



# I-TRAC Newsletter November 2009

## **Holiday Greetings**

The staff at I-TRAC would like to extend their wishes to everyone for a safe and happy holiday season. The next newsletter will be sent out in the New Year.

## **Word of the Month**

**Sisyphean** sis-uh-fee-uh n Adjective

- Endlessly laborious or futile.

- "resembling the labors of Sisyphus," from Greek mythology. He was condemned in the afterlife to roll uphill a stone which perpetually rolls down.

## **Tracking Domestic Violence Homicides/Suicides in North America**

Between January 1, 2009 and November 30, 2009:

**591** incidents involving domestic fatalities occurred.

**1085** fatalities resulted from incidents of domestic violence.

**461** women were murdered by their intimate partner.

**126** children were murdered by a male father figure.

**22** men were murdered by their intimate partner.

**16** women committed suicide in conjunction with an attack on their intimate partner.

**353** men committed suicide in conjunction with an attack on their intimate partner.

**107** individuals (friends, extended family, police officers, etc.) were murdered during an incident of domestic violence.

## **What is Threat Assessment?**

**Provided by: Det. Gwyn Amat**

Anyone who has read an ARTAMI or I-TRAC Threat Assessment report will recognize the following explanation regarding risk/threat assessment:

Risk assessment is the process whereby offenders are assessed on several key variables empirically known to increase the likelihood of committing an offence. These variables, known as risk factors, are subdivided into static and dynamic factors. Both types of factors are known to share a causal relationship with criminal behaviour, however, static factors are historical and unchangeable, while dynamic factors are current and changeable. Examples of static factors include age at first offence, history of prior convictions, gender, type of victim, and motivation for committing past crimes. Examples of dynamic factors include present economic situation, marital status, attitudes supportive of crime, faulty cognitions, sexual deviant preference, family condition, substance abuse, and employment status.

The threat assessment process involves the analysis of verbal, written, behavioral, personal and situational indicators to assess the likelihood of violent acts. These indicators are based on scientific research conducted by a number of disciplines including the medical and mental health professions, law enforcement and specialists in the field of threat management, as well as, the training and experience of the analyst. The information assists assessors to make an informed statement concerning violence risk using standardized measures. Threat assessment is an area of specialized practice requiring extensive experience through the assessment, study or investigation of violence as well as professional education and training.

In preparing for this month's submission for the I-TRAC newsletter, I found myself, once again, referring to an article written by Dr. Kropp regarding Risk Assessment. Dr. Kropp addresses some of the questions often asked about this subject and I invite you to read the following excerpt from *Violence Against Women*, Vol 10 No.6, June 2004:

*Some Questions Regarding Spousal Assault Risk Assessment*  
P. RANDALL KROPP  
*Forensic Psychiatric Services Commission of British Columbia*

An underlying assumption of this article is that spousal violence risk assessment is an important and viable enterprise. Although the term "risk assessment" is not always used, professionals working in the field (e.g., advocates, shelter workers, mental health professionals, corrections employees, police officers) are commonly required to judge the danger posed by perpetrators and the safety of victims. Alternative terms have been forwarded such as "danger" (Campbell, 1995), "lethality" (B. Hart, 1990), and "threat" (Fein, Vossekuil, & Holden, 1995) assessment, but the fundamental goal of protecting victims is constant. Indeed, risk assessment is at the very core of the professional's duty to prevent violence. Thus, risk assessment exists, both in a formal sense with the presence of risk tools and instruments (discussed below) and in an informal sense in the day-to-day practice of professionals. Therefore, the purpose of this article is to pose six fundamental questions to generate discussion and research to improve risk assessment practice:

- (a) What is risk?
- (b) How should risk assessments be conducted?
- (c) What should be the role of the victim in risk assessment?
- (d) Who should conduct risk assessments?
- (e) How should risk be communicated and managed?
- (f) How should risk assessments be evaluated?

Two caveats are necessary before addressing these questions. First, risk assessment can only be justified if it is remembered that there is no such thing as no risk in the context of spousal violence. Risk assessments should not be used to marginalize or minimize the concerns of those victims believed to be at lower risk: All spousal assaulters are dangerous to some degree, and risk assessment does not allow us to rule out danger. Rather, it can inform us regarding the nature, form, and degree of the danger. Second, risk assessment is usually intended to be perpetrator focused (Campbell, 1995; Dutton & Kropp, 2000), and the term is not considered here to be synonymous with victim safety planning. The latter can be informed by offender risk assessment but necessarily. It must also consider aspects of the victim and barriers to her safety (Pence & Lizdas, 1998). Issues related to the broader practice of victim safety planning are beyond the scope of this article.

As Risk/Threat Assessment professionals, we at I-TRAC are acutely aware of the need to keep these questions in mind, and understand that the answers are continually evolving as the research regarding the science grows.

## **I-TRAC Statistics**

As of November 6 2009:

- 271 files have been referred to I-TRAC.
  - 119 threat assessments have been completed or assigned.
  - 148 consultations have been completed or are in progress.
- 137 training sessions have been provided by I-TRAC staff.
- 1 long term offender status has been pursued and granted.

## **Correction**

October's newsletter contained the story *Men Suffer From Stalking, Too* (Page 7). The article incorrectly states the maximum penalty for stalking is five years imprisonment. In 2002, the maximum penalty was increased to ten years.

## **Alberta – News**

### **Mom of slain children phoned Calgary 911 twice**

A frantic Ying Louie was driving to her Panorama Hills home after work, while calling emergency operators on her cellphone. As she raced home, Ying answered the 911 operator's questions for eight minutes. But no help was dispatched because Ying's call wasn't deemed a high level of risk by the 911 operator, police say. Ying was told to phone back with more information. When Ying arrived home, her second 911 call consisted of a single scream. Tragically, the calls for help were made after Jason, 13, and Jane, 9, were already dead, allegedly at the hands of their father. "Police response any earlier would not have changed the tragic outcome that we discovered," said Slater. When police arrived at the Panorama Hills home, they discovered a man and woman caught in a struggle that Chief Rick Hanson later said could also

have turned fatal. Ying was taken to hospital with minor injuries, treated in emergency and then released from. She is in the care of family. Charges against the children's father, James Bing Jun Louie, have been upgraded to two counts of first-degree murder. He also faces an attempted murder charge for allegedly attacking his wife.

A group representing Calgary police say officers could have responded sooner to a home where two children were found dead if they had immediate access to cellphone subscribers' information. Communications officers in the city's 911 dispatch centre tracked down the person who owned the phone and was able to relay possible locations to police. John Dooks, president of the Calgary Police Association, says the 16-minute response time to the home could have been even faster with better assistance from cellphone providers. He says service providers have to be tracked down to gain a cellphone owner's information, but in an "ideal" world police would have immediate access.

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/news/slain+children+phoned+Calgary+twice/2288919/story.html>  
<http://www.inews880.com/Channels/Reg/LocalNews/Story.aspx?ID=1169643>

Neil Websdale's new book, *Familicidal Hearts*, proposes a new theory that attempts to answer some of the questions that arise when men or women murder their families. The following excerpt describes the book, which will be released February 15 2010.

