Ending Violence Against Women: The Her-story of Our Movement...Past, Present and Future

– By Tonya Lovelace

The purpose of this chapter is to identify key events in the her-story of the anti-violence against women movement that shape our present movement, to highlight issues of race, class and gender, and other identities that further impact our movement, and to share new directions for leadership and advocacy in defining the future of our movement.

The her-story of the anti-violence against women movement could be depicted as having started with the first rape crisis hotlines or first battered women’s shelters in the sixties. However, there are pivotal movements and events that occurred centuries before that laid the foundation for the present. See the timeline below:

Early Influences

| Foundation for attack on tribal sovereignty | 1492 – The beginning of colonialism and tyranny on the indigenous people of what is now called the Americas |
| Foundation for legal and social justification of battering | 1500s – Early settlers in North America base their laws on old English common-law that explicitly permits wife-beating for correctional purposes, with the guideline of using a switch no bigger than his thumb (rule of thumb) |
| Foundation for human bondage | 1600-1800s – Chattel Slavery is legalized and enforced |
| Foundation for women’s and civil rights movements | 1800s – Abolitionist Movement leads to the Suffrage Movement (First Wave) |
| Foundation for segregation | 1898 – Plessy vs. Ferguson establishes “separate but equal” |
| Foundation for women’s legal advocacy | 1919 – Passage of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote |
The “Battered Women’s Movement” Begins

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>1950s and 1960s</td>
<td>Criminal justice system incorporates crisis intervention as a “human program” to aid in “family squabbles.” Arrest is seen as inappropriate and officers are expected to mediate.</td>
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<td>1960s</td>
<td>The Civil Rights, Black Power, and Anti War movements lay a foundation for the Feminist Movement (Second Wave). Feminist Movement declares that the “personal is political,” including what occurs in the home.</td>
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<td>1963</td>
<td>Betty Friedan writes The Feminine Mystique discussing the discontent of middle-class White women assigned to “the home.” Consciousness-raising about sex roles and sexism begins.</td>
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<td>1967</td>
<td>Individual women begin helping women get safe from violence. “We will not be beaten” becomes the slogan for grassroots Battered Women’s Movement.</td>
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<td>1972</td>
<td>Maine opens one of the first battered women’s shelters in the U.S.</td>
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<td>1973</td>
<td>The first emergency rape crisis line opens in Washington, D.C.</td>
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<td>1973</td>
<td>St. Paul, MN is often credited with first battered women’s shelter – has collective model.</td>
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Funding Enters the Movement

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<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>Title XX and Comprehensive Education and Training Act (CETA) funds allow for first staffing of anti-violence against women programs. Shelters begin receiving Title XX money and some workers start calling battered women “clients.” More attention is given to individual counseling and less attention is given to group sharing, peer support and self-advocating. Title XX and CETA money can only be used for “services,” not community education. Social change work is discouraged. Clash between “funding” and “movement” begins.</td>
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# The Movement Grows and Makes Strides

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>Casa Myrna Vazquez shelter for Latinas begins in Boston.</td>
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<td>1975</td>
<td>Congress passed the Rape Control Act.</td>
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<td>1976</td>
<td>PCADV is first state domestic violence coalition formed. The National Organization for Women announces the formation of a task force, co-chaired by Del Martin, to examine the problem of battering. It demands research into the problem and money for shelters. Del Martin publishes <em>Battered Wives</em>, the first American feminist publication showing that violence against wives is deeply rooted in sexism.</td>
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<td>1977</td>
<td>Oregon passes first law mandating arrest in DV cases. National Communications Network for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, the first national newsletter on battered women, is published.</td>
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<td>1978</td>
<td>Minnesota enacted legislation to allow warrantless arrests. U.S. Commission on Civil Rights holds a forum entitled, <em>Consultation on Battered Women</em>, in Washington, DC. The forum brings together hundreds of activists and results in <em>Battered Women: Issues of Public Policy</em>, which offers more than 700 pages of written and oral testimony. National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV), a grassroots organization, is organized and becomes the voice of the battered women’s movement on the national level. It establishes the vision and philosophy that will guide the development of hundreds of local battered women’s programs and state coalitions. It also initiates the introduction of the <em>Family Violence Prevention and Services Act</em> in the U.S. Congress.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>First national day of unity in October is established by NCADV to mourn battered women who have died, celebrate survivors, and honor all who have worked to defeat domestic violence. Abused Women’s Aid in Texas builds a multi-million dollar shelter. To obtain the cooperation of local funders and influential individuals in the community, there is a purging of activists whose personal politics or sexual preference “do not fit.”</td>
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The Movement Grows and Makes Strides (continued)

