

THE Stopping the Violence Program AT Battered Women's Support Services

By **CM**
(pseudonym)

The Stopping the Violence (STV) program at Battered Women's Support Services of Vancouver has been the most important education and support program I have accessed in my journey toward recovery from a childhood and 30 years of marriage laden with violence, abuse and trauma. With their support, I have with confidence, been able to leave my marriage and the mental health system, both of which kept me disabled. I am now beginning an educational program of my choice, in pursuit of a meaningful career.

The STV program began helping me by being non-judgmental or leading when I made my first contact by phone. A friend and a relative had both suggested I might be a victim of abuse in my marriage, and because of the nature of my history of tolerating abuse, since early childhood, I could not recognize the problem. My first contact was an intake worker, who patiently and quietly listened as I struggled to decide if I was being subjected to abuse, and I

was allowed to make my own decisions, and welcomed to come in to a free drop-in support group.

At the drop-in group, I was astounded at how diverse a group of women we were, and how we still had entirely common experiences of violence, rejection, invalidation, and deprivation. I no longer needed to worry about the definition of abuse, I was now free to address the details of what I was experiencing and learn the patterns, and create new ways of handling these long-familiar entanglements and traps. The support and education groups covered many topics about relationships that I had little understanding of before, and thus helped me have insight that helps me prevent myself from potentially unsafe relationships in the present.

I found both the group work and individual counseling an indispensable adjunct to

the psychotherapy I have with a private psychologist: the STV program specifically addressed the abuse and violence component of my recovery, through group sharing and educational materials, in a practical problem-solving way, and the counselor at BWSS has helped me navigate my entry back into independence by helping me have insight and recognize the successes I have in using the tools I have acquired. In addition, I had the invaluable support and advice from the staff legal advocate, which helped me navigate the complexities of the legal system, which is something I could not do alone. With their help, I can now stand up and be heard in personal relationships, and also navigate my way to proper legal help when necessary.



Youth Engagement in Violence Prevention

A BWSS
Pilot
Project

Empowering girls and boys to see themselves as equals is key to ending violence against girls and women.



Today, Battered Women's Support Services (BWSS) introduces a new violence prevention project aimed at Greater Vancouver high school students.

The BWSS Youth Engagement in Violence Prevention Pilot Project intends to reduce violence in youth intimate relationships by empowering girls and boys to examine stereotypic gender expectations and learn how to step outside the boundaries of such narrow expectations.

Our work is in part driven by BWSS' research and focus group findings that demonstrate local high schools regularly receive disclosures of violence and are often unable to respond effectively.

What we know

According to the results of the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth, approximately 71% of youth in Canada report being in a dating relationship by the age of 15. Among those that have engaged in a dating relationship, 55% had their first dating relationship by the age of 12.

Unfortunately, many will find themselves in relationships where abuse is common, and, as we might expect, this is dramatically so for adolescent girls.

While most studies of self-reported dating violence indicate that young people between the ages of 15 and 24 have the highest risk of dating violence,

rates of dating violence were higher for female than male victims at a margin of nearly 10 to 1 for those 15 to 19 years of age.

One in seven high school girls have experienced physical or sexual abuse and almost half have experienced emotional abuse in their intimate relationships. Forty percent of teenage girls aged 14-17 report knowing someone their age who has been hit or beaten by a boyfriend.

Importantly, there is now a growing focus on boys and men to own their role in violence against women. Organizations like "A Call to Men" and BWSS are engaging men and boys to prevent and stop abuse and this active work is expanding our understanding of how socially constructed masculinity is a contributing factor to violence. Based on the latest information from researchers and activists in Canada like Byron Hurt, Jackson Katz, and James Green, we know that an education program that effectively involves both boys and girls is unavailable in Canada.

Project development and implementation

Over 2007 and 2008, BWSS' focus groups with girls, young women, boys, and young men provided critical direction on how to address violence in youth intimate relationships. We learned that an effective approach must emphasize empowering both girls and boys. Equally clear is that boys must be included not as perpetrators, but as individuals who have the opportunity to see themselves and girls and women clearly and as equals.

To ensure relevance and build success, we have established key partnerships with leading activists working with boys and men and conducted informal research to assess schools' response to violence disclosures from girls.

Drawing upon expertise of both male and female experts on violence against women and through a constant engagement process with youth, the Project will develop and refine an innovative curriculum that reflects today's youth interests and culture.

The Youth Engagement in Violence Prevention Pilot Project will include marketing, training, workshops, and a follow-up evaluation with 600 local high school students.

Piloted in Metro Vancouver schools, the Project will be delivered through interactive workshops by and for youth. Youth will be involved on the Curriculum Advisory Council and will be trained to deliver the program to their peers. They will also focus on recruiting youth to be trained for program delivery and establish links within their own schools for delivery of the program.

A priority for the Project will be to establish formal partnerships with our colleagues in the following organizations, each of which partnered with us on past projects:

- Britannia Community School
- Urban Native Youth Association

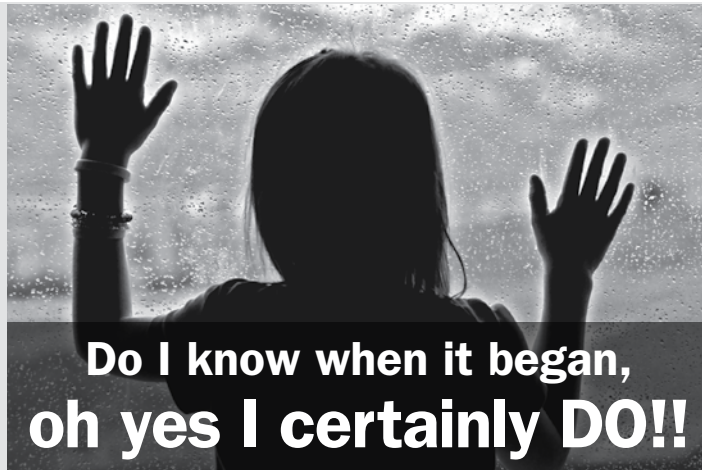
- Broadway Youth Resource
- Leave Out Violence (LOVE) BC

Representatives from these organizations will be asked to sit on the Curriculum Advisory Council to lend their expertise to the curriculum content and delivery. These partners will also provide an avenue through which we can recruit youth for the program delivery while assisting us to establish partnerships with additional schools. This work will be supported by the longstanding relationships BWSS has established with guidance counselors working with Vancouver, Surrey, North Vancouver, Tri-Cities, and Richmond School Districts.

