



Building Comprehensive Solutions to Domestic Violence

Outreach to Underserved Communities

by

Sujata Warriar, Ph.D.

**National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
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A Curriculum in Five Modules

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Building Comprehensive Solutions to Domestic Violence

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Building Comprehensive Solutions to Domestic Violence is a multi-year initiative to help domestic violence organizations collaborate more effectively in their communities and build visions, policies, and practices that respond to the current realities facing battered women and their families, especially those living in poverty.

Beginning in the fall of 1998, the project, funded by The Ford Foundation, will produce a series of materials and launch several new initiatives. These include:

National Training Initiative to Enhance Collaboration. This initiative, designed for domestic violence advocates, will include the dissemination of training curricula on public policy skills, strategic thinking, negotiation, facilitation, and outreach to underserved communities. Materials will be distributed to statewide and local domestic violence programs in 1999.

Policy and Practice Paper Series. These new papers are designed to provide domestic violence advocates with basic, useful information about the ways that systems, such as child protection and health care, operate and offer suggestions for effective ways to initiate systemic collaborations and improve public policy.

Vision Paper Series. These new papers are created to spark dialogue in the battered women's movement about future collaborative directions for our work. The first papers in the series will explore the links among domestic violence, poverty, and economic justice, and reexamine the role of men in the work to end domestic violence.

Meeting Battered Women's Basic Human Needs. In 1999, the project will publish descriptions of innovative transitional and permanent housing programs developed and managed by domestic violence organizations around the country. A project goal is to design strategies that increase housing and economic opportunities for battered women. The project will also continue to develop papers on welfare and child support and describe emerging issues and approaches in response to welfare law changes.

The New England Network on Domestic Violence and Poverty. This project will explore a variety of approaches to multi-disciplinary policy development and advocacy for battered women and their families, especially those who are living in poverty. Coordinated by Greater Hartford Legal Assistance (CT), our collaborative partner, the Network will be a catalyst to develop comprehensive policy strategies to address domestic violence and poverty. Materials and lessons learned from the Network will be shared with domestic violence coalitions and anti-poverty advocates around the country.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: contact the NRC at 800-537-2238.

About the Author.

Sujata Warriar is the Director of the Health Care Bureau of the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, based in New York City. In this position she trains and provides technical assistance to professionals in various systems – such as health care, law enforcement, criminal and civil justice, and human and social services – on the issue of domestic violence. Additionally, she provides assistance on legislative and policy issues on battered immigrant women. She received her Ph.D. from the Maxwell School of Syracuse University. Her dissertation, “Patriarchy and Daughter Disfavor in West Bengal, India,” is under revision for publication. She has written and published numerous articles on violence against women.

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She recently authored “From Sensitivity to Competency: Clinical and Departmental Guidelines for Achieving Cultural Competency,” for the Family Violence Prevention Fund; and co-authored “Achieving Effective Domestic Violence Public Education in a Diverse Society: A Solutions Oriented Approach,” for the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence.

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The National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRC) was founded in 1993 as a key component in a national network of domestic violence resources. As a source of comprehensive information, training and technical assistance on community response to and prevention of domestic violence, the NRC exists to support the capacity of organizations and individuals working to end violence in the lives of women and their children.

The NRC’s first priority is to proactively support the work of national, state and local domestic violence programs. It has also placed an emphasis on increasing organizational responsiveness to the needs identified by communities of color and other traditionally underserved populations. The NRC exists as a project of the Pennsylvania Coalition on Domestic Violence, a pioneering leader in policy development, training and technical assistance in the movement to end domestic violence.

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