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Women of Color Task Force of NCADV receives 8-month planning grant to address issues unique to women of color.</td>
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<td>1982</td>
<td>PCADV administers $2 million a year in Title XX monies to train police, judges, and other services.</td>
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<td>1984</td>
<td>Passage of the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act through grassroots lobbying efforts earmarks Federal funding for programs serving domestic violence victims.</td>
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<td>1984</td>
<td>Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) passes establishing Crime Victims fund for development of local victim assistance and state victim compensation.</td>
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<td>1986</td>
<td>New York Women Against Rape, a women of color-led organization, holds the first conference against violence for women of color.</td>
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<td>1987</td>
<td>NCADV establishes the first national toll-free domestic violence hotline.</td>
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<td>1987</td>
<td>PTSD (DSM III-R), battered women’s syndrome, codependency and Al-Anon impacts victim services.</td>
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Today’s Movement Takes Shape

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<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>In his introduction to the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee report, Violence Against Women: The Response to Rape: Detours on the Road to Equal Justice, Senator Joseph Biden states, “These findings reveal a justice system that fails by any standard to meet its goals – apprehending, convicting, and incarcerating violence criminals: 98% of the victims of rape never see their attacker caught, tried, and imprisoned.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>The Domestic Violence Coalition on Public Policy incorporates as the National Network to End Domestic Violence. Donna Edwards is selected as the Network’s Director, becoming the first woman of color to head a national domestic violence organization.</td>
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### Today’s Movement Takes Shape (continued)

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services leads to the creation of the Domestic Violence Resource Network, which includes the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence; the Battered Women’s Justice Project; the Resource Center on Domestic Violence: Child Protection and Custody; and the Health Resource Center on Domestic Violence.</td>
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<td>1994</td>
<td>VAWA passes creating a significant increase in federal funding for criminal justice response, victim services, technical assistance, and community education. Collaborations between DV programs and criminal justice institutions become the norm.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>VAWA is reauthorized and improves protections for battered immigrants, sexual assault survivors, and victims of dating violence. In addition, the new law enables victims of domestic violence who flee across state lines to obtain custody orders without returning to jurisdictions where they may be in danger, and improves the enforcement of protection orders across state and tribal lines.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>VAWA 2005 creates the Sexual Assault Services Program, which is the first federal funding stream dedicated to direct services for victims of sexual assault; improves the response to violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women, funding critical research and establishing a tribal registry to track sex offenders and orders of protection; and creates a culturally and linguistically specific services program that provides funding to those community-based programs that would not typically receive funding.</td>
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</table>
| Present | While diverse, culturally specific and community-based approaches exist, there is an increasing push-back by women of color advocates and activists and other marginalized groups due to one-dimensional approaches currently in place in the majority of mainstream programs.  

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Women of Color Network – 2009
This timeline illustrates many victories and successes in the her-story of the movement. However, many advocates and activists have raised the question in recent years, “at what cost?” This timeline raises at least two issues of note that have current implications:

1. **The “movement” away from social change**: There is a growing concern that the quest for funding, the upkeep of our programs and services, and partnerships with such systems as law enforcement and the courts have taken us away from the original place of survivors leading the movement and a goal of social change.

2. **The “professionalization” of our advocacy**: There is a persistent pattern of non-diverse leadership and style of service provision in local, state and national programs, which has replicated status and structure that maintains privilege for those who are white, heterosexual, college-educated, non-immigrant, non-Native, and older (but not too old), and to marginalize all others, thus developing a “mainstream” advocacy approach that fails to meet the needs of those who fall outside of the mainstream.

### The Movement Away from Social Change

The evolution of our movement can be demonstrated as shown below:

The anti-violence against women movement began at the grassroots level with survivors in the lead, using their own resources – their own cars to help women escape, their own money to put women on the bus, their own homes to shelter women – and were women helping themselves, *women helping women*. In the interest of raising funds and keeping the shelters and non-shelter programs afloat, advocates began to shift their language and, in order to garner sympathy and support for the purpose of attracting donations and federal and state dollars, they became *women helping clients*.

As those in the movement became more politically savvy and began to achieve more ground, and thus more funding to provide a variety of services to women, they moved to a place of “service provision” and *systems helping victims*. As more and more women enter into shelter with complex issues, such as mental health and substance abuse challenges, chronic homelessness, and other personal and societal barriers, unintended frustration has entered some of our programs where the feeling is that of *systems burdened by victims*.
Through effective coordination efforts and systems advocacy, other unintended consequences have developed:

- **Criminalization**: Advocates worked hard to ensure that preferred arrest laws were established; however, the residual effects include women who are battered being arrested; targeting of persons of color and low-income people; and undocumented people facing a growing fear of being deported.