The guilt, the shame, I covered up with drugs and alcohol and that carried me into my late twenties. At that time I took up a relationship with someone who I thought would protect me, I thought no one would touch me with him around. He was a biker and what I didn't realize was that I would become the one who feared and needed protection from him. He isolated me from my family and friends, verbally assaulted me, and beat me. It wasn't until I was pregnant with his child that I drew the line. No more abuse that could possibly hurt my child. I kicked him

out and went into hiding until after the baby was born. In the end I got sole custody and no access granted to him after a year and a half in the court system. I got permission to leave the province and left immediately.

I remained in hiding for sixteen years, and then my daughter found her father on Facebook. I needed to talk to someone experienced



I was a child of nine. I was sexually abused for three years, till I was twelve, when I made a serious suicide attempt. I was never the same. The innocence of childhood had been robbed from me. I was scared and then tortured by my memories. Was it really my fault, I knew it wasn't right, why didn't I leave and never come back. But I did, I kept coming back for three years.

with this type of situation. I called BWSS for support and guidance; I was placed on a waiting list.

I have been seeing a trauma worker for almost two years. I have been brutally honest with myself and my worker. This is new to me; my shame and guilt have always silenced me, now I can't shut up. I am not someone who needs crisis management, I need to have a long

term counselor who I have built trust with, who I am confident in, who respects me whose opinion I value.

My quality of life has changed, my own self-respect, my self awareness, feeling like I'm not alone, a feeling of belonging. All these things I have gained through BWSS. For someone like me, with the history I have there is no quick fix, I have needed slow, consistent support. This has really worked for me. Just this May

I was the recipient of the COAST 2010 Courage to come back award in Mental Health. This award is given to a British Columbian who has overcome extraordinary challenges and adversity and who has given back to their communities.

Theresa Duggan



BWSS' Women's Support Group Programs

Current Support Groups & Workshops at BWSS

MONDAYS

Latin-American Women's Group
10am - 12noon
Starting SEP/6, 2010

Healing Circle
3 - 5pm
Starting SEP/27, 2010

TUESDAYS

Yoga at BWSS
9 - 10am • Ongoing

Drop-in Support Group
Battered Women's Support Services
12 - 2pm • Ongoing

Drop-in Support Group
Downtown Eastside Women's Centre
6 - 8pm • Ongoing

WEDNESDAYS

Recognizing, Understanding, & Overcoming the Impact of Abuse
1 - 3pm
Starting SEP/15, 2010

The Awareness, Action, & Empowerment Group
6 - 8pm
Starting OCT/6, 2010
Healing from Trauma through Empowerment
(Stage 1) Group • 6 - 8pm
Starting OCT/6, 2010

THURSDAYS

Healing from Trauma through Understanding
(Stage 2) Group
10am - 12noon
Starting OCT/7, 2010

FRIDAYS

BWSS' Prevention & Intervention Training Program
9:30am - 4pm
Starting SEP/17, 2010

Upcoming Support Groups & Workshops at BWSS

Healing from Trauma through Empowerment
(Stage 1) Group

Healing from Trauma through Understanding
(Stage 2) Group

Healing from Trauma through Reconnection
(Stage 3) Group

Empowering Mother's Support Group

Legal Advocacy Workshops

BWSS' Prevention & Intervention Training Program



MY SISTER'S CLOSET STORE RE-LAUNCH

Quality thrift & new clothing. Featuring local designers.

Join us for music, wine, cake & cheese.

THURSDAY **OCTOBER 14** | 6 - 9 PM
1092 Seymour & Helmcken St.
mrsp@bwss.org | www.bwss.org

GUEST SPEAKERS

Elizabeth Lougheed Green
Manager, Social Enterprise, Vancity Community Foundation

Angela Marie MacDougall
Executive Director, Battered Women's Support Services

Hari Alluri
Program Director, Leave Out Violence LOVE BC

Kaity MacDonald
Youth Leader, Leave Out Violence LOVE BC

SPECIAL THANKS
Indiana Martelli, Erin Lee and BCIT SIFE

Cake designed by Snail House Bakery & Berliossa Cake Boutique



My Sister's Closet YALETOWN re-opening Gala was wonderful here is the evidence...



MY SISTER'S CLOSET YALETOWN
1092 Seymour at Helmcken in Vancouver.

MY SISTER'S CLOSET COMMERCIAL DRIVE
1029 Commercial Drive at Napier in Vancouver.

We're In Business to End Violence Against Women



From Creating Art to Being Self-Sufficient

This fall, My Sister's Closet is giving women the opportunity to make a profit while doing what they love. My Sister's Closet is calling female artisans to create wearable art that can be exhibited and sold in its downtown boutique @ 1092 Seymour St!

The idea is to give marginalized female artisans the exposure and experience they will need to pursue selling their art with confidence. Each month, My Sister's Closet will promote and sell wearable art created by three local female artists.

The goal is that by the end of each month, the women who have their work showcased in the boutique will have learned what kind of art the public is attracted to and how they can sell their work in today's market. Not to mention, this is also a great opportunity for the women to make a little extra income as well!

My Sister's Lab

In addition to developing a business sense, the women will also have the tools they need to be self-sufficient. My Sister's Closet @ 1029 Commercial Drive

boutique will soon be home to a new project called My Sister's Lab. We are currently applying for funding to start this project.

This project will provide female artisans with skill-based training workshops that aim to further familiarize them with the retail setting. Women who attend the workshops will be able to learn techniques that will help them create both their art and their business in the most effective ways. With these techniques, women will be able to create, recreate, and maintain their works of art so that they might, one day, bring them a steady income.



Youth-Driven Eco-Fashion Project at My Sister's Closet

A new fashion project is being launched at **My Sister's Closet** @ 1029 Commercial Drive! This project is presented in partnership with The **Early Risers Collective** and **Leave Out Violence (L.O.V.E.)**. This project addresses the unsustainable nature of clothes manufacturing and the manipulative nature of the media. Teenagers are bombarded with images in the media that promote narrow ideas of beauty.