In *Familicidal Hearts*, award-winning author and sociologist Neil Websdale uncovers the stories behind 196 male and 15 female perpetrators of this shocking offense, situating their emotional styles on a continuum, from the livid coercive to the civil reputable. With highly detailed and riveting case studies, Websdale explores the pivotal roles of shame, rage, fear, anxiety, and depression in the lives and crimes of the killers. His analysis demonstrates how internal emotional conflict, against a backdrop of societal pressures, is at the root of familicide, challenging the widely accepted argument that murderers kill family members to assert power and control. Websdale contends instead that most perpetrators struggle with intense shame, many sensing that they failed to live up to the demands of modern gender prescriptions, as fathers and lovers, wives and mothers. What emerges is a compelling theory about the haunting effects of modern emotional struggles on perpetrators, controlling and upstanding alike.

[http://www.amazon.com/Familicidal-Hearts-Emotional-Interpersonal-Violence/dp/0195315413/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1260217740&sr=8-1](http://www.amazon.com/Familicidal-Hearts-Emotional-Interpersonal-Violence/dp/0195315413/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1260217740&sr=8-1)

### **Police domestic abuse unit wins award**

The contribution of Calgary police officers working to reduce domestic violence incidents was recognized Thursday night as the Calgary Counselling Centre awarded the domestic conflict unit with the Calgary's Bravest Man Award. The unit, formed 10 years ago, is devoted to reducing domestic conflicts-- in intimate relationships, as well as familial ones--by investigating files that centre on high-risk or chronic cases. Staff Sgt. Patty McCallum said the unit's mandate also includes cases where there is criminal harassment and stalking. While the focus is more on investigation, the domestic conflict unit also uses educational and preventive components in their work. The unit has 10 full-time investigators who are specifically selected to work in domestic

conflict. Many of them have their own personal reasons for being part of the unit and that keeps them dedicated, said McCallum. "I clearly see the dedication and the passion that is needed for these investigators to maintain the confidence and co-operation of the victims," she said. Last year, the Calgary Police Service responded to more than 13,000 domestic violence calls.

<http://www2.canada.com/calgaryherald/news/city/story.html?id=6a3a6421-08c6-41b7-9846-b82681a69bf5>

### **Attempted murder-suicide mars anti-domestic violence campaign**

A man is dead and a woman remains in stable condition as police confirmed details on an attempted murder-suicide that occurred last week. Police reported on Nov. 4 just before 2 a.m., a man forced his way into a residence on the 200 Block of Fifth St. N.W., where his estranged wife and two children were staying at the time. The 33-year-old man stabbed his 31-year-old wife several times in front of the children then fled the scene with officers arriving shortly after one of the children dialed 911. The man was subsequently found a short time later suffering from self-inflicted injuries. Officers performed CPR and revived the man, however, police confirm he died from his injuries in hospital last weekend.

This incident comes during Domestic Violence Awareness Month, highlighting the problem in Medicine Hat. Sgt. Dellrae Sharpe, a specialist in domestic violence with the Medicine Hat Police, said the issue is felt throughout the province "and Medicine Hat isn't immune from it. "Domestic violence is quite different than any other crime police might investigate. It's personal and involves two people who love each other." And, Sharpe added, there is usually a long history of a spouse trying to leave a violent domestic situation. On average 30 attempts are made before there is a successful separation. "It all comes back to wanting to maintain that family unit, loving the individual and wanting things to change," she said. "It makes it a very dynamic crime and it also makes it difficult to try to help these families get through." The MHPS sergeant added that it takes resilience for those involved in trying to break the domestic violence cycle. "Just keep trying with these victims and just keep doing whatever it is you can do to try to make these families safe and healthy. You will make a difference, you will."

<http://www.medicinehatnews.com/content/view/155550/27/>

### **Ex-boyfriend sentenced to 30 months for stalking**

An Edmonton stalker who threatened his ex-girlfriend, lit her mattress on fire and urinated on it, wrote a nasty name on her front door and killed her fish is off to prison. Walter Henry Jones, 34, was yesterday handed a 30-month sentence after earlier pleading guilty to criminal harassment, break and enter and multiple breaches of court orders prohibiting him from contacting the victim.

Then, between 9 p.m. on May 9, 2007, and 6 a.m. the next day, Jones repeatedly banged on the woman's front door, windows and roof and yelled at her to let him in. He also made 102 calls and left 22 messages demanding entry. When the woman came home at 4 p.m. on May 10, 2007, she found "call me now slut" written on the front door. Then Jones showed up and began pounding on the door. Jones was arrested a short time afterwards. He was released hours later on his own recognizance with conditions that he have no contact with the woman or her son.

Two days later, a rock was thrown through a window at the woman's home and, the day after that, Jones left her numerous vulgar messages on her answering machine. Some of Jones's friends also called the woman and threatened her, leaving messages including ones saying "five girls are coming to kick your ass," "do what Wally says or else you'll regret it," and "you're gonna get it."

On May 17, 2007, the woman's home was broken into through a smashed window and her mattress was lit on fire and urinated on. Her belongings were strewn about the suite. On May 19, 2007, the woman's suite was broken into again and her plants were destroyed and scattered about the apartment. The fish in a 10-gallon fish tank were found dead. The stalking continued through to Jones's May 29, 2007, arrest at his grandparents' home following a police standoff. Court heard he left phone messages saying he was planning to "go down in a blaze of glory" and "he wanted the hair off the top of her head."

<http://www.edmontonsun.com/news/edmonton/2009/11/20/11826361-sun.html>

### **Program sees Native domestic violence drop**

Cases of domestic violence in Native communities around Calgary have dipped and a service group working with them wants further reduction. Brian Felesky, chairman of Home Front Society for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, said "The rate of domestic violence with the First Nations community is high." Since the area's Native leaders began working with Home Front, the number of re-offence cases have gone down by two-thirds, he said. Called Strengthening the Spirit, the program aims to work with youth and their parents who have been exposed to domestic violence. The program will attempt to end the cycle of violence in aboriginal families and restore participants' connection to traditional culture. Professionals will help kids heal from the feelings and behaviours related to witnessing violence in the home, while parents will get counselling and addictions treatment.

<http://www.calgarysun.com/news/alberta/2009/11/28/11962156-sun.html>

## **Canada – News**

### **Judicial 'stop signs' fail to protect women**

Brenda Van Leyen did everything she could to protect herself from her increasingly abusive boyfriend: created a careful plan to leave him, put her daughter into hiding and went to the police. Van Leyen, 47, was stabbed repeatedly by her former boyfriend, Claude Légaré, Nov. 6 outside a Shoppers Drug Mart as she did her Canada Post route. The man credited with saving Van Leyen's life by coming to her aid after hearing her screams, 21-year-old assistant store manager George Rusu, received a minor stab wound in the chest. Légaré's body was found in the ruins of his victim's burned out home, which detectives believe he deliberately set on fire.

Légaré was out on bail after threatening to kill Van Leyen two months before the attack. Court records show that Legare was arrested in September and charged with assault, assault with a weapon, death threats and careless use or storage of a firearm.