- **Professionalism**: In our aim to please funders and contend in systems with lawyers, social workers, and other "professionals," more value is placed upon advocates who have bachelor's and master's degrees, certification, licenses, Ph.D.'s and juris doctorates. Just being a "survivor" dedicated and skilled through experience is often not enough to qualify for advocacy positions.

- **Medicalization**: As "service provision" became the mode of programs, and as mental health and substance abuse issues increased, intake became increasingly focused on "assessment," "evaluation" and "diagnosis" before women could even get assigned a room.

### The “Mainstreaming” of Our Advocacy

These shifts in the movement lead anti-violence against women programs to operate more like "institutions" with greater hierarchy among staff, with "clients" being thoroughly questioned and shuffled through.

This author wants it to be clear that this is not an attempt to idealize the past where less resources were available necessitating more hands on approaches. Nor is it an attempt to indict the present where lives are being saved, court cases are being won, and women and children are being moved to safe homes. But, despite the successes, some of the stresses and daily barriers experienced by today's programs and advocates make it difficult for them to act and respond in more organic ways as the movement once did. These barriers include:

![Daily Barriers Facing Our Programs](image)

Violence against women is a serious problem that continues to impact all realms of society. There is compelling evidence of the prevalence and incidence of intimate partner violence (IPV) and sexual assault in the United States.

- Among adult women in the United States, an estimated 5.3 million IPV incidents occur each year, resulting in approximately 2 million injuries and 1,300 deaths. Young women and those below the poverty line are disproportionately victims of IPV.\(^5\)
The vast majority of domestic violence victims are women abused by a male partner. Females are 84% of spouse abuse victims and 86% of victims of abuse at the hands of a boyfriend or girlfriend.\(^6\)

- Females are more likely than males to experience nonfatal intimate partner violence as well as intimate partner homicides.\(^7\)
- In 2006, there were 272,350 victims of rape, attempted rape, or sexual assault.\(^8\)

These current financial times have exacerbated the risks faced by domestic and sexual violence victims. In one study, couples who reported extensive financial strain had a rate of domestic violence more than three times that of couples with low levels of financial strain.\(^9\)

The rise of intimate partner violence leads to increased need of services. Great demand for shelter and advocacy leads to crowded programs. Ever-increasing survivor-consumer load with each person coming in with a variety of issues and attributes lead to stricter program guidelines that can create increased barriers for those accessing the program.

Our limited funding practically guarantees that the majority of our programs are understaffed. Limited staffing and piles of paperwork tied to funding requirements lead to heavy workloads. An overloaded management and supervision team leads to less training for staff. Training on such topics as cultural competency and diversity are offered infrequently, thus reinforcing one-dimensional service provision. Those marginalized individuals who are at greater risk for returning to the abuse often do so, sharing with other women in need the insufficiency and irrelevancy of our services. These women then resist or delay accessing our services, the violence increases...and the cycle repeats itself.

**What is missing in this landscape?**

Missing are more viable, culturally relevant and culturally specific services that meet the needs of communities of color and other underserved populations. For women of color who are survivors of violence, disproportionately high rates of poverty, poor education, limited job resources, language barriers, and fear of deportation often increase their difficulty accessing help and support services.\(^10\)

**Who are the best resources for developing and leading these services?**

Women of color advocates, and advocates representing underserved populations are the best resource for reaching and serving marginalized populations.

However, these advocates are often the last hired or the first fired, are least likely to be included in management and decision making roles, and even when included in leadership, they find themselves isolated in those roles and are limited in influence, or even pushed out.
The Endangerment of the Woman of Color Advocate

Advocates of color, though in the minority, have been a part of the violence against women movement from the very beginning and have brought attention to the unique needs of communities of color. They have given voice to the reality that survivors of color often find that services offered by mainstream programs are not relevant to their lives or responsive to their needs. Advocates of color have challenged the traditional methods of mainstream programs that generally rely upon a one-dimensional approach to service provision that focuses primarily on the experience of violence rather than a multi-dimensional, holistic approach that considers the societal impact of race, ethnicity, culture, class, sexual orientation, religion, and immigrant status in crisis.

Some examples of this are excerpted below from the National Women of Color Statement: Call to Action 2008 by Women of Color Advocates and Activists, distributed by WOCN in July 2008. This document represents the 275 voices of women of African, Native, Latin and Asian descent that participated on numerous organizing calls issued by WOCN beginning in April 2007:

1. **Cultural Ignorance**: Many mainstream advocates and programs have and maintain limited knowledge about communities of color and/or language access issues. This creates an environment of discomfort and even greater marginalization for those who receive the services, and creates an even wider gulf in terms of who will actually attempt to access the services; i.e., still using antiquated terms and offensive terms when discussing communities of color, or refusing to diversify the meal selection to accommodate those who do not eat pork due to cultural or religious reasons.