Supermodels reflect a tiny percentage of our

planet's population. We have the right to reclaim our own definitions of beauty and question the self-hatred that plagues so many of our city's young people.

This program will be launched mid-September, twice a week for 3 hours. Each session will consist of discussions regarding the media and beauty ideals. We will also create clothing out of deconstructed second hand items that have been donated by My Sister's Closet. We will provide youth participants with the skills to redesign second-hand clothing, so that they can enjoy fashion as an eco-friendly, creative, and affordable experience.

On November 17th, we will be holding a **Fashion Show** at the **Roundhouse Performance Centre**. This will be a celebration of youth-made culture.

Store Re-launching @ 1092 Seymour Street

It was never going to be an average thrift store. Vibrant sparkling renovated shop promises to be a 'thrift mecca', filled with a collection of quality new and pre-owned clothing, rotating exhibition area featuring artisans' work.

My Sister's Closet just finished renovations in its downtown store. Join us for the re-launch that will happen on October 14th, Thursday, from 6 to 9 pm.

Stay tuned for further updates!

For more information about My Sister's Closet projects please contact:

Mariana Garcia
BWSS, Manager of Retail Services and Programs

Email: mrsp@bwss.org
Phone: 778-996-5451

Find us on Facebook
MY SISTER'S CLOSET
Social Enterprise of Battered Women's Support Services



social enterprise of bwss

MY SISTER'S CLOSET is in need of...

Donations: Sewing machines in perfect condition; Sewing supplies; Chairs; Vintage items; New & Pre-owned Clothing and Accessories.

Volunteers: Graphic designers; Fashion designers; Art Instructors; Sales Associates; Make up Artists; Photographers; DJs; Musicians; Events planners and Marketing professionals.

Sponsors: for snacks, liquor, tea, and coffee, printing material and gift bags.





BRITISH COLUMBIA Legal Aid Reform

Battered Women’s Support Services delivered an in person submission to the Public Commission on Legal Aid on October 7th, 2010.

The following is a summary, go to our website www.bwss.org to see our entire submission.

Battered Women Support Services (BWSS) recognizes the value, importance and urgency of legal aid restructuring to adequately meet the needs of individuals, in particular women, throughout B.C. Therefore, BWSS commends the initiative the commission on legal aid has committed to undertaking and appreciates the opportunity to provide a written feedback to inform the changes in legal aid.

Together with other women organizations’ interveners, we support the in-person submissions’ overall position that adequate legal representation for women engaged in the legal system in British Columbia is integral to building strong communities. We consider the failure of the provincial legal aid system to ensure meaningful access to justice by ensuring proper funding for legal aid to be a violation of women’s constitutional rights to be considered equal before and under the law.

Reinforcing our in-person submissions of October 7th, 2010, the assertions contained *herein* reflects BWSS’ empirical research report on family law legal aid published in August 2008. The report argued “Effective legal representation in the area of family law is especially important for women who are considering leaving or who are in the process of leaving an abusive relationship”. Despite this recommendation, our daily experience consistently finds that women seeking to access the B.C. legal aid system struggle with eligibility criteria that largely excluded them from coverage and were frustrated by inadequately funded legal representation and with representation that left them feeling unheard and disrespected, particularly as regard the effect of violence on them and their families.

We re-enforce the report’s key urgent recommendations for improving access to legal aid for women: allocating more funding to legal aid family, immigration law and poverty law, raising the income allowances for women who are accessing legal aid, educating family law lawyers and the justice system at large about the effects of violence, and specifically about the dynamics of power and control in abusive relationships. Our report also called for implementing fee scale approaches that allow women to pay what they can afford with subsidized assistance from legal aid.

We, as a women’s organization with vast experience in the dynamics of abuse and violence in intimate relationships, strongly believe that **the ideal is that we should have an in-house lawyer – or lawyers – on a full-time basis.** The idea is to have a lawyer working with our team that includes a legal advocate and the web of pro bono service providers to assist women with their needs in a holistic fashion. We believe that this would serve as a model for other women’s organization as well. We believe that this holistic model would be cost-effective not only to the legal system but also for other welfare systems such as the health system and welfare system.

The volume of BWSS’ work supports the idea of having an in-house lawyer. BWSS at a glance:


8,000 battered women access our services each year, 60% access the legal advocacy program.

Break down in areas of law: women are navigating several areas of law often at the same time – Criminal, Family, Civil, Child welfare, The Indian Act, Immigration, Poverty and Residential Tenancy.

Women’s lack of access to adequate legal aid and adequate legal representation represents a core concern for our organization.

Canada

Denies Refuge to Women in Need of Protection



For the last few years BWSS has been witnessing an increasing number of women victims of pervasive gender and/or race discrimination and domestic violence being denied refuge in Canada. This is particularly true for poor and non-educated Latin American women who do not speak English.

By **Regiane** Legal Advocate BWSS

To avoid legal responsibility, the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) in Vancouver denies refuge on the basis that democratic countries such as Mexico have laws against domestic violence. Therefore, IRB assumes that women benefit from 'State Protection' in any part of their home country. IRB also says that even if States' mechanisms are not working as well as envisioned, that it is okay to ship women back; after all, what matters is that governments are

taking steps to address the issue.

This myopic analysis neglects the context of institutionalized cultural misogyny such as Latin America's culture of machismo. Women who grew up in a violent society/households with abusive fathers, husbands, brothers, male neighbors, corrupt police and courts are unlikely to cry out for help. Therefore, it is rare to find official data on court decisions on gender discrimination or domestic violence.

The lack of official data is another excuse that IRB finds to deny women refuge – the lack of objective evidence of gender discrimination or the women not searching for help in their home country, therefore their fear is deemed to only be in the women's mind.

IRB praises itself for being the first country to issue specific Gender

Violence Guidelines. The mere fact that Canada has a specific policy does not help women scared for their lives. If Canada is truly willing to address the rights of women refugee claimants, IRB has the imperative to apply a proper analysis based on gender-socio-economic-historical differences in the way women experience them in their home countries.