In the end, those bail conditions were no more effective than a stop sign, says Van Leyen. She feared every day that Légaré would attack her after leaving him in September. “Court orders aren’t an effective tool. I still got stabbed,” Van Leyen said. “It’s like obeying a stop sign, but people still drive through. You can’t force him to stop unless he wants to do it.”

These judicial “stop signs” fail women repeatedly. Over the past four years in Ottawa, almost 1,800 court or police-imposed release conditions have been violated by men charged with domestic assault.

While police can’t say how many of those men were repeat abusers, experts say the justice system is taking a gamble every time it releases a man on condition he stays away from his partner. “The reality is that the criminal justice system isn’t nearly as effective at protecting us as we would like to think it is,” said David Paciocco, a University of Ottawa law professor. “You can’t stop a bullet with a restraining order.”

A restraining order didn’t stop Légaré from stabbing Van Leyen. The abuse dated back to last spring when she wrote him a letter explaining she wanted to spend more time with family and friends. After that, Légaré began threatening to kill her almost daily, she said.

Disregard for court orders has remained steady over four years, police statistics show. In 2008, almost half — 400 out of 888 charges of assault, assault with a weapon or aggravated assault — involved breaches of release conditions from a previous charge.

All too often, local women’s shelters see men who abuse their partners let out on bail. These men are dangerous and capable of “lethal violence,” according to Leonora Hernandez, the women’s advocate at the Harmony House women’s shelter. “When criminal charges are laid, men can face consequences at work, you’re facing division of property and things that are so disruptive,” said Hernandez, who works with abused women. “They see their way of living is threatened. They lose the control of the situation, of their partner, of their children and of their own lives.”

Before an accused is released, police often use risk-assessment tools to determine if they are in danger of reoffending. But it’s possible for dangerous criminals to slip through the cracks, said Holly Johnson, a University of Ottawa criminology professor. “They are not fail-proof by any means but they tend to give police a guide based on research as to what situations, conditions and characteristics should be raising a red flag,” Johnson said. “It will include things like if there are weapons in the home and if he is very jealous, which he obviously was.”

But without a previous criminal record, it’s almost impossible to convince a judge to keep a man charged with domestic assault behind bars until his trial date, says senior Ottawa defence lawyer John A. McMunagle. And once an accused is released nothing can stop them attacking their partner again. “All the conditions in the world aren’t going to help that person,” McMunagle said. “There is nothing you can do to stop someone other than keeping them in jail because there is a chance they might do something horrible.”

Van Leyen suggests creating a profile of the accused in a domestic violence case, similar to popular television shows like *Criminal Minds*. Even if a man accused of a domestic attack

doesn't have a criminal record, it would be useful to interview friends and family of the accused, she says. "When people do things like this, they need to take a hard look at their past," Van Leyen said. "If you took the time to check things out, then maybe I wouldn't have almost died."

The Ottawa Coalition to End Violence Against Women says better tracking of these crimes is needed. The group has called on the government to better track violence against women from the time charges are laid until the accused is through the justice system. The attorney general's office says currently there is no way to compile the outcomes of domestic-assault cases. The tracking system can only provide statistics on charges as they appear in the Criminal Code, such as assault. It can't distinguish between different types of assaults.

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/news/Judicial%20stop%20signs%20fail%20protect%20women/281489/story.html>

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/news/Body+stabbing+suspect+found+burned+house/2212286/story.html>

### **Website prepares abused kids for court**

A new website funded by the Alberta government aims to help abused children prepare for the ordeal of testifying in court. The Child Witness Court Preparation site, at [www.childcourtprep.com](http://www.childcourtprep.com), can be accessed by children from all over the world and takes them through what they can expect with the help of interactive games, audio recordings and a video tour of a courtroom.

Lynn Barry, a former social worker and the founder of the Canadian Society for the Investigation of Child Abuse, said her group received so many requests to work with children scheduled for court that it was impossible to meet the demand. "The last thing we want to do is re-traumatize, so if they know what to expect they'll be fine and ready. If their story can get out then justice is served."

The website, which will be officially launched in Calgary on Thursday, gives tips to help kids stay calm, such as deep breathing or focusing on a point on a courtroom wall. Participants never talk specifically about what happened to them, but they can join one-hour sessions with Barry and other kids so they know they're not alone, she said.

The website is funded by the Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security Ministry, victims programs, the Bank of Montreal Employees Charitable Foundation, the Calgary Foundation and the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire.

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/calgary/story/2009/11/18/child-abuse-website-court-prep-alberta-calgary.html>

### **An honour crime in Ottawa**

Madam Justice Lynn Ratushny of the Ontario Superior Court did a good thing Tuesday. She sentenced a man to a year in jail for threatening his daughter with violence. She also identified his deed for what it was: a crime of honour, committed in the name of a "seriously dangerous

belief system." The young woman, Eman Al Mezel, was 23 when her father lost control of her. She lived at home, and had started doing volunteer work at a local community centre. They fought bitterly over that. He pushed her into a flight of stairs. He threatened to break her legs and kill her, and then smashed her computer.

When she learned he had arranged for her to marry a Syrian man, she moved out. To the horror of her family, she abandoned the hijab and her Muslim beliefs, and moved in with a male friend and his family.

Ms. Al Mezel's father, Yusef, who is head of Ottawa's highly vocal taxi union, repeatedly called and e-mailed his daughter to get her to move back home. He sent his wife and other siblings to the place where she was living. In one e-mail, he told her that they could no longer "hide the problem" from her uncles and cousins, and that he couldn't guarantee the "safety of anyone" if she didn't return home.

"Eman, you know when everyone hear about, they will react crazy, and no one will care about police or other thing, you know your family." He wrote about the sharaf , the honour, of the family. He believed that his daughter had shamed and dishonoured them, Ms. Al Mezel told police, and that the only way to restore the family's honour would have been to kill her.

"Attitudes such as these are quite prevalent in certain segments of the Muslim community," says Farzana Hassan, former president of the Muslim Canadian Congress, a reformist group. She says the influence of Wahhabism - a highly intolerant form of Islam that uses religion to justify the subjugation of women - has been growing in Canada. "They are not a fringe group any more."

Many groups - not just Muslim ones - refuse to admit the existence of honour crimes in Canada. After all, they point out, domestic violence is universal. As Mr. Al Mezel's lawyer argued at his sentencing hearing, "What you have is a loving and caring father who thought his daughter was on the wrong path."

The judge didn't buy it. She found that this particular father believed that violence is a wholly justified response to female disobedience. Mr. Al Mezel, she said, "deliberately and repeatedly invok[ed] the concept of violence against her in the name of honour."

Eman Al Mezel wasn't wrong to fear for her life. Victims of honour crimes are typically young, attractive, Westernized and, in the eyes of their families, immodestly dressed. Two years ago, a Mississauga teenager was strangled after she began to rebel; her father and brother have been charged with her murder.

In Kingston, three family members have been charged with murder after three teenaged sisters were found dead in a car in the Rideau Canal. This month, a 20-year-old Iraqi woman in Phoenix died of her injuries after she was allegedly run over by her father because she had become too Westernized.

