

WOMEN

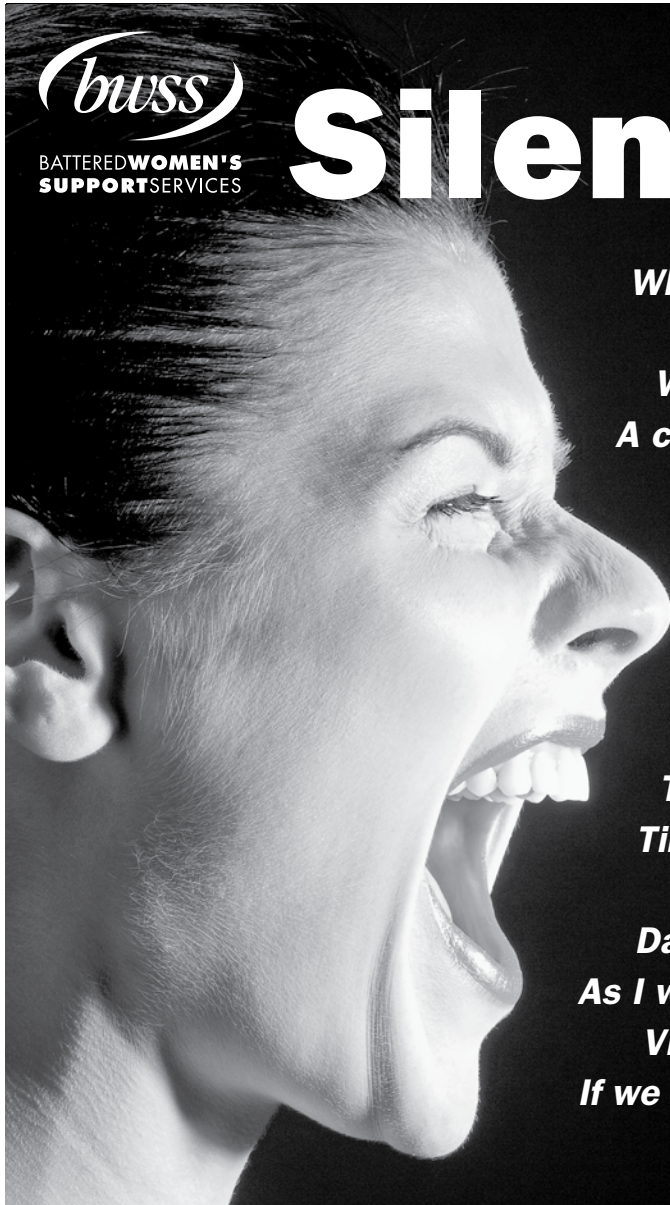
making waves

VOLUME 20 :: ISSUE 2

www.bwss.org :: Fall/2009



Silent No more



**Where are the leaders where are the men
The silence on the issue is deafening
We're killing the women body and soul
A call to my brothers can be silent no more**

**She's somebody's mama
Someone's little girl
She's somebody's baby
This beautiful girl**

**Time to take action time to speak out
Time to come together it's time to shout**

**Day after day my heart tries not to break
As I witness the madness and chaos around me
Violence and abuse for either no excuse
If we choose silence we are part of the problem**

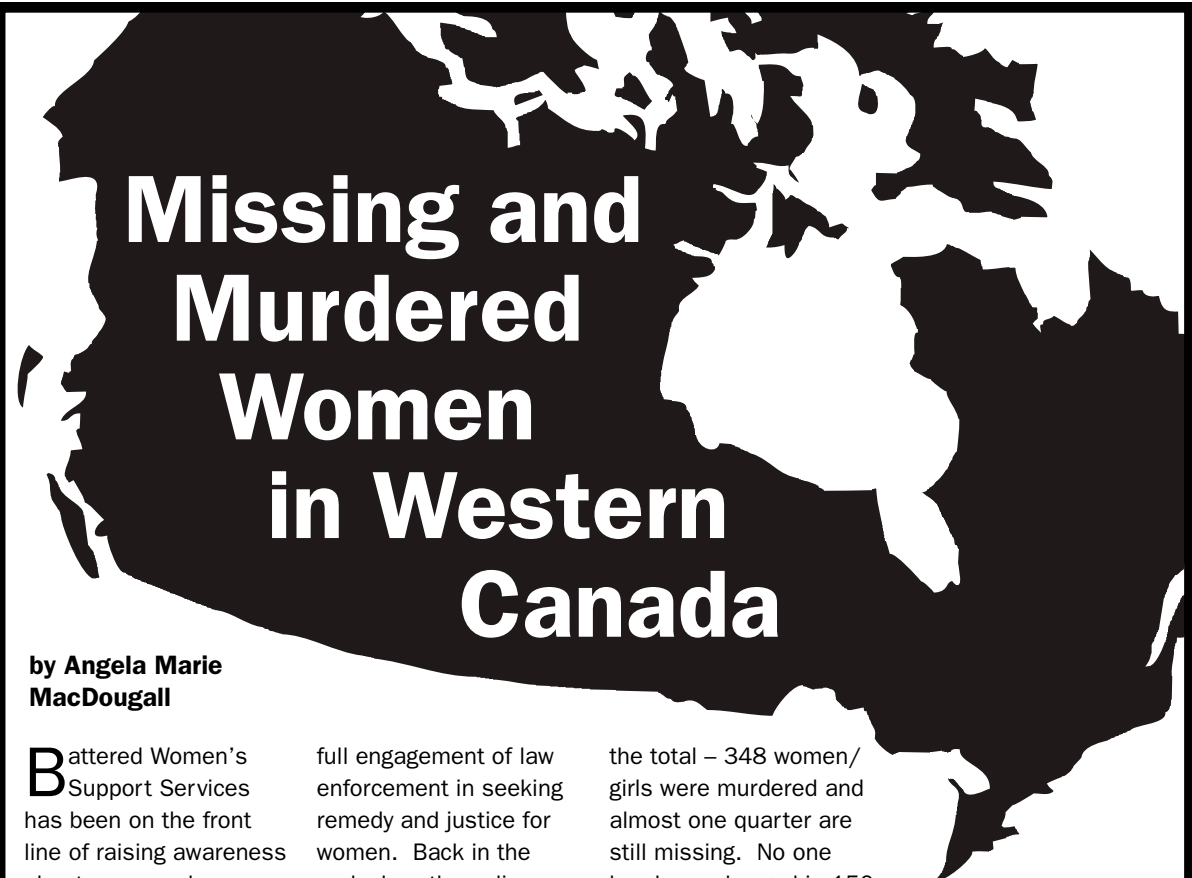
By Little Hawk



About the song writer: To know Troy Westwood one need only listen between the lines of every song he has ever sung. From his time as the front man for Eagle and Hawk to his latest foray into Indigenous Protest Folk Rock as Little Hawk, the repertoire he brings is a reflection of his spirit. Music is neither a habit nor a past-time for Little Hawk: it is his air. His award-winning debut album, 1492-1975, was defined by the anger resulting from reading *In the Spirit of Crazy Horse*, a book that was temporarily banned in the US for its critique of the FBI investigation of a shoot-out between its

agents and members of the American Indian Movement at the Pine Ridge Oglala Lakota Nation in South Dakota.

Truly Little Hawk is the sentinel for the national conscience. He holds no ambition other than speaking the truth regardless of consequences. His music is his path and where it leads is shrouded in mystery. But even while trudging through the veils and the darkness, for Little Hawk two things remain perfectly clear: "I would die for the people, I will live for the people."