**BWSS calls
for action!!!**

Battered Women Support Services

Response to:

White Paper on
Family Relations Act:
Reform Proposals for a new
Family Law Act

Introduction

Battered Women Support Services (BWSS) recognizes the value and importance of the family law modernization initiative the provincial government has committed to undertaking and appreciates the opportunity to provide a response to its proposals. Together with other interveners, we support the White Paper's overall position that, "it is important that court and non-court processes are effective and responsive to families' needs." We appreciate the White Paper's citation that, "One of the strongest indicators of mounting social problems appears to be the failure to successfully and permanently resolve legal issues. Escalation in these [family

law] cases invariably impacts children, and often other extended family members."

From our perspective, access to justice and effective legal representation on issues related to family law and particularly with regard to violence against women in relationships, is fundamentally intertwined with access to family law legal aid and a stable community service sector that has the needed capacity to strongly support women dealing with violence, relationship and family break down. Equally important, is the requirement to support a comprehensive training regime for family justice professionals, judges, crown attorneys and law enforcement officers.

Women's access to legal aid

Adequate legal representation for women engaged in the family legal system in British Columbia is integral to building strong communities. We consider the failure of the provincial legal aid system to ensure meaningful access to justice by ensuring proper funding for family law legal aid to be a violation of women's constitutional rights to be considered equal before and under the law. In our August 2008 report on family law legal aid, we argued that, "Effective legal representation in the area of family law is especially important for women who are considering leaving or who are in the process of leaving an abusive relationship." Despite this, our research consistently found that women seeking to access the B.C. legal aid system struggled with eligibility criteria that largely excluded them from coverage and were frustrated by inadequately funded legal representation and with representation that left them feeling unheard and disrespected, particularly as regards the effect of violence on them and their families.

Our recommendations for improving access to legal aid for women are urgent and include: allocating more funding to legal aid family law and poverty law, raising the income allowances for women who are accessing legal aid, educating family law lawyers and the justice system at large about the effects of violence, and specifically about the dynamics of power and control in abusive relationships. Our report also called for implementing fee scale approaches that allow women to pay what they can afford with subsidized assistance from legal aid.

Importance of women's anti-violence services

As we trust is well understood, the ability to effectively provide support and counseling services to women victims of violence is pivotal in addressing violence against women in all forms. While the reform of the B.C. family law regime means the provincial government is taking a vital step towards improving women's access to justice and addressing the grave consequences of family violence, these efforts will certainly flounder if woman can not access the critical community supports they need to successfully navigate the justice system.

Continues on next page...

In our view, the provincial government must work far more consistently to provide leadership that supports and assists the work of women's and community organizations in preventing and eliminating violence against women and their children. Broadly speaking, we argue that the development and implementation of a strategic, cross-ministerial and cross government approaches to tackling violence against women is fundamental to enabling governments to work effectively in tackling violence against women.

Provincially, this includes our government taking a leadership role to provide stronger support for legal aid and anti-violence women's services, and ensuring a more focused and better defined profile for these issues within government policy, funding streams, program delivery and communication. This also means supporting the needs of culturally and linguistically diverse communities by establishing responsive policies, practices and training together with funding professional interpreters and multi-language public legal education materials that improve access to justice and services.

The necessity for and the benefit of training

As regards family law reform, there will be an urgent requirement to support a comprehensive training regime for family justice professionals, judges, crown attorneys and law enforcement officers that is aimed at transforming justice system approaches and attitudes on violence against women and family violence generally.

A wide range of factors influences women's experience of family violence. In addition, Aboriginal women, immigrant and refugee women, women of color and poor women all face particular issues and most experience real difficulties in accessing responsive justice services. Most will find it harder to leave a violent situation when the support they seek is compromised by a lack of awareness and knowledge.

Effective training must be based on relevant and up-to-date feminist and intersectional theories, research and discourse on key family violence and violence against women issues with a view to providing a solid foundation and the essential building blocks that support ongoing training and service provision. Training must present an in-depth understanding of the causes, dynamics and impacts of family violence. Central to that understanding is detailing the terminology and rationale of a gender based analysis of family that outlines the gendered legacy, context, meanings and impact of family violence and places these within a wider contextual framework of women's inequality and violence against women.

Proper training will enable justice system participants to respond to women who are survivors of family violence far more effectively, as it specifies the impact of family violence on the women who experience it and the men who perpetrate it and how violence affects women's behavior and choices. Training means people are able to identify symptoms of trauma in women together with the range of impacts of trauma and signs of recovery. Training provides awareness of the psychological and mental health impacts of living with a violent partner and, most critically, what survivors most need at different stages in their process of recovery.

Within this, an understanding of how children and youth experience family violence is another vital benefit of training. Training addresses children's experiences of living with family violence by providing a critical analysis of theories around learned behavior, the cycle of violence, attachment and resilience and gaining insight into the coping strategies children and youth develop.

Finally, training also helps participants understand the necessity for and dynamics of successful safety planning, the overlap of family violence and child protection, the broad implications for system responsibility and the continuing need for system innovation and change.



amulet for survivors

when time is army marshalled
against you starved and alone
i write in celebration your survival
each molecule of courage you collect
sunrise and sundown.
when you cannot move with the music
laughter blade in your belly
i write in celebration your strength
mourning self and body
no longer answering you.



by Cynthia
Dewi Oka

when nobody holds you through
a thousand sleepless nights

i write to share my parts with you
take what you need to continue
let me kiss you where it hurts.

when you hate yourself for being
made of things softer than concrete

i write to witness your rain
washing blood seeping stubborn
outside the neat confines of skin.

when you are asked to relive your war
so the privileged can get a concept

i write to be silent with you
reordering rooms in your heart
leaving the key in a moth's nest.

when others brush your bones
feathers of good intentions

i write to build a wall with you
scratch poems in the dark
without ever seeing your hand.

when you are labelled self-destructive
instructed to get your shit together

i write to breathe chaos with body
you hurl hurricane speed at anything
solid, sharp and terrible.

when you encounter new intimacies
cannot trust your own judgment of safety

i write to push and run and hide
with you in the anonymity of libraries
the smell of a child's hair.

when memory burns a hole in your head
road to retribution is unfinished

i write to paint with you banners
in our blood, match the beat
of your footsteps in march.

when language closes herself
to eloquence of your grief

i write to author with you
hammer for severing her
bondage to cruel pleasantries.

when the thought of being touched
gently makes you weep

i write to learn with you
how to accept love on your own
terms and in your own time.

when your body conceals herself
beneath rotting leaves and gasoline

i write in stillness watching
with you migration of birds
across uninterrupted ocean.

there are no promises
after rape we choose
the distance and measure
of our lives

so i write to find
with you in the aching vastness
between our bones

holy things.