I was glad to read the other day that the government is revising its citizenship guide for new Canadians. Unlike the current one, it will be more assertive about our history and our values. It

will explain our military history, and who Wayne Gretzky is. I don't know whether it has a chapter on the rights of daughters to dress and marry as they please. If not, maybe it should. Far too many women in Canada can't take these things for granted.

Yusef Al Mezel will be eligible for parole after two months. His daughter and the family with whom she took refuge have been relocated for their own safety.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/opinions/an-honour-crime-in-ottawa/article1359953/>

**"Discover Canada: The rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship" is a watershed moment for the policy of multiculturalism and a banner day for immigrant women**

I'm sure many Canadians rubbed their eyes in disbelief when they saw the news that Citizenship and Immigration Minister Jason Kenney had launched a new guide for immigrants wishing to become Canadian citizens, a guide informing new arrivals that "barbaric" cultural practices which physically harm women are not tolerated here. The guidebook, called [Discover Canada: The Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship](#), will be required reading for newcomers, and contains a special section on "The Equality of Women and Men". It says: "...Canada's openness and generosity do not extend to barbaric cultural practices that tolerate spousal abuse, 'honour killings,'...or other gender-based violence."

Barbaric? *Barbaric*? But, but, but that means our government is making, you know, a judgment on the cultural practices of other people, some of them people of colour! I think we have arrived at a watershed moment in the history of multiculturalism. Indeed, this may be the "tear-down-this-wall" moment when open discussion of multiculturalism's failure as a national policy does not automatically confer the charge of racism.

Good on Jason Kenney for pointing out the particular naked emperor of purposeful blindness to the special injustices many immigrant women continue to suffer, even after two generations of Canadian citizenship, because of cultural "values" that do not diminish with time, and are passed down from one generation to the next. For too long in the West, violence directed against girls and women from honour/shame societies by their male relatives, often with the complicity of their female relatives, has been incorrectly lumped in with all domestic violence. A false homogenization of the two types of crime is championed by gender ideologues who can't bear the idea that some forms of violence against women are a culturally imposed pathology and not, as they would prefer, a tragic but predictable example of the inherent violence and controlling instincts of all men. One can understand their discomfiture: Honour killings and the general suppression of women in other cultures is actually proof that widespread or approved violence against women is a cultural, not a genetically-based phenomenon.

Ideologues are silently abetted by ethnic associations which at best ignore the abuse and at worst deflect criticism from their cultural traditions by insisting such abuse is normative. When 16-year old Toronto girl Aqsa Parvez was murdered in 2007 by her father for not wearing a hijab, Mohammed Elmasry of the Canadian Islamic Congress brushed it off: "I don't want the public to think that this is an Islamic issue or an immigrant issue. It is a teenager issue," a dumbing-down of the horror that quite takes the breath away. But he is right about one thing: Honour killing is

largely (about 90%), but not solely, a practice of Muslim societies. Occasional honour killings, and certainly a great deal of abuse is visited on girls and women in Sikh, Hindu and other groups from South Asia and the Middle East.

And while honour killings are a minority of all domestic killings, they must be recognized as *sui generis*. Lenore Walker, author of *The Battered Woman Syndrome*, notes the difference between the victim-perpetrator in honour killings and those in western society: "In ordinary domestic violence involving westerners, it is rare for brothers to kill sisters or for male cousins to kill female cousins. And while child abuse occurs in which fathers may kill infants and children, it is very rare for Western fathers to kill teenage daughters." In the West it is far more typical for fathers who disapprove of their daughters' lifestyle or behaviour to shun them or disassociate from them.

There are a whole slew of differences besides these between honour killing and normative domestic violence. You can find the subject addressed at length in Womens Studies professor Phyllis Chesler's in-depth treatment [here](#). Perhaps now that the government has "outed" the problem, we can begin to address it seriously and help the thousands of immigrant women who are kept in ignorance of their rights.

We must do more than educate them. Because even when these brainwashed women become aware they have rights, they are usually too frightened of retribution for their perceived rebelliousness - and justifiably so - to challenge the collective dogmas of their kinship groups. Any attempt toward self-assertion by women from honour/shame cultures arouses the enmity of not only male relatives, but authority figures such as imams and other cultural elites. Defining their rights collectively, not individually, whole communities will stand in solidarity against these individual women's attempts to break free from them, and punish any indications of a wish for autonomy. Feminists above all should support this courageous initiative by the government. If they don't, they're not really feminists at all.

<http://network.nationalpost.com/np/blogs/fullcomment/archive/2009/11/12/barbara-kay-quot-discover-canada-the-rights-and-responsibilities-of-citizenship-quot-is-a-watershed-moment-for-the-policy-of-multiculturalism-and-a-banner-day-for-immigrant-women.aspx>

## America – News

### Man Called 'Face of Evil' Gets Death for Murdering Two Girlfriends

A man convicted of murdering his girlfriend because she refused to dispose of his previous girlfriend's body has been sentenced to death. Calling the defendant "a savage beast" and "the face of evil," Superior Court Judge Joan Comparet-Cassani on Tuesday sentenced 28-year-old Santiago Martinez to die by lethal injection. The jury recommended on Oct. 29 that Martinez be put to death rather than given life without parole. It took jurors only 30 minutes to reach the unanimous verdict in the case against Martinez.

Martinez was first convicted in 2005 of killing one girlfriend, then convicted last year of killing a second girlfriend when she refused to help Martinez dispose of the first victim's remains. The

first murder victim, Christina Wilkerson, 28, of Long Beach, was stabbed 20 times in the face, neck and body, then shot point blank with a .22 rifle on March 18, 2003. Martinez was sentenced to more than 50 years to life in prison for her death.

He was convicted last November for the murder of Myra Orozco, 24, of Long Beach. Prosecutors say Orozco was stabbed and slashed close to 30 times in the face, neck and body before Martinez pushed the mortally wounded woman from the car they were sitting in, then ran over her on March 30, 2003. Authorities believe that Wilkerson was killed out of jealousy and that Orozco was killed after refusing to help Martinez hide evidence from the first killing. The jury in that case convicted Martinez of first degree murder and the special circumstance of committing multiple murders, paving the way for the possibility of the death penalty. Before handing down the sentence, the judge dismissed a motion for a new trial and an automatic motion asking for the recommended death sentence to be reduced to a prison term.

<http://www.ktla.com/news/landing/ktla-girlfriend-killer,0,4410755.story>

### **2 Dead, 2 Wounded When NJ Dad Shoots His Family**

Police are still trying to figure out what triggered Edelmiro Gonzalez to go on a shooting spree, killing his seven-year-old son, and injuring his estranged wife and other son. They are recovering at St. Joseph's hospital. Gonzalez is dead, and those who know his family are in shock.

Police say just before 9 a.m. Sunday, Johanna Gonzalez was dropping off her two sons at her mother's home at 460 Broadway when Edelmiro Gonzalez appeared, armed with two handguns. "Her estranged husband came up to the vehicle, shot several times into the vehicle, at which time her two sons, Adrian and Eldryn exited the vehicle," Detective Lieutenant Ron Humphrey, of the Paterson Police Department, said. "Adrian was immediately shot as he ran to the driveway." Seven-year-old Adrian Gonzalez died at the scene. Police say the enraged husband shot his 11-year-old son, Elryn Gonzalez, in the neck, then shot his 31-year-old wife in the shoulder before trying to run away past a nearby McDonalds.