2. **Discrimination in Intake/Screening**: There are still programs around the country that request to have women come in person before they will admit them into their services. These women may be turned away or sent to another location that is consequently located in an urban or inner city location.

3. **Immigration/Language Barriers**: Some women are still turned away for either being undocumented or even perceived as undocumented. Non-English speaking women are also often turned away or treated as a “nuisance” because of the need for translation in speech and in documents. They also may have to have longer stays in shelter and in advocacy and case management supports due to numerous barriers in achieving visas, in obtaining employment and housing, and in getting any needed public benefits established.

4. **Lack of Responsibility**: White/Caucasian advocates are often “let off the hook” when it comes to addressing issues of bias within systems when it comes to survivors of color. They may either claim they “never noticed” the problem or may downplay the issues that survivors bring up. Survivors of color often reach out to an advocate of color to express their concern. Supervisors may make it a point to then pass on survivors of color to advocates of color without requiring white/Caucasian advocates to increase their knowledge on issues of racism or other ‘isms, and may make this an agency-wide practices in which advocates of color are expected to serve “their own” and white/Caucasian advocates are never held to sharing responsibility in serving ALL survivors.
Unfortunately, despite this leadership from advocates of color, many programs have continued conventional practices of limited, compartmentalized advocacy, making it difficult for advocates of color and allies to reach out to communities of color to apply extensive, innovative, and culturally appropriate styles of advocacy that include community outreach, intrinsic knowledge, and comprehensive support.13

Women of color advocates have often been overlooked in opportunity and mobility, creating a “glass ceiling” within domestic violence and sexual assault organizations, and their leadership has been neither encouraged nor supported. This dilemma is not exclusive to the violence against women movement: Catalyst, a nonprofit research and advisory organization working to advance women in corporate business, released a study in 1999 that found that lack of informal networking, lack of role models who are members of their racial/ethnic group, lack of high visibility-assignments, and not having an influential mentor are the greatest barriers to the job advancement for women of color.14

The overall lack of women of color in leadership positions has created an unfortunate scenario where program decision-making and strategic planning is conducted largely without the expertise of those who know communities of color, which perpetuates the cycle of limited competency in IPV and sexual assault programs. This then exacerbates the fear and reluctance that victims of color have in accessing services and further limits the potential of IPV and sexual assault programs to reach those who may need their services the most.

WOCN has collected countless stories through national training, meetings, and forums, and has received call after call from women of color advocates who have been limited in their ability to provide culturally appropriate services to victims of IPV and sexual assault, or who have experienced a hostile environment in their programs, including some who have lost their jobs as a result of advocating on behalf of communities of color.

There appeared to be a trend that was unnamed and broadly unidentified. WOCN sought to address this reality by first looking at social movements of communities of color. The term “endangered” often comes up in research and reports discussing the particular targeting of African American men by the criminal justice system and other systems and institutions.15 This language seemed to capture the same tenor of the experiences women of color advocates in anti-violence against women programs.

The term “endangered species” was the next concept that came up; again, a term that points to targeting of African American men and youth as well, while at the same time highlighting a level of neglect to the point of potential extinction.16 This extends beyond African American communities...this also includes other communities of color such as Native peoples, their culture, their language, and their sacred land and the endangered animals and plant life upon it.17 When considering the inhumanity that has occurred to communities of color at large, this seems to have spilled over into the anti-violence against women’s movement.

In 2006, WOCN coined the term the endangement of the woman of color advocate to highlight the targeting of women of color advocates as well as the neglecting and overlooking women of color in their roles and in their leadership potential. The term “endanger,” as defined on the following page, illustrates the harm and danger that women of color often feel, the experience of being pushed out of their programs, displaced from employment and possibly their community, and at times being further blocked from working in other local and even statewide
and national programs, depending on the stretch of influence of those they previously worked with, and what is in an increasing outcome, women of color leaving the movement altogether with the possibility of extinction in anti-violence against women work:

WOCN took its analysis a step further and began to notice that in their travels, they were seeing women of color come and go. They then coined the term the *life span of the woman of color advocate* to depict this coming and going and the range of emotion and position within that process:

- Women of color seem to come into the movement as novices – brand new, fresh, unaware of any problems in the movement and excited to be there. WOCN tells them to call any time if they ever need us.

- The next time we encounter them, they are feeling slightly down and expressing concern that they can’t put a finger on but exists. Then they seem to move into identifying the issue and stating that there is definitely targeting, or a *branding*, that is happening. This includes: being labeled as "angry" or as a "troublemaker" when questioning work conditions; being stereotyped as the "Sapphire Black Woman" who raises her voice, wags her finger and rolls her eyes; the "Saucy Latina" who is pushy and has a hot temper; the "Sneaky Passive Aggressive Asian Woman" who argues every detail; and the "Wounded Native Woman" who cannot be consoled or satisfied. WOCN tells them to call and we can help problem-solve an approach to addressing this.\(^\text{18}\)

- A subsequent meeting shows women of color becoming angry, more outspoken, determined to fight back, and experiencing a level of *wrangling* where there is a struggle or tug of war happening in the program. WOCN tells them that anger is good because it can spur action – but we also tell them to call for further processing to ensure that they are careful in their approach.