Using social media to bring an end to a social issue, violence against women

MOBILE GIVING. The ability to give...through your cell phone. Mobile giving will enable our supporters to text a specific word to our designated number and donate simply and quickly. Donations are listed on your monthly bill delivered by your service provider.

Text **ENDNOW** to donate **\$10**

Facebook. Some of our greatest supporters 'like' our mission giving us the thumbs up for our posts and messages online to end violence against women. Facebook initiatives to raise awareness about our mission gives us plenty of opportunities to connect and spread the word. What can we say, the writing is on the wall—communication is a two-way street and we love to hear from our Facebook friends.

Twitter. The red-hot platform of the web allows us to reach our followers quickly and generate a lot of buzz about the issues and our activities. Keeping our audience informed is key to our success and we are 'tweeting' on a daily basis to educate and liberate.

Ending Violence Blog. Battered Women's Support Services Ending Violence Blog is part of our website www.bwss.org and www.theviolencestopshere.ca. It is maintained and operated by our staff and volunteers with regular entries of commentary, event information, videos, music, art and pictures. As an interactive forum our visitors leave comments and message each other. Ending Violence blog provides commentary and news on violence against women and men stopping violence.

We are accepting submissions from women, men, youth, children, survivors, activists, anyone who is interested in ending violence against women.

Email strategicinterventions@bwss.org

The Violence Stops Here is taking the anti violence message into the 21st century by using social media, online initiatives, training workshops and cultural events to urge men to own their role in ending violence against women (VAW) while raising funds and volunteer commitment to see the end of violence against women.

Our goal is to raise \$2 million for Battered Women's Support Services (BWSS) www.bwss.org to support our intervention work across British Columbia and our prevention work across Canada and Internationally.

Our Vision To End Violence Against Girls and Women

To Engage Men to Own Their Role To End Violence Against Women

Our Mission The Violence Stops Here Campaign was established to:

- To Urge Men to Own Their Role to End Violence Against Women and influence change in men's behaviour promoting healthy manhood
- To engage social media and online fundraising to raise awareness, engage volunteers and funds to see the end of violence against women
- To deliver training and education workshops on the issue of violence against women
- To hold cultural events that raise awareness, engage the general public in ending violence against women
- To entrench a national movement of men and women to end violence and discrimination against girls and women

Volunteerism

We're looking for a few good men and women! At the heart of all registered charities and non-profit organizations is the commitment of volunteers that truly make any campaign successful. If you think you've got what it takes to assist us in our mission we would like to hear from you. Contact us today and join us in our community initiatives. Together we are strong.



We are a strong and growing coalition of grassroots activists, survivors and volunteers who are using social media, the internet and training workshops to mobilize men and women to get involved to end violence against girls and women.

endingviolence@bwss.org

Violence against women includes (but is not limited to):

- Battering and violence against women in intimate relationships
- Rape, marital rape and incest
- Forced marriage
- Female genital mutilation
- Murder and assault including dowry-related violence and honour killings
- Human trafficking including cross-border prostitution rings and bride kidnappings
- War crimes including rape as a weapon of war

To join our team email us at strategicinterventions@bwss.org



The Violence Stops Here



is in effect!

We are a growing team of men and women working together to engage and mobilize.





BWSS' Training Programs



Help End Violence Against Women

Prevention and Intervention Training Program, MARCH 2011

Twice a year BWSS offers training for women who want to volunteer on our Crisis and Intake line to provide crisis support to women survivors of violence.

Participants will Learn:

- Crisis Intervention
- Peer Counselling and Communication
- Theoretical Framework of Violence Against Women
- Group Facilitation and Group Design
- Criminal, Civil, Family and Immigration Law
- Anti-Oppression Analysis
- Safety Planning and more...

Join Battered Women's Support Services and provide support to women survivors of violence on our Crisis and Intake line, facilitate support groups for women survivors of violence, work in our retail program, deliver workshops for youth, participate in special projects

Space is limited. To apply or for further information, please e-mail Jaclyn at: **intake@bwss.org**



Funded by BWSS Social Enterprise, BWSS donors, The City of Vancouver, Ministry of Solicitor General Gaming Enforcement Branch

Courage on the frontline

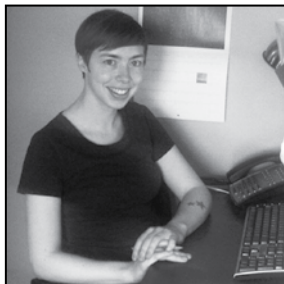


www.bwss.org

email_strategicinterventions@bwss.org

Counseling 687-1867 • Business 687-1868 • TTY 687-6732 • Fax 687-1864

BWSS' Prevention & Intervention Training Program



BWSS continues to provide the successful and transformative Prevention and Intervention Training for women who wish to volunteer on our Crisis and Intake Line.

This intensive twelve week training program, provided

from a feminist, anti-oppression perspective, is conducted in a popular education style. This training, often described as "life-changing" by participants, enhances personal empowerment, self-awareness and the leadership skills of women attending.

Through the exploration of an extensive range of topics including theoretical frameworks of violence against women, crisis intervention skills, group facilitation skills, criminal, family and immigration

law and many other topics participants are equipped with a solid foundation for working to end violence against women.

Following the training women volunteer at BWSS on our crisis and intake line, co-facilitating support groups, and in other areas of our direct service programs. Volunteers also participate in exciting community engagement and violence prevention work at BWSS. We are looking forward to beginning the next training session on September

17th with twenty new women! We will be offering the training again in March 2011 and there are already 30 women on a waitlist for this training.

If you would like to learn more about this volunteer training program or would like to be added to the waitlist, please contact:

**Jaclyn at
604-687-1868
ext. 303**

or at
intake@bwss.org



BWSS's Engaging Immigrant
Women in the Legal System
project PRESENTS

A Training Program | by Immigrant Women
for Immigrant Women

Self Advocacy

and the Legal System: A TRAINING SERIES

- You will learn
- How to self advocate
 - New communication skills
 - Problem solving skills
 - Legal information
 - Community resources
 - Words and concepts
- and much more!