Missing and Murdered Women in Western Canada

by Angela Marie
MacDougall

Battered Women's Support Services has been on the front line of raising awareness about women who have gone missing and women who have been found murdered in BC since 1994. These efforts have included proactive involvement in the February 14th Women's Memorial March held every year to honour and mourn the disappearances and murders of women. The march is also a ceremony which moves through the downtown eastside and where roses and tobacco are laid where women have been known to have missing or where women have been murdered.

Each year we make our way to the Vancouver Police Department location at 222 Main Street where women speak about the need for

full engagement of law enforcement in seeking remedy and justice for women. Back in the early days the police were not investigating the disappearances or seemingly not investigating the murders of women. Since then a task force has been convened and there has been a couple of arrests including one notable arrest and conviction.

In April 2009, Beverly Jacobs then president of Native Women's Association of Canada held a press conference in Ottawa. Native women die, vanish amid social apathy was the lead line in the reports that followed. Though sparsely attended Jacobs spoke passionately and tearfully indicating that 520 girls and women have disappeared or been killed since 1970. Sixty-seven per cent of

the total – 348 women/girls were murdered and almost one quarter are still missing. No one has been charged in 150 confirmed homicides.

Of the 520 cases are based in the West, 137 in British Columbia, 85 in Alberta, 71 in Manitoba, 59 in Saskatchewan, 59 in Ontario and 17 in Quebec. The rest are based in the Atlantic provinces and territories or are still being researched.

On the heels of an FBI report linking the disappearances and murders of women within a four state area in the US to long haul truck drivers this summer Battered Women's Support Services traveled across the four provinces meeting with advocates, women, sex workers and others to discuss the issue and to

seek strategy to resolve the systemic issues and seek justice for women. We convened meetings in person and over the phone in Edmonton, Calgary, Regina, Saskatoon, and Winnipeg and spoke with over 200 individuals. At these meeting we discussed specific strategies we will employ over the next year to seek justice for women and we are in the early stages of achieving our overarching goal of establishing a four province coalition to consolidate our voices to seek justice. The report with the strategies is currently being reviewed across the four provinces and the strategies will be made public as we get clear and closer to employing them.

Women in Leadership & Training in Northwest BC



Battered Women's Support Services (BWSS) held brainstorming sessions with identified stakeholders to develop women's leadership and training initiative in northwest BC in May of 2008.



We were seeking to apply our years of experience in curriculum development and training delivery from a women-centered perspective to work with organizations/stakeholders in identified communities to develop and implement a leadership and training initiatives that are grounded in women's empowerment, leadership and community development. Where women can build on existing knowledge to seek their own healing and contribute to the healing of their communities.

BWSS believes strongly that women are the center of communities and to strengthen women is to strengthen communities. We are not naïve and recognize the forces of oppression that are deeply entrenched and are resistant to change and yet, we believe in the power of women to create opportunities to meet challenges and overcome obstacles. We believe in this because we see this every day. We sought to share our knowledge and skills to further social justice from women's perspective in communities in British Columbia.

With an emphasis on First Nations Women, we collaborated with members of northern communities to integrate local ideas, knowledge, experience to the development and delivery of Women's Leadership and Training Initiative.

May 2009, we delivered the first of many Women in Leadership and Training Initiatives in Terrace with frontline workers from Nisga'a Nation, Terrace, Vanderhoof, and Kitwanga. With the completion of this training, these frontline workers are taking the initiative to implement into their practices to work with

the Aboriginal women in their communities.

September 2009, we delivered the second training to Metlakatla, BC, to the frontline workers within their community. With the completion of this training they have come up with their action plan to implement a Safety Team for the women within their community.

The highlights from the two training sessions that we have provided is the input from the young women of these communities; that they are taking the initiative to provide the information that they gained to other young women in their communities to use as a tool for the continuing healing for their First Nation women.

In October 2009, we will be delivering the Women in Leadership and Training Initiative workshops to Lax Kw' Alaams and Moricetown, which are also located in the Northwest and North Coast of BC.

If you would like further information regarding our Women in Leadership and Training Initiative, please contact Angela MacDougall through our BWSS office at **604-687-1868**.



BATTERED WOMEN'S
SUPPORT SERVICES

My First Time

by Byron Hurt



About the author

Byron Hurt is an award-winning documentary filmmaker, a published writer, and an anti-sexist activist. Learn more at www.bhurt.com.

The first time I spoke out against men's violence against women, I was very nervous. My talk was in front of a group of guys that I knew pretty well - the men's basketball team at my alma mater, Northeastern University (NU) in Boston. I had never spoken to a group of men about sexism and violence against women before and the fact that I knew just about all of the guys in the room made my first experience doing so even more nerve-racking. Just two months earlier I was a student-athlete at NU, just like them. I was a former football player and had played numerous pick-up basketball games with many of the guys on the team. I had eaten dinner with them in the campus cafeteria, and partied with them around the city of Boston. Now I was back at my alma mater in a very different capacity - working as a mentor-training specialist for the Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) Project, a violence prevention program designed to encourage and inspire men to speak out against physical and sexual violence against women. I wondered if the guys would take me seriously.

No one on the team knew why he was there or what the presentation was about. The head coach, Karl Fogel, known for his brash and abusive coaching style, introduced Jackson Katz, the founder of the MVP program, and me to the team, and then quickly left the room. As the presentation got started, I remember feeling a little unsure if Jackson's idea of teaching athletes bystander intervention in the face of men's abusive behavior toward women would actually work. Jackson successfully used his passion and the power of persuasion to convince me that men needed to speak out against violence against

women, but would it work with other male athletes? Honestly, I had my doubts.

I had been in the basketball team's position before. As a former athlete, I remembered how inconvenient it was to sit through a stiff lecture given by a counselor, academic advisor, or guest speaker after a grueling practice. It could be unbearably boring. Physically, you are tired, your body aches, you have homework to do, and all you really want to do is eat dinner, go back to your room, and chill. Now, here I was, standing in front of the room preparing to give a lecture to guys who, I'm sure, didn't want to be there. I felt like a union worker who crossed the picket line to go work for the corporate bosses in fancy suits.

Coaches and players generally view workshops like these as a colossal waste of time. I knew domestic violence wasn't a priority for coach Fogel or the players. I also knew the only reason Fogel agreed to let his players participate in the 90-minute workshop was because the athletic director mandated all male athletes at NU go through the MVP program. I knew if Jackson and I were going to be effective at all, our presentation had to pull in guys immediately. But I wasn't sure I could deliver. I had experience speaking in front of audiences, but I was new at speaking about gender violence. I lacked confidence and my stomach was wrapped in knots. Secretly I wished my first training session were somewhere far, far away, preferably in another state, in front of a roomful of guys I didn't know. But here I was, in my own backyard, talking to familiar faces about a topic most guys regard as women's issues. I knew that

if I came off poorly, my masculine credibility would be in question with the guys. I was deeply afraid the basketball team would think I had gone soft.