Off-duty Paterson Police Det. Lt. Washington Griffen was with his young son sitting in the drive-thru lane. "He exited the vehicle, leaving his son in the car, he hollered out to the suspect, advised him he was a police officer and to drop the weapon," Det. Lt. Humphrey said. "There was an exchange of gunfire, and the suspect was shot twice." Gonzalez was shot in the head and femur and died at the hospital. Det. Lt. Griffen, a 19-year veteran of the force, has been placed on administrative leave while Paterson police and the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office conducts an investigation.

Edelmiro and Johanna had been separated for three years. Although Edelmiro had visitation rights with his sons, Johanna had a restraining order on him since September.

<http://wcbstv.com/local/paterson.fatal.shootings.2.1338507.html>

### **Stumbo says Amanda's Bill might have given her fighting chance**

House Speaker Greg Stumbo, D-Prestonsburg, said Friday his proposed legislation to place those accused of domestic violence to be placed under electronic monitoring might have prevented the death of Amanda Ross. Ross, 29, died Sept. 11 of gun shot wounds outside her Lexington townhouse. Her former fiancé, former legislator and one-time candidate for governor, Steve Nunn, was arrested in connection with the case. He has been charged but has not yet been indicted. Last spring Nunn was placed under a domestic violence order after Ross accused him of hitting her several times in the face. "It would at least have given Amanda Ross the opportunity to use a gun she had," Stumbo said. "it would give victims what I'd call a fighting chance."

Stumbo is calling his legislation the Amanda Bill. It would allow judges to require those who pose a serious threat to their partners to wear an electronic ankle bracelet which would allow authorities to track his or her movements and location. If the victim chose to carry a companion device, he or she might also be warned when the alleged abuser came within 500 feet.

Stumbo said about 15 other states have similar programs and Lexington uses the devices to monitor probation and parole. He and Fayette County Corrections Director Ron Bishop told the Judiciary Committee the cost would be between \$7 and \$8 for those required to wear them and another \$5 for those alleged victims who chose to carry the warning device. He said Friday it would actually save the state money in the long run. It costs about \$60 a day to house a prisoner, Stumbo said, and the average cost of a capital murder trial is about \$185,000. But most importantly, Stumbo said, the program saves lives. In the states where it has been fully implemented, he said, "There has not been one single homicide as of this morning."

If a person wearing the device gets within a proscribed distance of the other party, an alarm sounds to warn the person wearing it and authorities are also alerted by computer. If the other party has the warning device, she too receives a signal.

His bill would provide an assessment form for judges to indicate those most likely to commit violence against their accusers.

[http://www.mccrearyrecord.com/statenews/local\\_story\\_315122616.html](http://www.mccrearyrecord.com/statenews/local_story_315122616.html)

### **Employers often reluctant to deal with domestic violence that spills into workplace**

Despite three decades of consciousness-raising, plenty of resources and a major state push, Legacy Health System and thousands of other Oregon companies do not have specific policies to deal with domestic violence in their workplaces. The calamity of domestic violence at work is real and can lead to homicide, as when a Gladstone man shot his wife to death this week at her job in Tualatin. But partner abuse in the workplace usually involves a long-running ordeal of harassment, stalking, threats and other intimidation that employers remain reluctant to face.

American Family Insurance, which has a specific policy -- and others said employers must heed the signals from that radar and help their workers -- if for no other reason than domestic violence hits the bottom line. The annual toll in lost work time adds up to an estimated \$10 million for Oregon businesses, state labor statistics show, and nearly \$1 billion nationwide.

Nancy Glass, a nurse and social researcher at Johns Hopkins University who formerly worked at Oregon Health & Science University, completed a survey in 2007 of domestic violence in the Oregon workplace. Eighty-six percent of the 198 batterers interviewed said their co-workers or supervisors knew about their abusive behavior. Two-thirds of the batterers said their employers helped them keep their jobs after they were arrested for domestic violence. Fifty-four percent of the batterers said they used their own employer's time and resources to harass and interfere with a partner's employment. Glass also interviewed 281 Oregon women who survived domestic violence; 69 percent were employed at the time of the abuse. They said they told supervisors and co-workers about the abuse, which involved repeated telephone calls or preventing the partner from going to work at all.

On Tuesday just before noon, Robert Beiser went to Legacy MetroLab in Tualatin, where his wife, Teresa, worked as a lab technician. He pulled out a gun and fired, killing her and injuring two other people. He then killed himself. Lisa Wood, a spokeswoman for Legacy Health System, said Legacy does not have a specific policy on domestic violence in the workplace. But Wood said new employees go through a brief training on the general subject of violence in the workplace and "several hundred" of Legacy's 10,000 employees attend workshops every year on violence in the workplace. Wood said employees have been told that if they are experiencing domestic violence, they can contact supervisors, "and that goes directly to our security department." Wood said she did not know whether Teresa Beiser went to supervisors about her situation at home. Teresa Beiser filed for divorce last week.

Legacy is no different from many companies. In 2005, the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics found that more than 70 percent of the country's workplaces did not have a formal program or policy to deal with domestic violence. About 4 percent of companies trained employees on domestic violence and its impact on the workplace, the bureau found.

In 2007, the Oregon Legislature enacted a law requiring employers to grant unpaid leave to workers who need the time to obtain a court order or to accomplish other tasks to protect themselves against domestic violence.

The state Bureau of Labor and Industries and the Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division have written and online materials to help employers develop policies on domestic violence.

[http://www.oregonlive.com/tualatin/index.ssf/2009/11/employers\\_reluctant\\_to\\_deal\\_with\\_domestic\\_violence\\_that\\_spills\\_into\\_workplace.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/tualatin/index.ssf/2009/11/employers_reluctant_to_deal_with_domestic_violence_that_spills_into_workplace.html)

### **Mid-City killer's violent past disclosed**

The man who fatally stabbed a woman at her Mid-City apartment last week, hours after she filed a domestic violence report against him, was twice deported to Mexico and had two prior felony convictions for domestic violence, according to government records.

On Monday, authorities formally identified the man, who was fatally shot by police as he attacked and killed Flor Medrano, 30, in her apartment in the 1300 block of Cochran Avenue on Wednesday. The attacker, Daniel Carlon, 23, was described as a Mexican national who was

living here illegally and had a history of threatening and harassing women. Carlon had entered the building and attacked the victim as Los Angeles Police Department officers stood watch outside. According to U.S. Department of Homeland Security records, Carlon had been sent back to Mexico twice -- once in January 2007 on the orders of an immigration judge and again in June of this year, after he was arrested by federal immigration officials. No further details of those cases were available.