- In the following encounter, women of color seem to have an affect that is more flat, worried, even sad and depressed. This is where they are saying they don’t know what they can do...they are tired, overworked, under attack, and are becoming *broken*. WOCN tells them to contact us for resources, to discuss self-care, and to work to address their concerns.

- They most often call WOCN when the management in their program is taking action and when they may no longer have any recourse to address what is happening. WOCN supports them in considering their options for safety where their financial and personal well being is at stake (i.e., contacting a lawyer, going to their local civil rights commission, etc.) But often they call back and state that they are either fired, or being asked to resign, or have resigned on their own and are leaving. It is at that point that we say they have been *endangered*. 
See the illustration of the life span below:

![Life Span of the WOC Advocate](image)

Women of color often move back and forth through their lifespan in their jobs and in the movement as a whole, sometimes achieving moments of feeling again like a novice, reenergized and optimistic. They also find themselves at other stages depending on their circumstances. Terms such as “branded” and “wrangled” and “broken” are deliberately used to again point out the inhumanity that occurs when those of us fighting to address violence find ourselves endangered by others, much like livestock.

This has surfaced, though less prevalent, among women of color who are endangered by other women of color with some level of power within their programs. However, these women are no more safe in their programs than those they endanger. The bottom line – women of color are easily targeted in their programs no matter their position.

Ultimately, we are saying that many women of color are being victimized in their programs. They are walking on eggshells and are feeling unsafe. They are reading the faces of their management to see what kind of day it will be. They feel a cycle of kindness and targeting that is confusing and hard to determine. They are off-balance and are not sure what will come at them next. If they are survivors of violence, they are re-victimized by these experiences in the workplace.

This is a familiar pattern to advocates because they are similar to what we hear from the survivors of violence we serve. The bottom line, endangerment in our programs is similar to *abuse*. 
Endangerment as an Extended Concept

WOCN began to share the endangerment model around the country and received positive feedback; the model seemed to resonate with many advocates reflecting their work experience. Not surprisingly, those who are marginalized by age, by sexual orientation, by country of origin, and other factors felt a connection to the information and shared their stories as well. Overall, endangerment is not an exclusive concept – it can be extended to all who are not in a place of power or privilege in their programs. The worst impact of this endangerment is upon victimized and isolated persons who need our services.

While intimate partner violence (IPV) and sexual assault affects persons of all backgrounds, it has become increasingly clear that underserved populations experience IPV and sexual assault in greater proportions within a context of societal barriers and marginalization:

- **Victims in Same-Sex Relationships**: One survey found that same-sex cohabitants reported significantly more intimate partner violence than did opposite-sex cohabitants. Among women, 39.2% of the same-sex cohabitants and 21.7% of the opposite-sex cohabitants reported being raped, physically assaulted, and/or stalked by a marital/cohabiting partner at some time in their lifetime. In 2003, 80% of victims in 2003 and 91% of victims in 2004 reported experiencing prior incidents of abuse, with the majority (45% and 47%, respectively) reporting having experienced more than 10 prior incidents.

- **Elder Victims**: In 2000, states were asked to indicate the number of elder/adult reports received in the most recent year for which data were available. Based on figures from 54 states and territories, the total number of reports was 472,813. It is estimated that for every one case of elder abuse, neglect, exploitation, or self-neglect reported to authorities, about five more go unreported. In nearly 1 in 7 sexual assault murders (murder in which rape or sexual assault has been identified by investigators as the principal circumstance underlying the murder), victims were 60 and older compared to 1 in 4 murder victims, the 2nd highest incidence of any age group.

- **Immigrant and Refugee Victims**: Married immigrant women experience higher levels of physical and sexual abuse than unmarried immigrant women, 59.5% compared to 49.8%, respectively. Immigrant women often suffer higher rates of battering than U.S. citizens because they may come from cultures that accept domestic violence or because they have less access to legal and social services than U.S. citizens. Additionally, immigrant batterers and victims may believe that the penalties and protections of the U.S. legal system do not apply to them.