Jackson, on the other hand, seemed much less nervous than me. The first man to graduate from the University of Massachusetts with a minor in Women's Studies, Jackson received his Master's degree in Education at Harvard University. He proudly declared himself a pro-feminist male. He knew all sorts of statistics about physical and sexual violence to support his argument that men needed to confront other men's abusive behavior in order for it to stop. His analysis on gender violence was sharp and incisive. When it came to challenging men to take more responsibility for the high levels of rape, sexual assault, battering, and sexual harassment, Jackson had ice water running through his veins. His experience as a grassroots anti-sexist activist made him fearless in front of audiences of resistant, sometimes-hostile men. Me? I was green. I was young, unsure, and still grasping the bigness of the problem. I had no idea that violence against women was a global crisis. The idea that individual men who practiced sexism or abused women contributed to a much larger system of patriarchy that kept men in control over women, was a new concept to me. Prior to meeting Jackson, I knew a lot about how racism functioned in our society, but never saw the relationship between racism and sexism. Furthermore, I didn't see how, as a black man, I could be a victim of racism yet perpetuate sexism. I didn't know that one out of four American women would be raped or sexually

assaulted in their lifetime. I had no clue that battering was the leading cause of injury in the United States more than rapes and automobile accidents combined. And I certainly did not understand the terrorizing effect men's abusive behavior had on girls and women.

It's ironic that I didn't see men's violence against women as a big problem. It was part of my lived experience: as a boy growing up I had witnessed my father's emotional abuse of my mother. I had seen men from all walks of life hit, harass, or sexually assault women. I heard guys tell sexist jokes at school on the playground, and in the locker room before and after practice. I admit, I laughed at many of those jokes. I cashed in on my currency as an athlete and had sex with adoring women who I had absolutely no interest in beyond sex. I called women bitches, hoers, sluts, and other negative words around my teammates, fraternity brothers, and other male friends. I viewed girls and women as disposable if they didn't serve my interests or cater to my needs. I had double standards around sex – I could have a long list of sexual partners – but she could not. And, like my father, I had yelled and said mean-spirited things during emotional arguments with my girlfriends. Yes, it was all too familiar. Men's violence against women was real.

So that night, in front of the men's basketball team, I knew we were about to engage in real talk. What I didn't know going into the session, is that I was going to learn almost as much as the basketball players would learn. My initiation into the world of anti-sexist activism was a night to remember.

To start the workshop, Jackson gave an overview of the program and told the team what we were there to discuss. When they learned we were there to talk about violence against women, the guys shifted in their chairs, looked around to

each other, and murmured. After delivering a passionate intro, Jackson set the tone for the workshop. He then introduced me, and gave me the floor to address the team.

The room fell silent when I began to speak. I don't remember exactly what I said, but I do remember

who was physically or sexually assaulting a woman. But some guys in the room postured in front of their teammates, and looked disinterested. And whenever someone said something thoughtful or intelligent or challenged a teammate's sexist comments, his teammates would laugh and tease him. Most guys said they

He proudly declared himself a pro-feminist male. He knew all sorts of statistics about physical and sexual violence to support his argument that men needed to confront other men's abusive behavior in order for it to stop. His analysis on gender violence was sharp and incisive.

stammering my way through my opening remarks, and speaking with a straight face, and a serious tone. It's funny, looking back, how seriously I took myself. I wanted to convey to them that men's violence against women was not a joking matter. I also wanted the team to view me as an authority figure, not a washed-up athlete returning to campus to pontificate.

I was stunned at how engaged the guys were as I spoke. They seemed to take my talk seriously, just as I had wanted. But now the hard work began. It was time to engage the men in an interactive conversation about gender violence and bystander intervention. After my remarks, Jackson passed out our teaching tool, the MVP Playbook. The Playbook contained a series of real-life scenarios placing men in the position of bystanders as a teammate made sexist comments or abused a woman. We asked for volunteers to read each scenario aloud, and then launched the group into a lively interactive discussion. Most of the guys had never seen men lead this kind of conversation before and listened intently as team members took turns debating how they would handle a teammate

would never hit a woman. But as we delved deeper into the issues, guys began to reveal more and more of their innermost sexist opinions. Several team members made inappropriate comments and then snickered or sucked their teeth after I sternly corrected them. When I challenged them about their attitudes, they avoided looking inward and deflected physical and sexual violence onto women, claiming they were the real problem, not men. The more I challenged them, the more guys became defensive. I was trying to control the conversation rather than help guide it and allow honest comments to flow. Soon guys started to shut down and the conversation devolved into a battle between them and me. Instead of trying to reach the men, I was trying to show off the knowledge I had learned in the two months since I had joined the MVP team. As the facilitator, I wanted to win each argument. My serious demeanor, inflexibility, and lack of openness during the discussion didn't go over well with the team. My first training session was getting off to a rocky start.

But Jackson bailed me out and taught me a few facilitation skills

that I would later use in future training sessions. I noticed that when Jackson spoke, he remained loose, conversational, and comfortable with the guys' honest responses. Jackson skillfully used humor and candid personal stories to pull in the men and ease their defensiveness. As a result, when Jackson spoke, the basketball team listened. I was uncomfortable in my skin while Jackson was completely comfortable in his. Initially, I thought they were taking Jackson more seriously because, by virtue

Jackson continued to teach me about the most effective ways to engage men in conversations about gender violence. We recounted the night's experience, and he explained to me that, for most guys, discussing gender violence in a roomful of other men is completely new and unexplored terrain. He explained how so many men have never had a conversation about sexism or violence against women – particularly a conversation led by two men. The process of allowing guys to talk and debate the subject, Jackson said, represented growth and progress.

I replied as we clasped hands, dappling each other up. "You heard about what happened, right?", he asked. "Yeah, I did. What do you think about it?", I asked. He took a moment, shook his head, and answered humbly, "This violence against women thing is real, yo." After a brief awkward moment of silence, he continued, "Yo, I just wanted to tell you that I know you probably thought no one was listening to you when you and Jackson Katz spoke to our team. But I just wanted you to know that even though I was quiet and didn't say much, I was listening, man."

I thought about how unfortunate it was that it took a teammate getting embroiled in a sexual assault case for our message to sink in.

of his white skin, they saw him as more of an authority figure than me. Looking back, though, Jackson was the authority figure in the room. Not because he was white, but because his grasp of the issues, supported by sobering statistics and numbing personal anecdotes captivated the room. His passion, conversational style of presenting, and nonjudgmental responses was more inviting than mine. He was engaging while I was self-righteous and preachy.

Whenever one of the guys said something deeply sexist or made a comment that wasn't well thought out, he allowed the team to debate amongst themselves and then inserted himself as the facilitator. He responded to the absurdly sexist comments with facts, and used racial analogies to make connections between sexism and racism. They listened to what Jackson had to say because of his command of the issues and because he made the issues relevant to them in a way I did not. When Jackson wrapped up the discussion, the team erupted in applause. He had schooled us all.

After the presentation, when the last guy had finally left the room,

I was thinking that because some of the guys shut down during my portion of the presentation that the entire session with the basketball team was an utter failure. I thought I did a horrible job as a facilitator. But Jackson commended me for having the courage to challenge my peers about their sexist attitudes. "Don't worry," he told me, "The more you do this, the easier it will get." He added, "Believe me, there were guys who were a little immature, but I guarantee you guys were listening." I felt encouraged.

A few weeks went by when the NU News, Northeastern's student newspaper reported that a men's basketball player allegedly sexually assaulted a female student in one of the residence halls. Back at the office, the MVP staff received the news hard. Did this mean the program was ineffective? My knee jerk response was that we hadn't reached the team. I wondered if our discussion with the team was a waste of time. Later that afternoon, on the day the NU News broke the story, one of the basketball players from the training session saw me walking up Massachusetts Avenue, not too far from campus. As I waited for the light to change before crossing the street, he jogged over to me, and extended his hand. "What's up B. Hurt?", he said. "Chillin' man, what's going on?",

He apologized for his team's immature behavior during our training session, and added, "I just wish my teammate had listened to what y'all were saying." I thought about how unfortunate it was that it took a teammate getting embroiled in a sexual assault case for our message to sink in. "I hear you, man. You're right," I said. "It is a real issue." The cross light changed and we walked across the street, heading

The process of allowing guys to talk and debate the subject, Jackson said, represented growth and progress

in separate directions. He gave me one last pound, and said, "Ayight man, I'll rap to you later, brotha. Keep doing what you're doing, Byron. It may take a while, but you are making a difference." "Ayight, man. Peace." I said, "Thanks for approaching me and telling me that. I appreciate it." "No problem. Maybe we should have another one of those workshops," he said, walking away, smiling, "Obviously, we need more training."



