violence Against Women and Children ^{UPDATED!}
- 39 Resources on Domestic Violence and Later Life: Print, Video and Web Resources (3 Bibliographies) ^{NEW!}

Resources for Michigan Service Providers

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- 42 Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Task Force Report and Recommendations Report from the Michigan Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Task Force April 2001
- 43 A Handbook for Survivors of Sexual Assault: A handbook for adult survivors of sexual assault in Michigan prepared by the Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
- 44 Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Brochure Resource List: brochure listing clearinghouses in Michigan and across the country.

Michigan Laws Handbook created by the Michigan Resource Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence ^{UPDATED!}

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