- **Dating Violence Among Young Adults and Teens**: Approximately 1 in 5 high school girls report being abused by a boyfriend. 50%-80% of teens report knowing someone involved in a violent relationship. Young women, ages 16-24, experience the highest rates of relationship violence. Physical aggression occurs in 1 in 3 teens. An estimated 5% of college women experience a completed or attempted rape in a given year.
It is important that advocates representing and serving these communities be supported and assisted to stay in their programs to ensure that there is a voice for underserved populations. To reverse endangerment, WOCN recommends that advocates of all backgrounds experience **rebirth** in this movement:

- Novices should be embraced as beginners, as those new to the field, brimming with ideas and passion. They have a lot to learn, but they also have a lot to offer.
- They should be **embraced** as they progress, included and held close, eagerly accepted, and supported.
- They should be **developed**, fortified with information through mentoring, training and leadership opportunities, and nurtured along the way.
- They should be made **whole**, where they can bring all that they have learned and accomplished and be fully present and welcomed with their full selves at the table.
- Finally, they should be allowed to be **self-defined**, be themselves, and be fully accepted.

**Restoration = Women Helping Women**

After exploring the her-story of the movement, looking at all of the caveats that exist, and being clear that the movement needs to be reclaimed and restored, the author offers the following recommendations to bring into the present a refreshed, grassroots approach of **women helping women**, or, ultimately, **people helping people**:

- Listen to survivors as the true experts; restore survivors as leadership
- Nurture and support the leadership and expertise of women of color advocates and activists serving underserved populations
- Move beyond emergency services and get back to ensuring that survivors are intact in the short run and long run through holistic approaches that address complex issues that may linger after the crisis
- Economic justice means creating a self-sustaining movement that looks at diverse sources of funding, including micro-enterprise for anti-violence against women programs
- Remember, we can and do hurt each other
- Recognize privilege and oppression
- End abuse where ever it shows up – even if it surfaces among staff in the workplace
- Build partnerships beyond criminal justice and court systems, such as other social change movements and organizations, and safety net services such as childcare, faith-based entities, and anti-poverty programs
- Restore safety and safe space for all!

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**Women of Color Network (WOCN) Project Manager**

Tonya draws upon two graduate degrees, a former role as adjunct instructor for several accredited universities, and over 15 years of direct service, systems change, project coordination, and national, state, and local anti-oppression and cultural competency training experience to lead the overall development and growth of the WOCN Project. She also oversees the national training, technical assistance and support provided to WOCN constituents and colleagues by staff, Advisors, Mentor Project, and consultants across the country.
Endnotes

1 Timeline excerpted from:
       http://www.mincava.umn.edu/documents/herstory/herstory.html
   (2) Walker, Steven D. History of the Victim’s Movement in the U.S.
   (3) History of VAWA. Faith Trust Institute.
       http://www.dvmellenium.org/TimelineFP.htm

2 Author’s notes.

3 Author’s notes.


13 Ibid.

14 Catalyst, Women of Color in Corporate Management: Opportunities and Barriers, 1999

15 Examples:
   (2) Lindsay, K. N., 2007-04-12 "Intersectional Privilege and Oppression in the Discourse on "Endangered" Black Men" Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Palmer House Hotel, Chicago, IL.
       http://www.allacademic.com/meta/p198196_index.html
16 Examples:

17 Examples:


Resources

Articles/Books


Organizations/Websites

■ Alianza: The National Latino Alliance for the Elimination of Domestic Violence
  800-216-2404
  700 Fourth Street SW
  Albuquerque, NM 87102
  http://www.dvalianza.org/home.htm
■ Asian &Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence, Asian & Pacific Islander
American Health Forum
450 Sutter Street, Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94108
Phone: 415- 568-3315
http://www.apiahf.org/apidvinstitute

■ Encuentro Latino National Institute on Family Violence
Phone: 888-743-7545
www.latinodv.org

■ Immigrant Family Violence Institute
3654 S. Grand Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63118
Phone: 314-773-9090 ext. 150
http://www.iisl.org/

■ Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community
290 Peters Hall 1404 Gortner Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108-6142
Phone: 877-643-8222
http://www.dvinstitute.org/

■ Sacred Circle: National Resource Center to End Violence Against Native Women
722 St. Joseph St.
Rapid City, South Dakota, 57701
Phone: 605-341-2050
http://www.sacred-circle.com/

■ Sisters of Color Ending Sexual Assault
P.O. Box 625
Canton, CT 06019
Phone: 860-693-2031
Email: sistersl@sisterslead.org
http://www.sisterslead.org/index.html

■ INCITE!
P.O. Box 226
Redmond, WA 98073
Phone: 484-932-3166

■ A Call to Men
342 Broadway, Suite 163
New York, New York 10013-3910
Phone: 917-922-6738
Email: info@acalltomen.org
http://acalltomen.org

■ Human Rights Campaign
1640 Rhode Island Ave. N.W.
Washington, DC 20036-3278
Phone (202) 628-4160
http://www.hrc.org
PowerPoint Presentation