2010

You can bet your
maple leaf on that! ©



With less than six months to go before the Olympic and Paralympic Games

converge on Metro Vancouver and the Sea to Sky corridor, Battered Women's Support Services (BWSS) continues to raise concerns about the impact these Olympics will have on indigenous, local, national, and international women. After consulting with women's advocates from previous host cities we have learned that a 10-36% increase in violence against women can be expected during the Games.

Despite this anticipated increase in violence against women there is not an increase in funding for women's safety. We know that the 2010 Games are the "largest security operation, ever, in Canadian history," according to RCMP Staff Sergeant Mike Cote, with a \$900 million dollar budget (Krashinsky 2009). Despite the staggering amount of money allocated for the

coordination of safety and security during the Games, none of this money will address the specific safety and security needs of women experiencing violence. And in what ways will this increased security and police presence impact women, especially marginalized women living in poverty?

BWSS continues to face the reality of violence against women in our communities and is strategizing to ensure the safety of women pre, during and post 2010 Games. We have collaborated with women's organization, community organizations, community centres, neighbourhood houses and police in Metro Vancouver to assess and respond to the needs of women survivors of violence during the Games. Additionally, a similar collaborative process to ensure women's safety and the accessibility of resources is occurring in the Sea to Sky Corridor.

Through these collaborations a number of prevention and intervention initiatives are being worked on. For instance, we are working to compile information about all resources that are available to women experiencing abuse so that we can ensure that adequate support is available and accessible. This includes contacting community organizations, community centres, and other service providers

to explore what additional resources may be offered during the Olympics and any changes to service delivery. Furthermore, we are exploring how information about violence against women and related resources can be passed on to all police and security forces present during the Games, many of whom are from out of province, so that police and security personnel are aware of pertinent support services and policies designed to keep women safe. We also wish to extend information about community resources and safe spaces for women to spectators, visitors, athletes, and all others present during the 2010 Games.

Together we can recognize the reality of violence against women during the Olympics and insist that the safety and security of women experiencing violence is addressed. We will continue to strive to increase the safety of all indigenous, local, national, and international women who are attending or are impacted by the Games. **BWSS will be open and accessible throughout the Olympics and women can call our crisis line at 604-687-1867 to ask questions or to receive support.**

Join our group on Facebook

Sources: Krashinsky, S. (2009, August 10). The Olympics' tailor-made security blanket, unwrapped. *The Globe and Mail*.

2010



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Just as sure as there will be skiers taking to the slopes at Whistler and hockey players slapping pucks in arenas, there will be abused women among the athletes, organizers, spectators, media and dignitaries who'll gather in Vancouver for the Olympics.



Monday, September 14th, 2009

RE: Request for Support for Women in Iran

To: United Nations Human Rights Council

We are a group of women of many races, nationalities and cultures currently living in Canada. Some of us are Iranian women who have been raised in Iran and escapees of the violent regime of Iran. We are Iranian women who have experienced the humiliating, dehumanizing, and painful violence against women that is commonplace throughout all of Iran.

We have organized together after the heart breaking death of our sister **Neda Agha Soltan, who was shot to death on June 20th, 2009 by an unidentified gunman. Since that time media reports indicate that more women have gone missing, raped, tortured, and found murdered. Taraneh Mousavi is another example of the recent violent attacks against women. The grief and pain over the deaths of our sisters has mobilized us and we are saying: "Enough is enough."**

Our mission as a group of women is to end all forms of violence against our sisters in Iran. Violence in Iran, rooted in patriarchal values and traditions, married to the institutionalized values and practices promoted by the current conservative regime of Iran, has wrecked havoc in the lives of women.

It is no secret to the international community that violence against women is rampant in Iran. International human rights organizations, such as Amnesty International, and Human Rights Watch, as well as the United Nations Rapporteurs on Violence Against Women, have reported at length the human rights violations that occur against women. Countless other brave Iranian women have spoken out on the situation in Iran, and dared to fight for women's rights, knowing that they place their lives at risk by doing so.

Women in Iran face widespread discrimination, abuse, violence, and, at times, death. Women are subject to honour killings by stoning for a cornucopia of reasons, particularly if a woman is caught having an extramarital affair. In court, a woman's testimony is worth half that of a man's. Women are not able to serve as heads of state, religious clergy, or as judges. Women experience rampant unemployment. Women's dehumanization is ensured through the Constitutional legalization of violence that controls the public and private lives of all women in Iran. ¹

Iranian women within and without of Iran are no longer willing to stand on the sidelines and allow violence against us to continue. In the words of a woman who recently left Iran, "Women are ready...women in Iran need to see that we are supported".

Under former President Khatami's regime, NGO's began to operate to support women. During this time the number of NGO's rose from 97 in 1995 to 480 by 2005. ² The sheer number of NGO's shows the dire need for services for women. Iranian women rights defenders, such as Mehrangiz Kar and Shirin Ebadi, challenged the regime through legal means and protests, and launched a campaign to end the legalized discrimination of women. Yet, even during this time in recent history NGO's still

required a level of commitment to government and were unable to fully express their political wishes without backlash.

However, with the election of current President Ahmadinejad the work begun has slowly been reversed. NGO's have been shut down, and harassments and threats to the former staff are commonplace.³ Women's lives continue to be strictly controlled. There continues to be no protection for women in Iran. The torture, abuse, rape, and murder of women is still rampant throughout Iran. Women's lives continue to be at risk.

Due to the strict controls on communication, within Iran it is difficult to know that there is solidarity outside of Iran, that there is support for women's struggle. Internet is filtered in Iran so information is not allowed out. It is known that women's rights activists feel encouraged in their struggle to fight when they know that there is greater support. However, the control of communication within Iran makes it virtually impossible to show that women are supported outside of Iran.

For these reasons, we, Iranian women, ask you the United Nations, for your support. We ask you:

How can you assist us to support women in Iran to end violence against women?

We also ask, the United Nations to:

- 1) Let the world know that women in Iran are not silent participants in the abuse they experience on a daily basis. We ask you to make public, and known worldwide the violence that women experience.
- 2) Put pressure on the Iranian government to allow women based NGO's to be free to remain active and continue their mission of providing support to women.
- 3) To play the role of communicator and to communicate to the NGO's that women in Iran have the support of women worldwide. We ask you to communicate that we know what is happening to them and we stand by our sisters.

We ask for your assistance and support, for women who live in a county where a husband can kill his wife whenever he so chooses.

Sincerely,
Poshtibon of Iranian Women

¹ Women's Forum Against Fundamentalism in Iran, www.wfafi.org, viewed July 30, 2009, 8:00pm

² Amnesty International report, Iran: Women's Rights Defenders Defy Repression, 2008

³ Amnesty International report, Iran: Women's Rights Defenders Defy Repression, 2008

By Poshtibon of Iranian Women

Mom, do you know you deserve not to be in so much pain and you don't have to keep your pain in your chest?