You will receive a certificate and a resource binder

Trainings are offered to these **3 communities**

Afghan & Iranian Women's Training.

IN FARSI

THURSDAY OCT. 14, 21 28
11:00 - 3:00 pm

Evergreen Community
Centre, Coquitlam

WEDNESDAY NOV. 3, 10, 17
11:00 - 3:00 pm

Gordon Presbyterian
Church, Burnaby

Latin American Women's Training.

IN SPANISH

THURSDAY OCT. 21 28
NOVEMBER 4, 18
12:30 - 3:00 pm

Collingwood Neighbourhood
House, Vancouver

South Asian Women's Training.

IN PUNJABI

FRIDAY OCT. 22, 29
NOVEMBER 5, 12
12:00 - 2:30 pm

Guru Nanak Gurudwara, Surrey

By participating you will gain necessary skills to be more effective in information seeking, communicating and problem solving. The skills you learn can be used in your personal, social and professional life.

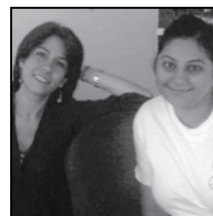
TO REGISTER
PHONE BWSS AT
604.687.1868
and ask for Sara
or Parminder



This training is provided **FREE** of cost. Childminding, refreshments and bus tickets will be provided.



Sandra • BWSS
Immigrant Women's
Employment Program



Sara & Parm
BWSS Engaging
Immigrant Women
in Legal System Co-
ordinators



Zari, Heidi, Marjaneh & Farah
Self Advocacy Workshops for Afghan
& Iranian Women

Training
for Social
Workers
Working
with

Non-status, Refugee, & Immigrant Women (NSRIW) who Experience Violence

NOVEMBER 2nd & 3rd

WORKSHOP

Facilitated by
Rosa Elena Arteaga and
Angela Marie MacDougall for
Battered Women's Support Services

A two-day, theoretical and skill based workshop for Social Workers who are responding to child protection concerns where there is violence and abuse against the Mother.

Topics include:

- Violence against women within in recent (NSRI) families
- Settlement Issues
- Safety Assessments and Planning for Child(ren), Woman and Male Partner
- Lethality
- Staying, Leaving and Returning
- Context of Men's violence within (NSRI) communities

**For information please contact:
604-687-1868**



Battered Women's Support Services is pleased to announce the launching of the Strategic Intervention Training program for frontline workers across British Columbia. This training program is a response to the increasing demand for a structured delivery of a comprehensive, women-centred training program. The Strategic Intervention Training is modeled after the anti-oppression trainings approach developed and delivered by BWSS for more than two decades.

STRATEGIC INTERVENTION Training Program

The strategic Intervention Training is designed for frontline workers to develop values, skill set and knowledge necessary and relevant to the needs of women-serving organization including Victim service, counselling, and social work.

The information, discussion and practical solutions presented in each session address the most prevalent contemporary issues as identified by the women's sector.

The program offers theoretical frameworks and process strategies that combine sensitivity and understanding with a professional commitment to creating appropriate resources and realistic solutions for ending violence against women.



www.bwss.org • www.theviolencestopshere.ca

A certificate will be awarded upon completion for each of the Training sessions:

- Theoretical Framework for Understanding Violence against Women in Intimate Relationships
- Theoretical framework for Understanding Women Sexual Assault
- Crisis Work and Safety Plan for Women Survivors of Violence
- Support Group Facilitation Skills: Working with Women Survivors of Violence
- Violence against Aboriginal Women: Advocacy Skills
- Staying, Leaving and Returning and the Push Factors
- Violence against Non-status, Refugee and Immigrant Women: Advocacy Skills

The two-day and four-day training sessions will be held throughout BC, and other regions in Canada this winter and spring.

For information please contact:
strategicinterventions@bwss.org

BWSS News and Updates

Battered Women's Support Services to present at Women's World 2011



We have been selected to present on Violence Against Non-Status, Refugee and Immigrant Women Who Experience Violence at *Women's World 2011 to be held in Ottawa July 3-11, 2011.*

The theme of Women's Worlds 2011 is "Inclusions, exclusions, and seclusions: Living in a globalized world". Why? Where globalization and women are concerned, provocative questions abound:

Globalization has contributed to the destabilization and marginalization of women and communities. Yet certain consequences have yielded positive results for women. Globalization has meant enhanced communications and organizing – transnational connectivity that must be deepened as women's organizations and networks struggle to

sustain themselves and maintain resilience in the face of forces that oppose women's equality.

We are honoured for this opportunity.

Battered Women's Support Services honoured to attend National Women and Security Conference



Angela Marie MacDougall, Executive Director of Battered Women's Support Services, was honoured to be one of the attendees invited by The Governor General of Canada, to attend their Conference on Women and Security.

The Declaration drafted at the Governor General's Conference on Women and Security is as follows:

*Declaration – Women and Security
September 13, 2010*

The Governor General of Canada, the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, convened a conference on Women and Security on

September 9th and 10th, 2010 in Ottawa.

Over 120 women and men participated. The participants were leaders from many communities and constituencies representing Canada in all its diversity of race, ethnicity, class, disability, language, sexual orientation, ages, from every province and territory.

Participants issued this Declaration at the conclusion of the Governor General's Conference, with a call for urgent action, addressed to the Government of Canada and governments in Canada at all levels, to renew their commitments to the full realization of women's human rights, as set out in international human rights treaties that Canada has ratified, and to make immediate and adequate allocations of resources to achieve that end.

Participants noted that policies and programs that promote equality and flourishing for all Canadians cannot be developed without the participation of women.

Participants also urged all Canadians, women and men, to join with them in their organizations and

communities to build a Canada in which women and men can flourish equally.

Read the full declaration on our website www.bwss.org

Building Community Leaders to End Violence Against Women



Battered Women's Support Services has partnered with Women's Memorial March Committees in Edmonton, Calgary and Winnipeg to hold workshops to support community activism to end violence against women.

Workshops will be held throughout the fall and into the new year for women and men who want to learn more and engage more fully in the work to end violence against women.

For more info check out our website at www.bwss.org

Continues on next page...

Battered Women's Support Services participated in a community forum on Domestic Violence Courts



What are the benefits and pitfalls of domestic violence courts for women and children in BC?