Ending Violence Against Women: The Her-story of Our Movement... Past, Present and Future
Ending Violence Against Women: The Her-story of Our Movement... Past, Present and Future

Presented by:
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WOCN Project Manager
Cultural Competency, Domestic Violence and Elder Abuse Training
Tucson, AZ, August 5, 2009

Presentation Objectives
- Identify key events in her-story of the VAW movement that shapes our present movement
- Connect issues of race, class and gender, and other identities
- Discuss new directions for leadership and advocacy in defining our future

Battered Women’s Movement - Pivotal Events
- 1492 - Beginning tyranny on Indigenous people
- 1500’s - Early settlers in America base their laws on old English common-law that explicitly permits wife-beating for correctional purposes, with the guideline of using a switch no bigger than his thumb (rule of thumb)
- 1600-1800’s Chattel Slavery is legalized and enforced
Battered Women’s Movement - Pivotal Events

- 1800’s - Abolitionist Movement leads to the Suffrage Movement (First Wave).
- 1896 Plessy vs. Ferguson establishes “separate but equal” (segregation).
- 1919 - Passage of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote.

Battered Women’s Movement - Pivotal Events

- 1950’s and 1960’s: Criminal justice system incorporates crisis intervention as a “human program” to aid in “family squabbles”. Arrest is seen as inappropriate and officers are expected to mediate.
- The Civil Rights, Black Power, and Anti-War movements lay a foundation for the Feminist Movement (Second Wave).

Battered Women’s Movement - Pivotal Events

- 1963: Betty Friedan writes The Feminine Mystique discussing the discontent of middle-class White women assigned to “the home”. Consciousness-raising about sex roles and sexism begins.
- Feminist Movement declares that the “personal is political”, including what occurs in the home.
- Individual women begin helping women get safe from violence. “We will not be beaten” becomes the slogan for grassroots Battered Women’s Movement.
Chapter One: Ending Violence Against Women: The Her-story of Our Movement...Past, Present and Future

Battered Women’s Movement - Pivotal Events
- 1967: Maine opens one of the first shelters in the U.S.
- 1973: St. Paul, MN is often credited with first shelter - has collective model
- Shelters begin receiving Title XX money and workers start calling battered women ‘clients’. More attention is given to individual counseling and less on group sharing, peer support and self-advocating

Battered Women’s Movement - Pivotal Events
- Title XX money can only be used for "services", not community education. Social change work is discouraged.
- Clash between "funding" and "movement" begins.
- 1974: Casa Myrna Vasquez shelter for Latinas begins in Boston

Battered Women’s Movement - Pivotal Events
- 1976: PCADV is first coalition formed.
- 1977: Oregon passes first law mandating arrest in DV cases
- 1978: Minnesota enacted legislation to allow warrantless arrests
- U.S. Commission on Civil Rights sponsors public hearings to identify issues and possible solutions for DV.
- NCADV is born out of the hearings.
Battered Women’s Movement - Pivotal Events
- 1990: Abused Women’s Aid in Texas builds a multi-million dollar shelter. To obtain the cooperation of local funders and influential individuals in the community, there is a purging of activists whose personal politics or sexual preference “do not fit”.
- 1991: Women of Color Task Force of NCADV receives 8-mth planning grant to address issues unique to women of color

Battered Women’s Movement - Pivotal Events
- 1992: PCADV administers $2 million a year in Title XX monies to train police, judges, and other services.
- 1994: Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) passes establishing Crime Victims fund for development of local victim assistance and state victim compensation
- PTSD (DSM III-R in 1987). battered women’s syndrome, codependency and Al-Anon impacts victim services

Battered Women’s Movement - Pivotal Events
- 1994: VAWA passes and windfall of funding for services, technical assistance, and community education
- Collaborations between DV programs and criminal justice institutions become the norm
- Present - Diverse, culturally-specific and community-based approaches to advocacy re-surface due to one-dimensional approaches currently in place
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Evolution of Our Movement

- Grassroots: Women Helping Women
- Funding: Women Helping Victims
- Legislation: Systems Helping Victims
- Systems Burdened by Victims

Unintended Consequences

- Criminalization
  - Residual effects include women arrested; targeting of persons of color and low-income people; undocumented people worried about deportation
- Professionalism
  - Aim to please funders and contend in the courts; certification; shelter standards
- Medicalization
  - Diagnoses and evaluation; blaming the victim

Daily Barriers Facing Our Programs:

- Our funding challenges
- Our funding guidelines
- Our agency guidelines
- Our workloads
- Our limited training
- Our limited partnerships
- Our push to “serve” rather than HELP
- Our one-dimensional approaches
WHAT'S MISSING??