Mom, what did you do when your husband died and you had a three months baby and you were pregnant too? I know you had to marry again.

Mom, what did you do when you were pregnant and were coming home from work while you were ill, and you were beaten by your husband because his food was not ready yet?

Mom, did your husband beat you when you questioned him on his affair with another woman?

Mom, what did you do when your husband threw you out from your own home at anytime that he wished to do so?

Mom, your husband has left you now and has married with a younger woman. How come although you have worked very hard during your life outside of home and at home, yet you have no income now that you are 78 and ill?

Mom, I wish I was able to tell you that someone is doing something to empower women like you to get their rights.

I love you Mom and I am so sorry for your helplessness and your pain during your life. Mom, I am 60 years younger than you and I am observing that my grandchildren are suffering from injustice as much as you did. My beautiful grandchild was killed in the street, she was tortured in the prison, she was not allowed to go to the school, and...

We are Poshtibon, a group of volunteer women who are seeking support to help Iranian Women in Iran. Our mission is to end violence against women in Iran. We have approached Battered Women's Support Services (BWSS) for help because we wish that Iranian women in Iran get the same type of support that BWSS is providing here in Canada. Iranian women in our group, by their own experience, know how much Iranian women in Iran need such help and support.

We started our group in June 2009, and we are working to explore the ways that we can support Iranian women in Iran. We have drafted a letter to the United Nation to communicate our concern about violence against women in Iran and to request support from the United Nation on ending violence against women in Iran. If you are interested to join or support our group, please email poshtibon@bwss.org.

Standing UP



By DJ Danforth

Today in far too many of our Aboriginal communities across Canada and the United States, families are being affected by the increasingly higher rates of violence and abuse against women perpetrated by men, leaving people to wonder why men could do such things. Colonization has certainly done its damage to our people, which is not to say that men don't have the ultimate responsibility to make change. When you think about the time that our ancestors had suffered through colonization, it may feel like an eternity ago, but the fact is that colonization still exists to this day.

Colonization comes in many different forms – and one of the clearest examples came in the shape of residential, mission, and boarding schools. Although they were eventually closed (albeit not that long ago), the impact of colonization still remained in the minds of our ancestors, which has had long lasting intergenerational

BIO DJ Danforth is a proud 25 year-old Native young man from the Oneida Nation. He is currently the Youth Cultural Coordinator for the Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin, and sings with drum groups Elk Soldier and Tha Tribe

effects. This has led to various types of culture shock when people eventually returned to their home communities because in essence, they were returning to a place that might have still practiced the same traditional way of life they were forced to forget. Coping mechanisms with drugs and alcohol ensued in many instances to try and block out the pain of residential school, but more often than not

It is imperative that we all stand together to protect all of our life givers on this earth, our women, because no matter who we are, without them none of us would even have a life to live.

the drinking and drugging made the memories even more intense. Simultaneously, it led men to use violence, abuse and molestation in the family, just as they had learned in the schools. And the years that followed the closing of residential schools have not been much better for our communities, what with the sixties scoop and the continual removal of First Nations children into state care, land claims not being resolved, and extreme conditions of poverty both on and off reserve.

As men we hold a huge responsibility in helping to end violence against women. It is not solely the responsibility of women to take a stand against violence and abuse; we in fact hold the largest responsibility of all. By working with women and making contributions to eradicate these cycles of abuse, we can move from a place of being reactive to the problem of violence, which is where we are now by only trying to help after the abuse has already occurred. It is critical that we move to a place of being proactive where we can stop it before women have to become the victims and survivors, and this has to start with our children.

Across the board our children are in much need of the traditional teachings about respecting themselves and their partner, beginning with what the meaning of a healthy relationship even is. These teachings are essential because throughout several of our Aboriginal nations women have always been held with the highest honour because of their ability to give life in its many forms, and the leadership roles they possess within our communities. But we need knowledge in action, not simply teachings of the past that we might give an occasional “nod” to. For myself, this applies to the highest degree in my relationship with my partner because at a very young age I received the cultural knowledge of how to treat women and my responsibility as a man to support the women around me. Yet where do other young men get to have this discussion today? In present day society, it seems there are a lot of men who are confused about how to be a “good man”, because of the ridicule that we receive for wanting to come to a state of equality with women. When we act with any type of respect towards women we still hear comments like “who wears the pants” or “your leash is pretty tight”, but instead of feeling humiliated by these kinds of comments, it’s important to look on the other side and listen to what women say about men who believe in equality. For us in the Aboriginal community, it means coming to terms with the fact that colonization has had a devastating affect to our people – and looking at concrete ways to decolonize now. Men seeking to get involved to help end this traumatic issue can get involved by doing small everyday things from starting in their own homes talking to their children about violence and abuse or listening to their companion about what they want and their opinion. Speaking up when you see this happening to relatives or people you know is a big step in getting involved to end violence and

abuse against women. I have been fortunate enough to have been asked to write for Masc Magazine which is an online magazine in which men can talk about issues that we face each and everyday. It also has a blog in which you can write and get responses from the staff or people who have knowledge on specific topics. I encourage people who want to get involved to visit the website www.mascmag.com and explore the links that are provided on the website. Finally encourage and support one another to stay strong in our stance against this issue, you are not alone and there are people who want the same results, we can go a long way with encouragement and support.

It is imperative that we all stand together to protect all of our life givers on this earth, our women, because no matter who we are, without them none of us would even have a life to live. So as a young Oneida man I carry the responsibility and commitment of honouring our life givers in the most respectful way that I know how. With the knowledge that I come from a matriarchal society, I acknowledge that as a man it is my job to respect the strength of women. Each of us must learn to honour the roots of our own culture so that collectively we can have a stronger backing in ending violence and abuse against women. I call upon my brothers and my community as a whole now to stand up as modern day warriors, and protect our women and children and the life they give to each and every one of us every day.





Aboriginal Women's Justice Conference

A three day conference on the subject of Justice from Aboriginal Women's perspective.

Friday September 25 Traditional Legal Matriarchal Systems

- 10:30am - 11:30am **Registration**
- 11:30am - 12:00pm **Welcome & Open Prayer:**
Shuswap Elder Ethel Billy
Angela Marie MacDougall, BWSS
- 12:00pm - 1:00pm **Lunch**
Guest Speaker: Chief Kwaint'co Michell
- 1:00pm - 1:30pm **Panel Discussion:**
• *Gitsan Nation*: Chief Atti'uu'u, Peggy Morgan and Stephanie Morgan
• *Haisla Nation*: Elder Louise Smith
• *Whe-La-La-U Nation*: Pearl Hunt
• *Haida Gwaii*: Elder Lavina White
- 1:30pm - 3:00pm **Three Breakout Sessions:**
• Peggy Morgan, Louise Smith, Pearl Hunt, Lavina White
- 3:00pm - 3:15pm **Health Break**
- 3:15pm - 4:15pm **Group Discussion on Days Topic**
open mike
- 5:00pm - 6:00pm **Dinner**
Guest Speaker: Sharon McIvor
- 6:00pm - 9:00pm Entertainment: Helene Duguay
- 7:00pm Sweat Lodge (optional)

Saturday September 26 Historical Underpinnings of the Canadian Legal Tradition as it relates to Aboriginal Women. Addressing Historical Oppression in Practice of Law as it relates to Aboriginal Women.