Carlon had also pleaded guilty to charges of domestic violence in two previous cases, both of which involved another woman, according to Michele Daly, a family violence prosecutor with the San Bernardino County district attorney's office, which had jurisdiction. The first incident occurred in March 2005. According to Daly, who quoted from a police report, Carlon threatened violence against the victim if she reported the abuse to authorities. "If you call the police department, we're both going to die. I'll kill you if you call the cops," Carlon told the victim. After pleading guilty to felony spousal abuse, Carlon was sentenced to 180 days in jail and was ordered to complete a 52-week domestic violence program. When he was released in the fall of 2005, he began stalking the same woman again, Daly said. The woman filed a report in November stating that Carlon was harassing her over the phone and knocking on her window, which he broke. The woman also hid from him, Daly said. He was sent to prison in February 2006 for two years after he again pleaded guilty to felony spousal abuse.

Medrano filed a domestic violence report against Carlon hours before she was killed Wednesday. Police believe Carlon scaled the roof of the victim's building and entered the second-story apartment through a rear window. When officers heard screaming, they rushed upstairs and saw Carlon through a window, stabbing Medrano. Police then shot and killed Carlon.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-mid-city17-2009nov17,0,2731794.story>

### **Domestic abuse cases proceed - even without victim**

Experts say most victims usually recant after reporting their partners committed the abuse. As a result, the majority of domestic violence cases nationwide are prosecuted without the victim's consent or participation. To deal with such an idiosyncratic crime, prosecutors have devised other ways to handle cases. As a result, so-called family justice centers are cropping up around the country, one-stop shopping for victims of domestic violence where they can find social, economic and legal support.

In New York City, Scott Kessler runs the Queens center that prosecutes about 6,000 cases a year. Kessler said because he knows women generally won't participate he employs evidence-based prosecution, like photos of the injuries taken by cameras stationed at police precincts, 911 calls delivered electronically to their office and domestic violence incident reports taken by police that use checklists to determine the woman's state. "We anticipate," he said in his office, surrounded by blown-up photos of bruised and battered women. "And in a way, it takes the pressure off the victim because we can prosecute without them. Of course, it's best if they participate."

There are myriad reasons why victims don't want to move forward with criminal cases, or even report the crime to begin with. Most want the violence to stop, but they don't want the abuser to

go to jail, said Bea Hanson, chief program officer for Safe Horizon, a large, nonprofit that offers a range of services for victims of domestic violence. "Love. Financial dependence. He's a father figure for kids. So many women often think they still may be good father despite the abuse. There are a lot of reasons," she said. "Also there's a fear of retribution. Because most cases there isn't jail time," she said.

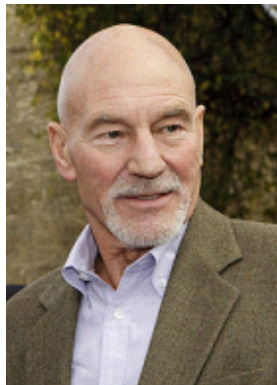
The idea behind the family justice center is to provide a network of support for the victim, who will, theoretically, feel comfortable enough at some point to hold their abuser accountable. Services are available in one location, from help with housing to job training, orders of protection and prosecutors working on cases. There are translators who speak hundreds of languages, and there's even a play room where children can go so they don't have to hear about the case.

The idea started about a decade ago, and there are now 55 centers nationwide, according to Casey Gwinn, president of National Family Justice Center Alliance. Gwinn started the first center, in San Diego, in 2002. Twenty-seven organizations came together to provide victim assistance, including social workers and childcare. Gwinn said while initially victims weren't willing to participate, the more support they have, the more the confidence they get. "They recant often because they're scared and they have no other options," he said. "But if they have resources, they don't recant."

The majority of domestic violence cases are settled outside court, and sentences range from jail time to counseling and electronic monitoring.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jbzjUXN-1v4D3kUA3ObBMRtUrStwD9C8N1800>

## **International – News**



### **Patrick Stewart: the legacy of domestic violence**

My father was, in many ways, a man of discipline, organisation and charisma - a regimental sergeant major no less. One of the very last men to be evacuated from Dunkirk, his third stripe was chalked on to his uniform by an officer when no more senior NCOs were left alive.

Parachuted into Crete and Italy, both times under fire, he fought at Monte Casino and was twice mentioned in dispatches. A fellow soldier once told me, "When your father marches on to the parade ground, the birds in the trees stop singing."

In civilian life it was a different story. He was an angry, unhappy and frustrated man who was not able to control his emotions or his hands. As a child I witnessed his repeated violence against my mother, and the terror and misery he caused was such that, if I felt I could have succeeded, I would have killed him. If my mother had attempted it, I would have held him down. For those who struggle to comprehend these feelings in a child, imagine living in an environment of emotional unpredictability, danger and humiliation week after week, year after year, from the age of seven. My childish instinct was to protect my mother, but the man hurting her was my father, whom I respected, admired and feared.

From Monday morning to Friday tea time he worked as a semi-skilled labourer, and was diligent and sober. Often funny and charming, he was always rich in the personal stories of warfare and adventure that thrilled me. But come Friday night, after the pubs closed, we awaited his return with trepidation. I would be in bed but not asleep. I could never sleep until he did; while he was awake we were all at risk. Instead, I would listen for his voice, singing, as he walked home. Certain songs were reassuring: I'll Take You Home Again, Kathleen; I'll Walk Beside You . . . But army songs were not a good sign. And worst of all was silence. When I could only hear footsteps it was the signal to be super-alert.

Our house was small, and when you grow up with [domestic violence](#) in a confined space you learn to gauge, very precisely, the temperature of situations. I knew exactly when the shouting was done and a hand was about to be raised – I also knew exactly when to insert a small body between the fist and her face, a skill no child should ever have to learn. Curiously, I never felt fear for myself and he never struck me, an odd moral imposition that would not allow him to strike a child. The situation was barely tolerable: I witnessed terrible things, which I knew were wrong, but there was nowhere to go for help. Worse, there were those who condoned the abuse. I heard police or ambulancemen, standing in our house, say, "She must have provoked him," or, "Mrs Stewart, it takes two to make a fight." They had no idea. The truth is my mother did nothing to deserve the violence she endured. She did not provoke my father, and even if she had, violence is an unacceptable way of dealing with conflict. Violence is a choice a man makes and he alone is responsible for it.

No one came to help. No adult stepped in and took charge. I needed someone else to take over and tell me everything was going to be all right and that it wasn't my fault. I wanted the anger to go away and, while it stayed, I felt responsible. The sense of guilt and loneliness provoked by domestic violence is tainting – and lasting. No one came, but everyone knew. Our small houses were close together. Every Monday morning I walked to school with my head down, praying that I would not encounter a neighbour or school friend who had heard the weekend's rows. I felt ashamed.

Very occasionally one person would come to our aid – Mrs Dixon, our next-door neighbour, the only person who would stand up to my father. She would throw open the door and stand before him, bosom bursting and her mighty weaver's forearm raised in his face. "Come on, Alf

Stewart," she would say, "have a go at me." He never did. He calmed down and went to bed. Now I wish I could take Lizzie Dixon's big hand in mine and thank her.

