

## the calendar

### TECHNICAL

ASSISTANCE, TRAINING &  
NETWORKING THROUGH  
MCADSV

VISIT [WWW.MCADSV.ORG](http://WWW.MCADSV.ORG)  
FOR REGISTRATION AND  
AGENDA INFORMATION

Confidentiality and  
Documentation Issues

■ DECEMBER 5TH  
Okemos, MI

LBGTA Task Force  
Meeting

■ DECEMBER 8TH  
Okemos, MI

Women of Color Task  
Force Meeting

■ DECEMBER 15TH  
Okemos, MI

### National Institute on the Prosecution of Domestic Violence

December 5-8, 2006

Charleston, S.C.

Domestic violence victims regularly recant or request the dismissal of charges against their batterers; some even testify on behalf of their batterers. All too often, prosecutors, investigators, and others involved in the prosecution of domestic violence want a “cookie-cutter” response that can be applied in every case. Although the dynamics of domestic violence may be similar from case to case, each case presents unique challenges that require individual responses.

In this conference, domestic violence prosecutors learn strategies which apply to day-to-day work from nationally renowned faculty and other prosecutors, engage in role-play exercises, small group discussions, hypothetical cases and faculty demonstrations, and create an action plan for responding to domestic violence cases that keeps victims safe and holds offenders accountable by developing a process for determining the best solution in each case.

This course is presented by the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women in partnership with the National Center for the Prosecution of Violence Against Women at the American Prosecutors Research Institute and Battered Women’s Justice Project. For more information, please visit [http://www.ndaa-apri.org/education/apri/natl\\_inst\\_prosecution\\_dv\\_charleston\\_06.html](http://www.ndaa-apri.org/education/apri/natl_inst_prosecution_dv_charleston_06.html)

### Tenth National Indian Nations Conference: Hope for All Generations: Weaving a Network of Safety, Justice and Healing

December 9, 2006

Palm Springs, CA

This national conference will provide opportunities for education on a wide variety of important issues pertaining to victimization in tribal communities. The goals of this conference include: Putting Victims First; Promoting Healing for Victims; Honoring Survivors and Helpers; Promoting Cooperation and Networking; Providing Skills Building Training; Sharing Promising Practices. Anyone interested in weaving a network of safety, justice, and healing for victims of crime in Indian Country are invited to attend. Pre-Conference Institutes will be held on December 6, 2006. For more information, please visit [www.tribal-institute.org/ovc/](http://www.tribal-institute.org/ovc/).

# the Coalition Connection

Your [link](#) to cutting edge information on the issue of violence against women

### Emerging Responses to Children Exposed to Domestic Violence

By Jeffrey Edleson in consultation with Barbara Nissley. Reprinted with permission from the National Online Resource Center on Violence Against Women.

Public attention to the effects of children’s exposure to adult domestic violence has increased over the last decade. This attention focuses on both the impact of the exposure on children’s development and on the likelihood that exposed children may be at greater risk for becoming either a child victim of physical or sexual abuse or an adult perpetrator of domestic violence. New research, policies, and programs focused on these children have resulted. These new efforts are reviewed in this document and an argument is made that the diversity of children’s experiences requires equally diverse responses from our communities.

“Exposure to adult domestic violence” describes the multiple experiences of children living in homes where an adult is using physically violent behavior in a pattern of coercion against an intimate partner. Several studies on children exposed to adult domestic violence have indicated children’s responses to violence may vary.

Laws relating to child exposure to adult domestic violence have changed considerably in the last decade. These laws focus most often on criminal prosecution of violent assaults, custody and visitation decision-making, and the child welfare system’s response (Lemon, 1999; Mathews, 1999; Weithorn, 2001).

Currently, there are only limited options available for children who have been exposed to domestic violence. These options sadly do not reflect adequate responses to the range of experiences exposed children may experience. Perhaps the greatest challenge is to develop voluntary systems of care for children who are exposed but not themselves direct victims of physical abuse. These systems of care often operate outside of child protection agencies and allow communities to rely on more than one type of response, thereby avoiding overwhelming the child protection system.

Communities across North America are significantly revising the way they think about children exposed to adult domestic violence. At local, county and state levels, communities are engaged in a variety of policy and programmatic actions to respond to these children and their families. We need to continue to develop multiple pathways into services and multiple responses by social institutions if we are to adequately address the needs of these children and help them to grow into emotionally and physically healthy adults. To access a full copy of this document, please visit [www.vawnet.org](http://www.vawnet.org).

November  
2006



**MICHIGAN COALITION**  
AGAINST DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

The Michigan  
Coalition Against  
Domestic and Sexual  
Violence is dedicated  
to the empowerment  
of all the state’s  
survivors of domestic  
and sexual violence.

Our mission is to  
develop and promote  
efforts aimed at the  
elimination of all  
domestic and sexual  
violence in Michigan.