- 7:30am - 8:00am Spiritual Ceremony and Morning Walk
Shuswap Elder Ethel Billy
- 8:00am - 9:00am **Breakfast**
- 9:00am - 9:30am **Guest Speaker:**
Judge Marion Buller Bennett
- 9:30am - 10:00am **Panel Discussion:**
Katrina Harry, lawyer
Pamela Shields, lawyer
Laura Holland, Aboriginal Women's Action Network
- 10:00am - 10:15am **Health Break**
- 10:15am - 11:45am **Two Breakout Sessions:**
Katrina Harry, Pamela Shields
- 11:45pm - 1:00pm **Lunch**
Guest Speaker: Betty Patrick
- 1:00pm - 1:30pm **Panel Discussion:**
Bernadette Smith, Winnipeg, Manitoba
Tamara Starblanket, lawyer
Mavis Ericson, lawyer
- 1:30pm - 3:00pm **Two Breakout Sessions:**
Tamara Starblanket, Bernadette Smith
Mavis Ericson
- 3:00pm - 3:15pm **Health Break**
- 3:15pm - 4:15pm **Group Discussion on Days Topics**
open mike
- 5:00pm - 6:00pm **Dinner**
Guest Speaker: Gladys Radek, missing women
- 6:00pm - 9:00pm Pit house Gathering
Facilitator: Racelle Kooy

Sunday, September 27 The Impact of Indian Residential Schools on Aboriginal Legal Traditions

- 7:30am - 8:00am Spiritual Ceremony and Morning Walk
Shuswap Elder Ethel Billy
- 8:00am - 9:00am **Breakfast**
- 9:00am - 9:45am **Panel Discussion:**
Nancy Smith, lawyer
Gitsan Nation: Chief Atti'uu'u, Peggy Morgan
- 9:45am - 11:15 **Panel Discussion:**
Haisla Nation: Elder Louise Smith
Haida Gwaii: Elder Lavina White
Shuswap Elder Ethel Billy
- 11:15am - 11:45pm **Group Discussion on Days Topic**
open mike
Shuswap Elder Ethel Billy to lead
- 12:00 - 1:00pm **Lunch**

Matriarchs Sharing Our Traditional Laws



BATTERED WOMEN'S SUPPORT SERVICES

SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2009

Registration Fee \$250 - \$400



Quaaout Lodge • Chase, BC
1663 Little Shuswap Lake Rd.

Organized by Battered Women's Support Services

There are numerous critical issues affecting Aboriginal women across BC and across the country.

On September 25 – 27th Battered Women's Support Services held our first gathering of Aboriginal women who engaged in really big and important discussions on issues and strategies going forward. From the matriarchs, elders, grass roots to senior justice

levels, grounded in the knowledge and leadership of the Grandmothers over 50 women participated over three days in the Little Shuswap Territory at Quaaout Lodge. A report from the conference will be made available in the weeks to come.



Women arrested by Kirsty Howey a growing problem

In recent years, Battered Women's Support Services (BWSS) has become increasingly alarmed by the growing number of women accessing its services who have been arrested for allegedly perpetrating domestic violence against their partners. In BWSS' experience, these arrests are occurring despite the fact that in all cases women were in relationships where they were being abused.

There are enormous social, economic and emotional consequences for women who are arrested, which may include the involvement of MCFD, loss of custody to a violent partner, the inability to find employment with a criminal conviction, incarceration and even deportation. These ramifications add significantly to the burden already being shouldered by women who are victims of relationship violence, and women's negative experience of the criminal justice system may in many cases make them more vulnerable to further abuse (for example, by reluctance to contact police in the future).

Since January 2009, BWSS has been hosting a group called "BC Criminal Legal System and Violence Against Women - A Feminist Contribution" where feminist activists in Vancouver and from other parts of BC discuss their thoughts and experiences in relation to women survivors of violence and the criminal justice system. One of the key outcomes of that discussion is that BWSS, with the assistance of two students from UBC, is conducting research on the prevalence of and dynamics of situations when police attend incidents of domestic violence with the result that the woman is arrested.

Work done so far on this issue has revealed a number of problems in the way police and Crown counsel are approaching this issue.

In general, and despite the RCMP's "primary aggressor policy" which requires police officers to consider the context of relationship violence when deciding whether to lay charges, it appears that the criminal justice system generally fails to put women's use of force in the context of a relationship where the main aggressor is the woman's partner.

it appears that the criminal justice system generally fails to put women's use of force in the context of a relationship where the main aggressor is the woman's partner.

Based on the increase in women being arrested who are themselves victims of violence, RCMP police are having difficulty determining who the primary aggressor is and are not conducting comprehensive risk assessments at the scene. There is also a worrying lack of integration and consistency between the various policies applicable to the arrest and prosecution of domestic violence charges. For example, while RCMP policy requires a primary aggressor assessment, BC's chief policy in relation to domestic violence, the Violence Against Women In Relationships Policy contains no

such requirement, and nor are Crown counsel required by their policy to consider contextual factors in the decision to prosecute.

BWSS will be continuing this important work in the future and advocating for reform of policies and practice around woman arrest. If you or any other woman has had this experience or is now going through this and would like to share their story and/or get support, please do not hesitate to contact **BWSS' intake line at 604-687-1867** or e-mail us at **intake@bwss.org**. Our intake line is answered from **Monday to Friday from 10-5pm and until 8pm on Wednesdays**. All our services are free and confidential.



I have only recently been introduced to Battered Women Support Services (BWSS) and I've been amazed by their ability to effect change in the fight for equality. Growing up in Canada I always heard stories about the horrible things that were happening in other countries but I have only recently come to realize the extent to which these problems are occurring both within our country and on a global scale. Thank you for your work in the journey towards equal opportunity for all people.

Gulu, a place where people sing and dance better than anybody I've ever seen on TV. The place where I finally found peace and began seeing the world with the youthful optimism I had misplaced somewhere in my preteen years. I haven't been there in almost a year and half due to bad timing and warnings of unsafe conditions on my last trip to Uganda but I will never forget the first place I called home. What was I doing in such a place and why do I want to go back so badly? Believe it or not this question was unknowingly answered two weeks ago by one of the leaders at BWSS.

My sister, Bronwyn, was the most important person in my life for most of my childhood and teenage years. On October 3rd, 2006 she drifted off the side of the road and a fencepost came through the front window killing her instantly; she was the only one in the car. I blamed a lot of people for the accident at the time, including myself. Almost three years later I look back with slightly wiser eyes and realize there is no one to blame, or is there? Although I cannot and never will point fingers at any specific person, until now, I have always felt like there was something left unsaid.

I remember how my sister would rush into the house crying after the men who lived down the street would whistle at her and make obscene comments about how large her breasts were; she was 14. As high school continued she became obsessed with the way she looked and would often turn to me as her unassuming younger brother for fashion advice. I was always truthful and she knew that I thought she was beautiful so she didn't mind if I told her something looked funny. It wasn't me she was concerned about though, it was everybody else. As the years went by she increasingly struggled to fit the anorexic standard of beauty that is portrayed in most mainstream media. Nonetheless, by the age of 23 she was on her way to becoming an actor and she realized the sacrifices she would need

Africa, a sibling



and an answer

by Sebastian Roberts

to make in order to achieve her goals. Unfortunately, she believed the only way to stay thin was a life of drug abuse and forced regurgitation. Sometimes I think back to the battle that she must have been fighting her whole life, a battle I was all but unaware of. Technically her death was caused by a car crash but I now know it was a whole lot more than that. It was the accumulation of stress from the pressure of trying to look like a Barbie doll.