LACK OF VIABLE
CULTURALLY COMPETENT
SERVICES AND ADVOCACY
PROVIDED TO
COMMUNITIES OF COLOR AND
UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS

African American Women

- African American females experience intimate partner violence at a rate 35% higher than that of white females and about 2.5 the rate of women of other races. However, they are less likely than white women to use social services, battered women’s programs or go to the hospital because of dv.

  "USDOJ, OJP, "Sent, Native, and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence: Findings From the National Violence Against Women Survey". 2005."

API Women

- In an API Institute on DV survey, 41.60% respondents reported experiencing DV during their lifetimes.

  "Asian Pacific Islanders Institute on Domestic Violence Fact Sheet. DV in Asian Communities."

- The National Violence Against Women Survey found that 6.8% of Asian/Pacific Islander women reported rape in their lifetime.

  "USDOJ, OJP. "Sent, Native, and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence: Findings From the National Violence Against Women Survey" 2005."
Latinas/Hispanic Women

- According to the National Violence Against Women Survey, 23.4% of Latinas are victimized by intimate partner violence in a lifetime.
  - Source: U.S. DOJ, OJP, Office on Violence Against Women, Indicators of Intimate Partner Violence: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey, 2009

- 48% of Latinas in one study reported that their partner's violence against them had increased since they immigrated to the U.S.

Native/Alaskan Indian Women

- According to the National Violence Against Women Survey, 37.6% of Native American/Alaskan Indian women are victimized by IPV in a lifetime.
  - Source: U.S. DOJ, OJP, Office on Violence Against Women, Indicators of Intimate Partner Violence: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey, 2006

- The U.S. Dept of Justice estimates that 1 of 3 Native American/Alaskan Indian women will be raped or sexually assaulted in her lifetime, a rate 3.5 times higher than for all other races.

WHO IS THE BEST RESOURCE TO LEAD AND PROVIDE THESE SERVICES?

WOMEN OF COLOR ADVOCATES ARE THE SINGLE GREATEST RESOURCE FOR REACHING AND SERVING COMMUNITIES OF COLOR
en·dan·ger
1. To expose to harm or danger; imperil.
2. To threaten with extinction.
   • Pose a threat to; present a danger to
   • Put in a dangerous, disadvantageous, or difficult position

en·dan·ger·ment n.
Synonyms: endanger, hazard, imperil, jeopardize, risk

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**Life Span of the WOC Advocate**

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**Endangerment of the Woman of Color Advocate**

“WALKING ON EGGSHELLS”

“DAILY FEAR OF BEING TARGETED”

...Does this sound familiar?
Racism = Abuse

And what if she stays…?
*In danger of:*
- Apathy
- Repression
- “Just a job”
- Defense Mechanisms: denial, suppression, displacement
- “Island unto herself”

The Life Span of the Woman of Color Advocate
Underserved Populations

According to the Domestic Violence and Mental Health Policy Initiative, victimization by an intimate partner places women at significantly higher risk for depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse and suicide attempts. Without proper services victims with mental health issues could suffer further from the long-term effects of abuse.

-Domestic Violence and Mental Health Policy Initiative, Chicago, ill., http://www.dvmhp.org/
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Underserved Populations
1/4 lesbian, gay, transgendered and bi-sexual individuals will experience intimate partner violence within their lifetimes.
-California Western Reserve, 2007

As our population ages the need for domestic violence services for those later in life continues to multiply. Every year an estimated 2.1 million older Americans are victims of physical, psychological and other forms of abuse and neglect.

Underserved Populations
Battered immigrant women who attempt to flee may not have access to bilingual shelters, financial assistance or food. It is also unlikely that they will have the assistance of a certified interpreter in court, when reporting complaints to the police or a 911 operator, or even acquiring information about their rights and the legal system.

RESTORATION = WOMEN HELPING WOMEN
-Listen to survivors as the true experts;
restore survivors as leadership
-Support the leadership and expertise of
women of color advocates and activists
of and serving underserved populations
-Move beyond emergency services
-Economic justice means creating a self-
sustaining movement
-See women for the whole beings they
truly are and incorporate holistic
services and approaches
RESTORATION = WOMEN HELPING WOMEN

- Nurture the leadership of young women of color and women of and serving underserved populations
- Remember we can & do hurt each other
- Recognize privilege and oppression
- End abuse where ever it shows up
- Build partnerships for coordinated community response w/out losing VAW focus
- Restore safety and safe space for all!

ULTIMATELY,
THE WOMEN OF COLOR NETWORK
SUPPORTS THE DEVELOPMENT OF
CULTURALLY-RELEVANT APPROACHES
WHERE SURVIVORS CAN BRING
THEIR WHOLE SELVES TO THE TABLE.

FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE,
TRAINING AND RESOURCES:

CONTACT WOMEN OF COLOR NETWORK
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