Such experiences are destructive. In my adult life I have struggled to overcome the bad lessons of my father's behaviour, this corrosive example of male irresponsibility. But the most oppressive aspect of these experiences was the loneliness. Very recently, during a falling-out with my girlfriend, I felt again as though I were shut out and alone, not heard or understood. I was neither, but it was such a familiar isolation that it was almost a comfort and consolation.

The truth is that domestic violence touches many of us. It is very possible that someone you know – a friend, sister, daughter or colleague – is experiencing abuse. One in four women will experience domestic violence at some point in her lifetime. And every week two women are killed by a current or former partner in England and Wales, and 10 women take their own lives as the only way they know how to escape a violent partner. You are almost certainly paying for it. Domestic violence costs around £26bn a year in medical, legal and housing costs.

This violence is not a private matter. Behind closed doors it is shielded and hidden and it only intensifies. It is protected by silence – everyone's silence. I cannot express how sad – and angry – it makes me to think that we still cannot ensure the safety of women and children in their own homes.

Most people find the idea of violence against women – and sometimes, though rarely, against men - abhorrent, but do nothing to challenge it. More women and children, just like my mother and me, will continue to experience domestic violence unless we all speak out against it.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2009/nov/27/patrick-stewart-domestic-violence>

### **Police want women to know if their partner has violent past**

Members of the public would be told if partners had a history of domestic violence – similar to the pilot, established after campaigning in the wake of the murder of Sarah Payne, where parents could check if someone who has access to their children has a history of child sex or violence offences. The move would be backed up by a second proposal from The Association of Chief Police Officers (Acpo) to set up a register for up to 25,000 serial wife-beaters where they would have to keep police up to date with their movements and activities. It would be similar to the sex offenders register although a requirement to sign it would be at the discretion of a court rather than automatic. The police say a register of serial abusers would allow new partners and others at risk of violence to be told of a man's history. Controversially, this could include information short of convictions, including a pattern of unproved allegations by different women. Decisions about disclosure to potential victims would be taken by a multi-agency panel that would assess the risks in each case.

Acpo also raised the prospect of more "radical" changes in the law that would allow a prosecution to be brought on the basis of a "course of conduct" against different victims where each case wasn't strong enough to charge and potentially making an alleged abuser liable if a victim committed suicide. Other measures will focus on making witness statements immediately

available, the creation of specialist protection orders and widening the use of conditional cautioning. The proposals come as part of a Home Office review of how to best deal with abuse and violence against women and girls.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newsttopics/politics/lawandorder/6582192/Police-want-women-to-know-if-their-partner-has-violent-past.html>

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ukpress/article/ALeqM5gh9RjQHba0L8-rIwRfwuCWszIyug>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2009/nov/16/domestic-violence-police-register-database>

### **New weapon in crackdown on home violence**

Officers in Portsmouth are the first in the country to be given the cameras to specifically target domestic violence incidents. From next month the 16 body-worn cameras – worth £1,000 each – will be assigned to police on patrol in the city to record crucial evidence that could increase conviction rates.

Inspector Chris Parry said: 'When a domestic violence call comes in we will prioritise assigning an officer with a camera to the incident. They will be able to record the victim's physical and emotional state as well as surveying the scene. They can then record evidence if there are signs of a struggle; if there has been an assault; whether the suspect is aggressive or drunk; and their demeanour. The following morning the footage will be replayed to the suspect, which can be very powerful. He may have been so drunk the night before that he can't remember what he's done or he may be in denial. This type of evidence will hopefully lead to more early guilty pleas.'

It is also hoped the cameras will enable more prosecutions to go ahead – even if the victim later withdraws their statement. 'We have an agreement with the Crown Prosecution Service that they will still proceed with a prosecution with good video evidence. If the evidence can be replayed in court it can be very powerful for the magistrates or a jury to see what the scene was like. Tonia Earey, domestic abuse co-ordinator for Portsmouth, said: 'We really believe these body-worn cameras will make a difference. They are robust, the picture is very good and the quality means the recordings should be admissible as evidence.'

<http://www.portsmouth.co.uk/newshome/New-weapon-in-crackdown-on.5847603.jp>

### **Tajikistan: Child brides, polygamy and poverty contributing to rampant domestic violence- new report**

The authorities in Tajikistan are failing to curb rampant domestic violence against women in the country, said Amnesty International, as it published a new report on the topic. Amnesty's 53-page report - *Violence Is Not Just A Family Affair: Women Face Abuse In Tajikistan* - shows that girls being married off under-age, unofficial 'unregistered' marriages (with husbands often having multiple wives), and uneducated and poor women being treated as servants in their husbands' homes - are all contributing to very high levels of violence against women within Tajik families.

Amnesty's report accuses the Tajik police and other authorities of often sharing the values of husbands and in-law families in condoning violence and discrimination against women. One Tajik government official told Amnesty: *'Violence against women is not a problem in Tajikistan, it is a family matter; and it depends on individual people how they resolve their problems.'*

Amnesty International Tajikistan expert Andrea Strasser-Camagni said: *'Women in Tajikistan are beaten, abused, and raped in the family but the authorities tend to reflect the societal attitude of blaming the woman for domestic violence. They see their primary role as mediator, to preserve the family rather than protect the woman and to safeguard their rights. 'By writing off violence against women as a family affair the authorities in Tajikistan are shirking their responsibility to a large part of the population. They are allowing perpetrators of such crimes to act with impunity and, ultimately, denying women their human rights.'*

Surveys have shown that between a third and a half of Tajik women have suffered violence from a family member. One survey showed 58% of wives reporting physical and/or sexual violence from their husbands, and young - often uneducated - women married in 'unregistered' ceremonies are particularly at risk. In many Tajik households women are demeaned and attacked by husbands and in-laws alike. Sexual violence in marriage is common. In one case a husband forced his wife to have anal sex 'in order to have a boy' (they already had six girls). In another case a husband brought a second wife home and beat his first wife after she complained when he began having sex with the newcomer in the same room as her. Unregistered wives can also be divorced by husbands who simply repeat a phrase in front of two witnesses. This often leaves divorced women with nowhere to live and no source of income. In some cases wives have been divorced over the telephone by husbands working abroad who have already started new families abroad (widespread poverty in Tajikistan has led to millions of Tajik men working in other countries in recent years, especially in Russia).

Despite the fact that research reveals very high levels of domestic violence in the country the Tajik authorities do not compile comprehensive data on the issue and there is only one shelter for at-risk women in the entire country. Amnesty is calling on the Tajik authorities to begin full monitoring of domestic violence, to provide women's shelters across the country, and to establish specialised police units to deal with the problem. The prosecutorial authorities are also being urged to end impunity for the perpetrators of domestic violence by pursuing prosecutions themselves rather than placing the onus on victims to initiate cases - something that victims of domestic violence in Tajikistan rarely feel able to do.

[http://www.amnesty.org.uk/news\\_details.asp?NewsID=18510](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/news_details.asp?NewsID=18510)

### **UN unveils Network of Men to fight abuse of women**

UN chief Ban Ki-moon has unveiled a Network of Men Leaders to act as male role models in a campaign opposing violence against women. Speaking at the UN headquarters in New York, the secretary-general called on men and boys around the world to join the campaign. "Break the silence," he said. "When you witness violence against women and girls, do not sit back. Act. Advocate. Unite to change the practices and attitudes that incite, perpetrate and condone this

violence." He said it was unacceptable that so many women experienced some form of physical or sexual violence from men - mostly from their husbands, intimate partners, or someone they knew. He said men must teach each other that real men do not violate or oppress women - and that a woman's place is not just in the home or in the fields but in schools, offices and boardrooms. Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the South African Nobel Peace Laureate, said: "You are a weak man if you use your physical superiority to assault and brutalise women.

The link below includes a video with the following statistics...

- 70% of women experience physical or sexual violence from men in their lifetime.
- In Afghanistan, 80% of women suffer abuse.
- In 2002, 150 million girls under the age of 18 experienced sexual violence.
- In South Africa, a woman is killed every 6 hours by her intimate partner.
- In India, 22 women a day are killed in dowry related murders.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/8379217.stm>

### **School lessons to tackle domestic violence outlined**

Every school pupil in England is to be taught that domestic violence against women and girls is unacceptable, as part of a new government strategy. Under the plans, from 2011 children will be taught from the age of five how to prevent violent relationships. From 2011, lessons in gender equality and preventing violence in relationships will be compulsory in the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum. Before qualifying, trainee teachers will have to learn about teaching gender awareness and domestic violence. Schools minister Vernon Coaker said lessons would be age appropriate. Younger children could be taught to prevent bullying and learn how names could hurt people, he added. Recent research by the children's charity NSPCC found one in four girls, some as young as 13, had been slapped or hit by their boyfriends. It also found one in nine had been beaten up, hit by objects or strangled. Home Office minister Alan Campbell said domestic violence against men was also a problem but women and girls were the focus of this latest strategy because 80% of domestic violence victims were female. Harriet Harman, minister for women and equality, said tackling violence against women and girls was one of the government's top priorities and prevention was critical to long-term change. "We have to work to change attitudes in order to eliminate violence against women and girls and to make it clear beyond doubt that any form of violence against women is unacceptable," she said.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/8376943.stm>

## **Research**

**Sixth Annual Report of Domestic Violence Death Review Committee** by the Office of the Chief Coroner, Province of Ontario.

[http://www.mcscs.jus.gov.on.ca/english/office\\_coroner/PublicationsandReports/Coroners\\_publications\\_reports.html](http://www.mcscs.jus.gov.on.ca/english/office_coroner/PublicationsandReports/Coroners_publications_reports.html)

### **Findings**

- Reviewed 15 cases (2002-2006).

- All victims were female and all perpetrators were male.
- Average age of both victims and perpetrators was 35.
- About half of all victims and perpetrators were employed.
- 80% of perpetrators had a criminal history, while only 13% of victims had one.
- 67% of victims received prior counseling, as did 47% of perpetrators.
- 87% of victims and perpetrators had significant life changes (ex. Separation, health problems, or financial difficulties).
- 33% were legal spouses, 40% were common-law, and 27% were boyfriend/girlfriend.
- 66% had a 1-10 year relationship, while 20% had a relationship for less than one year.
- 53% had no children, while 47% had 1-2 children.
- 80% of cases were homicides. Two murder-suicides and one multiple murder was examined.
- 60% had a cause of death as other than sharp force or gunshot.

### **Risk Factors**

- 94% had 7 or more of the following risk factors present...
  - History of Domestic Violence
  - Actual or Pending Separation
  - History of Violence Outside the Family
  - Perpetrator Displayed Obsessive Behavior
  - Prior Threats/Attempts to Commit Suicide
  - Escalation of Violence
  - Prior Threats to Kill Victim
  - Victim had Intuitive Sense of Fear
  - Excessive Alcohol and/or Drug Use
  - Perpetrator Failed to Comply with Authority
  - Victim & Perpetrator Living Common-Law
  - Perpetrator Depressed in Opinion of Others
  - Prior Attempts to Isolate Victim
  - Actual/Perceived Victim has New Partner
  - Choked Victim in the Past
  - Control of Most/All Victim's Activities
  - Perpetrator Unemployed
  - Perpetrator Abused/Witnessed DV as Child
  - Perpetrator Displayed Sexual Jealousy
  - Access to or Possession of Firearms
  - Prior Threats with a Weapon Against Victim
  - History of Violence/Threats Against Children
  - Other Mental Health/Psychiatric Problems
  - Misogynistic Attitude Displayed by Perpetrator
  - After Risk Assessment Perpetrator had access
  - Presence of Stepchildren in the home
  - Prior Destruction of Victim's Property
  - Extreme Minimization/Denial by Perpetrator
  - Prior Forcible Confinement
  - Age Disparity Between Couple
  - Prior Assault with a Weapon
  - Youth of Couple
  - Child Custody or Access Disputes
  - Forced Sexual Acts/Assaults on Victim
  - Prior Assault on Victim While Pregnant
  - Prior Violence Against Victim's Pets
  - History of Suicidal Behavior in Family

### **Recommendations**

The recommendations from the report address issues such as...

- Domestic violence education
- Surety protocols
- High risk case processes

- Workplace policies regarding domestic violence
- Holistic responses
- Risk assessment training
- Attempted suicide follow up and support
- Enforcement of court mandated program attendance
- Restraining order education
- Choking/strangulation terminology and medical response
- Recognition of severity of a single critical assault at bail hearings
- Standards for Children's Aid Societies interventions

### **A Piece of White Silk**

This piece offers a comprehensive look at honour killings and some of the issues surrounding them. Discussion includes case stories in an effort to communicate the following ideas:

- Honour is tied more to perceived failings (ex. rumors) than a victim's real actions.
- Honour is both the cause and effect of the crime. There is a link between a man's honour and a woman's shame. Honour is vested in the women but is the property of men.
- A woman's virtue has become the guardian of social cohesion.
- Mothers and other female relatives are involved in these crimes.
- Police indifference has occurred.
- Honour killing cannot be equated with Islam and the West is not immune.
- Honour killing is not a religious act and there is no justification for it in the Quran.
- How readings and misreadings change the voice of the text.
- Culture should not be seen as immovable.
- Why there is reluctance to use honour as a mitigating factor invoking the cultural defence.
- The use of biased intermediaries is a problem.
- Honour crimes are crimes of control, not tradition or culture.
- How the defence of provocation can bear resemblance to the defence of honour.
- The significance given to honour crimes in debates about immigrant communities post-9/11 is dangerous to communities.
- There is a link between honour, the pressures of the modern world, and urbanization.
- History is an important factor in understanding any honour killing.
- The area of honour killing has shown progress in some facets but not in others.
- The problem of honour killings is deeper than law.
- It is important to remember the stories of those who have spoken out.

The author frames the discussion around her review of the following literature:

- Murder in the Name of Honour by Rana Husseini
- In Honour of Fadime: Murder and Shame by Unni Wikan, translated by Anna Paterson
- Honour Killing: Stories of Men Who Killed by Ayse Onal

<http://www.lrb.co.uk/v31/n21/jacqueline-rose/a-piece-of-white-silk>