Ironically I gained almost 30 pounds the month she died and badly needed an outlet of some sort to reorient the destructive energy I had accumulated. This led me to an organization in

Uganda called 'The Bavubuka Foundation' who I have been working with for almost three years. After returning to Vancouver from her funeral in southern Ontario I got people to donate sports equipment and raised money for what would be my first trip to Uganda. Even though I had done my best to research the country and visualize what it would be like when I got there I could have never imagined what I was about to get myself into.

Northern Uganda is home to one of the worst humanitarian crises on the planet and is notorious for the shocking number of child soldiers. It is less commonly known to have one of the highest rates of HIV/AIDS in the world. In fact, according to World Vision AIDS was responsible for almost 70% of the deaths in Gulu town in 2004. This is a remarkably high percentage considering that international aid agencies in collaboration with the government have been spending millions of dollars annually to educate the Ugandan people and combat the disease for more than 20 years. However, most of the women I had the opportunity to speak with during my time in Gulu gave me a much more horrifying look into the truth behind the statistics. They told me stories about the rapes and sexual defilement that is common in what is the largest Internally Displaced Peoples camp in the world. Just as my sister showed me the brutal reality hidden beneath layers of sexual propaganda in the western media, the women in Gulu taught me that the longest running conflict in Africa isn't against Joseph Kony and the Lord's Resistance Army, it's against the women and children that most of us will never hear of.

Over my time with Bavubuka we have encountered varying levels of bigotry that exist in all shapes

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Women from South Korea meet with BWSS

by Stella Myungah Roh

During the summer three Korean women visited BWSS while I was volunteering. Dahye Chang, a PhD student at Seoul National University College studying family law, Jungsuk Parkbong who works at a women's centre, Womenlink, in South Korea, and Kyunghee Cheon, a former volunteer of BWSS. They all were very interested in how women at BWSS were resisting and eradicating violence against women in Canada.

They met with BWSS workers', Darla the legal advocate, Samantha one of the long-term counselors, Davina one of the volunteer crisis workers at BWSS and myself. We shared in a discussion the similarities and differences of issues Canadian women face and South Korean women face today. The issues of violence and the impact on women are a serious problem in both Canada and South Korea.

When I was in Korea, I helped Asian women, married to Korean men, who had the same issues and volunteered at "Korean Women Hot Line" for battered women. This

experience caused me to become interested in bringing an end to this social problem and motivated me to volunteer at BWSS after coming to Canada. I am now pursuing a career in this field here in Canada.

Violence against women exists all over the world and there are many similarities such as the reasons it happens, the effect it has on women, children, families, and communities and the kind of help women need. However, there are some differences between Korea and Canada.

Korean culture is based on Confucianism and it's very conservative. In Confucianism men and women are not equal and it forces women to sacrifice for their families throughout their whole lives under the patriarch. Korean culture is family-oriented and it has some good merits, but it causes women to have a more difficult time when they are being abused, especially in the past.

Korean couples usually marry under statute law, live together and then start families. When Korean women experience violence in their marriages, they face difficult legal problems if they want to divorce. Actually, Korean culture contains some prejudices that discriminate against divorced women, single moms and their children. It makes women hesitate to leave their abusive husbands.

When women are experiencing violence, safety is the most important thing, but in Korea there are few women's shelters and there isn't any transition houses for battered women. This makes it all the more difficult for Korean women to escape violence and make safety plans. Here in Canada there are many shelters and transition houses for them to flee if needed.

Until seventy or eighty years ago, in Jo-sun dynasty, Korean women didn't have the right to education and had no liberty in marriage. At that time Korean women couldn't go to school and couldn't choose their spouses by themselves. They had to marry by their father's choice. Women had to cover all their bodies and use veils, like a Chador, when they went out. A man had many wives and a woman was considered her husband's possession.

However, Korean feminists struggled with great perseverance to find equality between males and females, to improve women's fundamental human rights, as well as liberty. It brought about the extension of women's rights and equality even though inequality still exists.

Until now, many Korean feminists have been trying to achieve more rights for women, as men have. They are changing and abolishing customs that limit women's rights and liberty. For example, 'The headship of family law', which allowed men to be the leaders of their

families legally, was abolished just recently. Many of the laws regarding violence against women in South Korea were implemented in the late 1990s and early 2000s. For instance, it was only in 2005 that a husband could be charged for raping his wife

Women should be able to change traditions and culture, if these limit women's rights, liberty and safety. If we don't try to change this unfairness, we can't have real rights, liberty and equality. As well, women cannot have real happiness.

Woman abuse happens all over the world regardless of period of time, physical attributes, nationality, race, religion, lifestyle, income level, educational background, age or status. Human beings can't live alone because we are social animals. We want to love, be loved and live together, dreaming of happiness. They expect to have better lives when they live together. However many women are suffering abuse and violence in Korea and Canada.

We have to try to end and break the vicious cycle of violence against women and the various other forms of oppression. If we don't try to end these, there will be always another victim. We have to help each other, men and women together to have happy lives and to live in peace without these issues. I hope the meeting between the women of the two countries can make a good connection to help and come up with further effective ways to end violence against women in the world.

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and forms from city officials to parents and even volunteers. I believe that education, journalism and new media will be key to the fight against sexual inequality both in Africa and Globally. I have been blessed to meet so many other activists who have realized we are all responsible for protecting the future of this planet. Which leads me to back to the BWSS activist who recently helped me answer one of the most difficult questions I have been asked since I decided to dedicate most of my time to Uganda; why Africa? I have come to recognize the reason I have an affinity towards Uganda is that it is at the forefront of the fight against the sexual injustices that are at the root of human kind's discombobulated international affairs and subsequently failing global economy. That is why I was there and that is why I want to go back so badly.

Sexism is an invisible plague that is taking the lives of women around the world and continues to deprive women of true equality. Although I am not a woman and I could never pretend to fully understand how arduous sexual prejudice is for females, I have seen the consequences of patriarchal societies both personally and within a global context. As a result of these experiences I have realized that we are all responsible for taking the initiative to end this chauvinistic madness. With that, I ask everybody reading this to get involved with a group that is affecting change if they haven't already or continue capitalizing on their potential to build a beautiful future.



About the author *Sebastian Roberts has been involved in several humanitarian projects in East Africa and North America. In his last year of high school he started a Sports program in Uganda with charitable organization 'The Bavubuka Foundation'. Bavubuka sports is now directly responsible for delivering over 2000 pounds of sports equipment to under privileged youth in Uganda, Kenya, Algeria and Cuba. His work in Uganda opened him up to the new world of social activism and he is now largely focused on online conferencing/*

education, construction of facilities, environmentalism and micro-finance. As well as success at the project level he has also attend several conferences in various cities across North America. Some of these conferences include; Three Dot Dash, The National Hip Hop and Political Convention, Conflict Transformation at the United States Institute of Peace, Top 20 Under 20 and many more. Seb is now spearheading 'Operation Green: Clean Kampala' that will be launching later this year in Uganda at the Bavubuka Community House.

City confirms support for Women's Memorial March

IN FEBRUARY
2010

The City of Vancouver, the Vancouver Police Department, community and other partners want to confirm their support for the annual Women's Memorial March and assure it will occur on the same date, time and route as in past years.

The march is planned for February 14, 2010 to proceed through Downtown Eastside neighbourhoods.

The Women's Memorial March is coordinated by the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre to take place every year on February 14 to honour the lives of missing and murdered women from the Downtown Eastside.

While next year's event will occur as it does every year, it is taking place during the Olympic Winter Games period. The Vancouver Police Department and partners will work with organizers to

ensure the march can operate safely during busy traffic conditions predicted for downtown Vancouver. During the Games, significantly more buses, vehicles and pedestrians will be in the downtown area.