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World Wide Web at  
[www.mcadsv.org](http://www.mcadsv.org)

### Sistas In Crisis Hotline

The Sistas In Crisis Hotline is now available to aid us in the fight against domestic violence within the Islamic community. The hotline phone lines will be open 24 hours 7 days a week to assist sisters in need all across the country. They are not direct care providers; the hotline is a resource and referral line for domestic violence awareness agencies and Islamic social service organizations across the country. The Hotline toll free number is 1-800-732-9601. For more information, please call Sista2Sista Inc. at 267-331-2401.

### Technology Safety & Advocacy Special Collection

VAWnet has added a new special collection focusing on the use of technology as it impacts and intersects with violence against women and children. This categorized and annotated listing of selected articles, fact sheets, papers, reports, websites, and other materials is offered as an additional tool to assist advocates working on and interested in the safe use of technology. Features include: glossary and references for commonly-used technology terms and concepts, website listing of organizations working to promote the safe use of technology, and tips for using technology in your work. A range of material on internet sex crimes, programs development and the use of technology, online service provision and counseling, privacy and data security and general technology safety & prevention is also included.

Access this Special Collection through the newly-enhanced "Help & Safety" area at: [http://new.vawnet.org/category/index\\_pages?category\\_id=93](http://new.vawnet.org/category/index_pages?category_id=93)

### New Resource: Culture Handbook

This handbook, developed by the Family Violence Prevention Fund, is designed to be used by advocates and professionals who work with those who are victims of domestic and sexual violence. It provides some basic information on how to understand culture and begin the process of challenging oneself to become more aware of the ways in which culture impacts our work and the lives of those who are victims.

Advocates and professionals are well aware of some of the struggles one can encounter when working with victims who appear different. The handbook gives some guidance on how to understand the complex ways in which people respond to intimate violence. In simple terms, the handbook outlines some basic ways in which to begin the process of becoming aware on both an individual and institutional basis. Neither of these by themselves can lead to empowerment of survivors. Therefore, the handbook stresses the importance of reaching out to and working collaboratively with diverse communities so that the issues of domestic and sexual violence can be owned by one and all. To access an electronic copy of this document, please visit [http://endabuse.org/programs/immigrant/files/Culture\\_Handbook.pdf](http://endabuse.org/programs/immigrant/files/Culture_Handbook.pdf)

National Domestic Violence Hotline  
Linea Nacional sobre la Violencia  
Domestica  
1-800-799-SAFE (7233)  
TTY 1-800-787-3224  
[www.ndvh.org](http://www.ndvh.org)  
Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network  
(RAINN)  
1-800-656-HOPE (4673)  
[www.rainn.org](http://www.rainn.org)

### First National Teen Dating Violence Hotline

Recognizing the fact that few resources exist to help the significant numbers of teens who are experiencing teen dating violence, Liz Claiborne Inc. is collaborating with the National Domestic Violence Hotline to initiate and fund the first national teen dating violence hotline which will be operational in Spring 2007. The Teen Dating Violence Hotline will be operated by the National Domestic Violence Hotline (NDVH), and will focus on teens and young adults up to the age of 24. Although there are national hotlines for adults, teens have special needs and require a different approach to dealing with their issues and privacy concerns.

The Teen Dating Violence Hotline will be staffed by trained professionals as well as young adult advocates who will provide services and support. Teens and parents anywhere in the country will be able to call the number, receive immediate advice and counsel with complete privacy and confidentiality, and learn how to tap into local resources to get the help they need.

The Teen Dating Violence Hotline will also use the Internet to provide a safe, confidential online resource that will house information on dating and relationship violence as well as online message boards where teens can ask questions and share experiences, or just express their feelings. There will also be links to local, state and national resources.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline is interested in hearing from you on how they can make this hotline the best it can be. Teen comments and opinions about the hotline can be submitted at [www.ndvh.org/feedback](http://www.ndvh.org/feedback). Stay tuned for more information as the hotline becomes fully operational.

### Helping a Sexual Assault Survivor

This video, *Helping a Sexual Assault Survivor*, takes viewers step-by-step through the process of helping someone who has been raped or sexually assaulted. The content includes medical attention, reporting options, emotional support, and other post-sexual assault concerns. Experts describe their experiences helping survivors and provide detailed guidance. Sexual assault victims share their own stories of what happened afterward, including whom they first told and how people responded.

This film is perfect for resident assistants, faculty and staff, police officers, peer counselors, as well as anyone who wants to know how to provide assistance to someone who has been sexually assaulted. To borrow a copy of this video, please contact the Michigan Resource Center at (517) 381-4663.

### WOCN Fact Sheets

The Women Of Color Network is pleased to announce the creation of a "Facts & Stats" collection. These materials focus on various topics in the field of violence against women and families in communities of color. Domestic Violence Facts & Stats and Sexual Violence Facts & Stats are now available in PDF format and may be downloaded on the Women of Color Network website at <http://womenofcolornetwork.org>

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Boutique at [www.mcadsv.org](http://www.mcadsv.org)  
and purchase gifts and books to support our  
efforts on behalf of the state's domestic &  
sexual violence survivors