British Columbia is one of the few jurisdictions in Canada without specialized courts for cases involving domestic violence. Join our distinguished and diverse panelists as they discuss the rationale behind specialized courts, share evaluations of courts in other jurisdictions and examine the question of whether or not specialized courts are an appropriate option for this province.

Jennifer Koshan
University of Calgary

Wanda Wiegars
University of Saskatchewan

Jocelyn Coupal
Ministry of the Attorney General

Inspector Richard Konarski • RCMP,
Langley Detachment

Angela Marie MacDougall
Executive Director, Battered Women's Support Services

Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond
Representative for Children and Youth in BC

Battered Women's Support Services has been participating with the Immigrant Public Legal Education Consortium in Vancouver Advisory Group developing resources for settlement workers on family law and violence against women.

The Immigrant Public Legal Education and Information (PLEI) Consortium (IPC) Project is organizing a series of **Intermediary Training Workshops on Family Law and Domestic Violence** in October and November 2010 for frontline workers who work closely with the Immigrant community. These workshops mark the second phase of implementation of the IPC Project, and follow the successful completion of the Cross-Sectoral workshops held in July in the different regions of Metro Vancouver.

Battered Women's Support Services resources appear on the Consortium website <http://www.immigrantlegal.ca/domestic-violence/factsheets>

BWSS' Statement on the Missing Women Investigation



Battered Women Support Services Statement on the Missing Women Investigation

To the: Government of Canada, Province of British Columbia, City of Vancouver, Vancouver Police Department (VPD), the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)

As regards: The Missing Women Investigation Review (August 2010), as authored by Doug LePard, Deputy Chief Constable, Vancouver Police Department.

The above review documents the inexplicable and indefensible failures of the investigation of the missing and murdered women from Vancouver's Downtown Eastside (DTES) by the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), a case that has come to be memorialized as the Missing Women case.

Of critical note: Well prior to the start of the 1997 police investigation, the apprehensive families and friends of the then missing women fought hard and yet to no avail to convince the Vancouver police to investigate stories of missing women in the DTES, the majority of whom were Aboriginal women (which the review never once provides a single word of context on in its 405 pages.) Today, many remain convinced the authorities did not take these reports seriously because the women were sex workers and were therefore considered by the authorities to be beneath concern; in other words, disposable.

In response and in what may be an effort to excuse the early failures of the VPD investigation, the review notes that in 1997, the VPD investigated reports of 71 missing women, most of whom were reported missing by DTES First Nations and community groups. The police quickly found 69 of the women with the review reporting that, while 15 of the 69 women had been murdered (22%), the majority had not been murdered.

According to the review, VPD 'success' in finding the women led them to doubt the credibility of the reporting DTES organizations and also to doubt the theory that a serial murderer was at work. Shockingly, the VPD learns that 22% of the women they are trying to find have been murdered, but this hugely significant indicator of the vulnerability of women in the DTES has no impact on their thinking. Rather, the VPD senior ranks callously used the information to ignore what was actually happening in the community and this despite their knowing that in 1995, three DTES sex workers were murdered by a serial killer (which the report does acknowledge).

The review paints a stereotypically distorted and self-serving picture of sex workers portraying them solely as women living "unpredictable and risky," lives while denying them any connection to their families, children or community, essentially making them non-persons.

It describes DTES sex workers as women so well acquainted with death and so highly vulnerable to violence, that it was only understandable the police would brush aside their disappearances. While most understand woman who are most vulnerable to violence are those most in need of protection, the VPD review seems to argue against this basic concept.

Read the entire statement at <http://www.bwss.org/2010/09/statement-on-the-missing-women-investigation/>

Day of Action for Ashley Machisknic – October 4, 2010



As part of a national day of action for missing and murdered Indigenous women, community members in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside honoured the life of Ashley Machisknic, a 22- year old Indigenous woman from Saskatchewan who was found brutally murdered in an alley behind the

Downtown Eastside Regent hotel on September 15, 2010. A vigil and ceremony was held at 5 pm behind the Regent Hotel (160 E. Hastings), followed by a rally to the Vancouver Police Department (Main and Cordova). Members of February 14th Women's Memorial March Committee delivered a letter to Vancouver Police Department Chief Constable Jim Chu to determine the status of the investigation.

Battered Women's Support Services is working as a member of February 14th Women's Memorial March Committee to address systemic issues at Vancouver Police Department influencing investigations of suspicious deaths of and violence against women in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver.

Support Battered Women's Support Services The Violence Stops Here – Men Stopping Violence BIG IDEA With a Simple Click of the Mouse The Violence Stops Here! VOTE NOW!

If you could help end violence with a simple click of the mouse, would you? Your vote today

could make the difference between success and failure of an anti-violence campaign that could change the way violence affects the daily lives of Canadian women across the country for good.

Battered Women's Support Services is reaching out to YOU for your help to get votes for our vision —a dream of a world without violence against women, a world where no girl or woman has to suffer oppression, violence and abuse.

Simply go online to: <http://www.avivacommunityfund.org/ideas/acf6956> and click on the VOTE NOW button to register your email address and vote to give your support to Battered Women's Support Services Big Idea: Idea #6956 The Violence Stops Here.

As part of its mission for good corporate citizenry Aviva Insurance wants to promote positive impact in the community and sponsor a community project that is judged to have the most impact. The Aviva Community Fund will provide funding opportunities for local and national initiatives for change.

This year Battered Women's Support Service is driving one of the only initiatives to promote the positive involvement of men as key in the work to end violence against women.

Three men are featured on the Aviva website. These are just three of the men who are willing to step forward and make a stand against violence like the many who are feature on our showcase site: www.theviolencestopshere.ca.

We've made it to the Second Round please vote daily to help us make it to the Semi Finals



Bernadette Smith Families of Missing & Murdered Women of Manitoba, Angela Marie MacDougall BWSS Executive Director, Lisa Michell Women's Memorial March for Missing & Murdered Women of Manitoba



WOMEN
making waves



Funding Partners:



Women Making Waves is published by **Battered Women's Support Services**, a non-profit organization supporting women facing abuse and violence.

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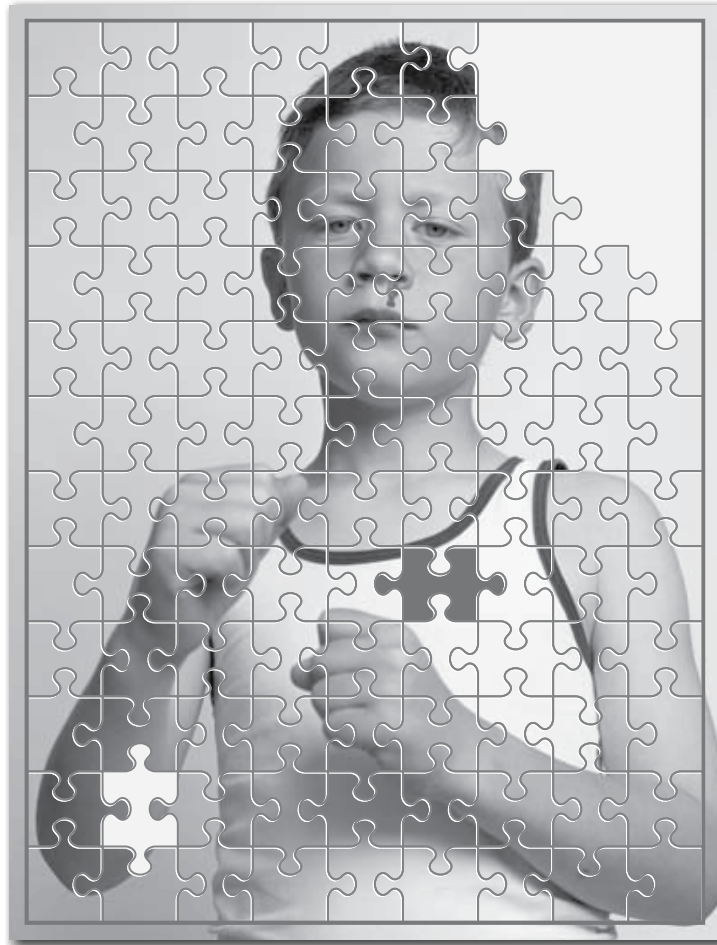
Executive Director:
Angela Marie MacDougall
...

Graphic Design:
www.oaxacastudio.com
...

Editors:
BWSS Staff and Volunteers



—
“Actually, my childhood is a bit blurry to me—as if
a piece of the puzzle will always be missing.
I don’t really like to talk about it.”
—



Your donation
can make
the difference
between the victim
of a lost childhood
and a survivor

**Violence against women
is a child’s issue...
and a community’s responsibility.**

**In Canada, over one million children
witness their mother’s abuse each year.**

**For 31 years, Battered Women’s Support Services has been helping women
and children rebuild shattered lives. Help us today with a donation.**

To donate: www.bwss.org or call 604-687-1868



Communities creating safety



Community Cafe

For information, please contact
strategicinterventions@bwss.org
TEL: 604.687.1613

www.bwss.org • www.theviolencestopshere.ca

MC. PENNY PRIDDY

Key note speaker

KAMAL.S.DHILLON

Author of "The black and blue sari"

Cafe discussion facilitated by men & women

An event to honor the stories and experiences and unheard voices of families, join us for having meaningful conversations to build safer communities.

BUFFET DINNER WILL BE SERVED

NOV 25, 2010

Event starting at 6 pm.

Bombay Banquet Hall

7475 - 135 Street
Surrey BC, V3W 0M8

Tickets \$40



BATTERED WOMEN'S
SUPPORT SERVICES



The Violence Stops Here



You Can Help to Keep the Circle Strong

Violence and abuse is endemic and follows girls and women through infancy, childhood, adolescence, adulthood and as elders. Sex selection, infanticide, child prostitution, sexual abuse, date violence and rape, forced marriage, violence and abuse by male partner or husband as an adult or elder.

At Battered Women's Support Services we exist to end this violence and to provide safe options for women survivors.

We provide real options for women facing these challenges

We're on the front line providing crisis support and counselling for women, support groups, providing skill-based training to professionals, delivering violence prevention and awareness workshops to girls and boys, youth, community, and men, while seeking law reform and systemic change.

Over the years thousands of women, children and men have been positively impacted by Battered Women's Support Services intervention and prevention activities...ending the violence and abuse in their lives.

Every day women who are living in a war zone - their home- are looking for a way to end the abuse and violence. Every day women are reaching out to us to seek safety. Every day women call our crisis lines and access our support groups seeking an answer to the end of the violence in their lives. Every year over 15,000 children witnessing their mothers' abuse are positively affected by our work with their Mothers. We are supporting the succession of thousands of children to live in domestic peace

It is our work to make public that which happens in private. Our work is to end violence.

Right now! There is a woman who is deciding if she deserves to be safe.

Right now! There is a young woman who is experiencing date rape

Right now! There is a boy who is witnessing his father beat his mother

Right now! There is a man who is remaining silent knowing his friends are using violence against women

Over the next year Battered Women's Support Services will:

1. Hold over 400 support group sessions
2. Answer 10,800 crisis calls
3. Deliver over 200 training sessions
4. Engage over 1,000 men and boys
5. seek law reform and systemic change
6. change the world

Right now we need you.

- You can ensure our phone lines and our doors stay open.
- You can ensure we have ready and trained volunteers
- You can ensure we have high school prevention materials and youth educators ready
- You to ensure that every woman who is considering safety receives safe options
- You are part of our circle. You help us keep the circle strong

MAKE YOUR DONATION TODAY Join our circle of strength monthly giving program.



Yes! I want to contribute to **Battered Women's Support Services**

You can make a secure online donation using your credit card by following the "Donate Now" links on www.bwss.org or www.theviolencestopshere.ca

\$25 \$100 \$250 \$500 other \$ _____ I would like to make this gift One time Monthly Annually

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ City/Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Please make cheques payable to **Battered Women's Support Services**, PO Box 21503 • 1424 Commercial Dr., Vancouver, BC, V5L 5G2

I would like this donation to be anonymous (do not include me in donor recognition). I would prefer to donate clothing or household items. Please contact me We respect your privacy and never disclose, trade or share your private information. We would like to add you to our mailing and email list to keep you informed of activities, projects, and events. Please check here if you do not want to be added to our email/ mailing list.

All donations are tax deductible. Charitable Registration number is 130361611 RR0001.

Thank you for your contribution!