Over the past months, City staff and partners have been meeting with groups to determine the best way for events and festivals to be staged during the busy Games period.



EWEP's First Graduation!

BWSS's Empowering Women's Employment Program (EWEP) had the privilege of celebrating its first graduating class on Friday, August 28th, 2009.



This ceremony brought us all together to applaud the many successes achieved by the women who completed the program, ranging from attaining full time work, securing safe housing, reconnecting with family members, feeling more connected to the community and in the words of one woman, "In this program I have learned how to love myself and how to feel strong; I'm proud to have landed a job in this country which has allowed me to take care of my myself and my children. There is no going back". All of this has provided much inspiration to all of us as we bear witness to the amazing transformation of our women in the last six months and it has strengthened our commitment and desire to continue improving our program as we can testify that it works. We are looking forward to working with many more women and have many more celebrations in the months to come. If you are interested in finding out more information about our program, please contact us at:

778.628.1867 or at iwepc1@bwss.org

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION
OF
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
November 25th



On December 17th 1999, the United Nations made November 25th the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. The date was chosen as it correlated with a date that had been previously associated with the cause. In 1960, on November 25th, three female political activists, the Mirabal Sisters, were assassinated.

My Sister's Closet, the social enterprise of Battered Women Support Services, will be hosting an event on the evening of November 25th to support the importance of worldwide visibility that daily violence is still the reality of many women.

A few days prior to the evening, the Commercial Drive store will be closing for some renovations. The event will double as a chance to view the newly designed store while acknowledging the continual struggle to end violence against women.

MY SISTER'S CLOSET
1029 COMMERCIAL DR.
On November 25, 2009
6:30pm to 9:00pm



Settlement Worker Training Workshops

Supporting Refugee & Immigrant Women Who Experience Violence

Settlement Workers working in rural and isolated communities are well positioned to assist immigrant and refugee women who experience violence in their intimate relationships.

This workshop is designed to support and enhance current work while emphasizing assessment and safety planning.

Based on best practices in settlement and victim service work, experienced trainers & guest speakers will lead participants through a process that draws on group knowledge. Grounded in the strategies of empowerment, participants will explore assessment, safety planning, ethics, and other intervention strategies, to comprehensively meet the needs of refugee and immigrant women.

Topics include:

- Patterns of Human Migration ... Globalization
- Theoretical Framework for Understanding Women's Experience of Settlement
- The Role of Culture, Family and Community
- Theoretical Framework of Understanding Violence Against Refugee and Immigrant Women Models of Safety
- Legal Issues – Family Law, Immigration Law, Child Protection Law

Workshops

When: Thursday, October 8, 10:00 – 4:00 pm
Friday, October 9, 10:00 – 2:00 pm

Venue: Ken Lepin & Tricia Sellmer Studio
Kamloops Art Gallery • www.kag.bc.ca
101 – 465 Victoria Street
Kamloops BC V2C 2A9

Phone: 1-250-377-2400

Register early as space is limited.

To Register, contact Julia N. Schriver at the People's Law School. **Give Us:** your name, job title, name of your workplace, email address and phone number

by Phone: 604-331-5421
or Email: julians@publiclegaled.bc.ca

Any questions regarding Registration, please call Julia N. Schriver at 604-331-5421

2009-10 Settlement Worker Training Workshops are made possible by the generous support of:



All Settlement Worker Training Workshops are FREE of charge.

Refreshments will be served, however each participant should bring their own lunch.

www.bwss.org

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

Immigrant Women's COMMUNITY CAFÉ

Events funded by Battered Women's Support Services, BWSS Social Enterprise and The Law Foundation of BC

Persian/Afghan woman, Please Join us

Tuesday,
October 27th, 2009
3pm - 6pm

Immigrant Services
Society of BC, Coquitlam

Suite 136
3020 Lincoln Avenue
Coquitlam, BC

South Asian woman, Please Join us

Wednesday,
October 28th, 2009
2pm - 5pm

DiverseCity Community
Resources Society

7330 137th Street
Suite 1107, Surrey BC

Latin American woman, Please Join us

Thursday,
October 29th, 2009
10am - 1pm

Mount Pleasant
Neighbourhood House

800 East Broadway
Vancouver, BC



To register Phone Daniela at
604-687-1868 extension 311
Register early, as space is limited.

Childcare and bus tickets will be provided. You will also have a chance to win gift baskets filled with surprises.

Strengthening Communities

We invite you to a community café event of food, conversation and learning. We want you to be a part of creating solutions to immigrant women's struggles in the family law system.

Join us if you are an Immigrant woman who has experiences in the family law system and experienced emotional, physical, financial or sexual abuse.

At this events, we will:

- Listen to a lawyer speak on family law
- Participate in discussion tables and share from your experiences & expertise in the family law system
- Enjoy a lunch, catered by ethnic Restaurants

This initiative is in partnership with BWSS, Immigrant Services Society of BC, Coquitlam & North Shore Women's Centre. DiverseCity Community Resources Society, and the South Fraser Women's Services Society. Mount Pleasant, Kiwassa and Collingwood Neighbourhood Houses.

WOMEN making waves



Women Making Waves is published by **Battered Women's Support Services**

Women's Support Services, a non-profit organization supporting women facing abuse and violence.

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...
Graphic Design:
www.oaxacastudio.com
...
Editors:
BWSS Staff and Volunteers

yes! I would like to support BWSS in your work to end violence against women.

I would like to donate \$ _____ immediately to BWSS.

Monthly Sustaining Member

I wish to join the *Circle of Strength* monthly giving club and make my gift of \$ _____ every month.

I authorize BWSS to bill my credit card on the 1st of each month. *I understand that I may cancel my contribution at any time with written notice.*

Payment Information

Enclosed cheque payable to BWSS
 VISA MasterCard American Express

Card Number _____
Name on card _____
Expiry Date ____ / ____
Signature _____

Contact Information

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Email _____

We respect your privacy and will not trade or sell your name to other organizations

I wish to receive the BWSS newsletter, *Making Waves*
 I have remembered BWSS in my will
 Please contact me to discuss how I can include BWSS in my financial and estate planning

Please send your completed form & donation to:

BWSS
P.O. Box 21503
1424 Commercial Dr.
Vancouver, BC V5L 5G2

OR
By Phone 604.687.1868 ext. 315
By Fax 604.687.1864
Online www.bwss.org

Your gift is tax deductible. We will send you a tax receipt.



What women are saying about BWSS...

“Today I am in Canada! I am living my dream and I have found BWSS!” – J.

“I escaped from him. It was what I always wanted, but no one helped me before.”

I was trapped there and I thought that I was going to die there. I always dreamed about going far away from him. I wanted to escape from his terrible violence towards me and my children. I thought that I needed to go to a country where he could not find me. Today, I am in Canada! I am living my dream and I have found BWSS!” – J. (J’s feedback was translated from Spanish to English by her counsellor).

“It is the first time I am thinking about and sharing how the process of immigration, culture changes, and the experiences of trauma has impacted me. The first time I am looking at it all and seeing the complexity and the meaning it holds for me” – M.

“Long-term counselling at BWSS has been very useful. I like the reflective questions asked because it often leads me to surprising discoveries about myself.” – E.

“I have dreams following the [BWSS] Healing from Trauma group sessions and I am very strong in them. The dreams are insightful...increasing my self perception and strengths. The group has a gentler way of dealing with trauma” – L.

Funding Partners:

