

*February Newsletter 2008*

**One in Three**® is a digital enterprise linking and building intercultural dialogue and relationships with anti-violence global activists/advocates, serving as an informational clearinghouse and raising awareness about violence against women.



Journalists and organizations around the world have been focusing on Iraq and Congo, where women and children continue to suffer from the brutality of war, and gender violence. U.S. syndicated columnist, Amy Goodman, writes in **A war more deadly than**

**Iraq:** “Hundreds of thousands of women and children have been subjected to rape.” She quotes Congolese human rights activist Christine Schuler Deschryver as saying: “We are not talking about ‘normal’ rapes anymore. We are talking about sexual terrorism; because [victims] are destroyed--you cannot imagine what’s going on in Congo. We are talking about new surgery to repair the women, because they’re completely destroyed.” We all need to do far more than we are doing to leverage our privilege, when or if we have it, especially American women. We ask you to take a stand by signing the [solidarity statement](#) for Iraqi women and visit [Women for Women International](#) to find out how to sponsor and change a woman’s life in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

**Australia:** On November 27<sup>th</sup> [Yorgum](#), a program that promotes the cultural well-being of the Indigenous Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of Australia and their families hosted “Healing through Art Therapy”, a process that supports spiritual, physical, emotional and mental well-being. The “16 days of Activism” event was an interactive workshop bringing together workers and clients. [Yorgum](#) offers Aboriginal people an autonomous, Aboriginal-specific, community based, counseling and referral service that acknowledges the impact of colonization on Aboriginal people; operating at all times within the framework of Aboriginal terms of reference. These beautiful masks are colorful, creative examples of healing through art. ►

See and purchase our new line of Greeting Cards Celebrating Women and look for the launch of another awareness raising tool this spring. Card Sample▼



**Rose Charities** is a partner organization of the **One in Three Women**® campaign and in this issue we feature an article written for **One in Three Women**® by Dr. Will Grut who has seen many cases of acid burn attacks against women at Rose Charities Surgical Rehabilitation or Eye Centers; 50% of attacks are the consequence of real or perceived extramarital affairs.

## CAMBODIAN ACID VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



Acid violence defies any bounds of comprehension. It is a violation born and nurtured in hell itself, a pitiless, hideous evil. It takes away both skin and flesh and the very soul of the victim. And it does so with an outcome that is often absolute.

As a physician, I saw my first acid violence injury around ten years ago. I had set up Rose Charities as an extension of my previous organization, Project Iris. Iris dealt with eye injury and sight restoration but so many injuries extended beyond the eye to the face and torso. Rose went beyond eyes to facial and other injuries. Word had gone around that there were “foreign doctors” helping the injured and had set up a simple operative and treatment clinic on the outskirts of Phnom Penh. [Read full article](#)

### A crime against women, a crime against wives

Louise McOrmond-Plummer, co-author with Dr. Patricia Eastel of the book [Real Rape, Real Pain: Help for Women Sexually Assaulted by Male Partners](#), gives an overview of the book and her motivation for writing on the topic of intimate partner rape.



**When the one you love commits an act of sexual violence against you, the scars lie deep and buried.**

**BY LOUISE MCORMOND-PLUMMER**

In 1987, I became free of a relationship that almost cost me my life. For two years, I had lived with a man who thought love equaled ownership, and who retaliated brutally when challenged. He had beaten me, threatened me with weapons, and terrorized me in other ways. Other things had happened in that relationship, too. This man forced sex on me many times, as punishment for his jealousy, when he needed to assert power, or just because I said “no.” Though it was the threats to my life that seemed most frightening at the time, I was not to realize until years later the severe damage inflicted by the sexual abuses. And I knew that even had I wanted to admit what happened or say that it hurt, I would get little empathy. It couldn't have done me any real harm - hadn't I willingly been in his bed? And didn't that imply unlimited consent? No, it was not real rape and my pain was not real pain. I had internalized the myth that “real” rape is committed by men with... [Read more](#)

### Empowering Awareness, Victim Empowerment

[PAVE](#) is a program located in Chicago, Illinois, founded by Angela Rose, a victim of a violent crime at the age of seventeen when she was abducted at knifepoint, and assaulted by a repeat offender on parole for murder. Her assailant released her but she was further victimized when she told what happened to a detective who didn't believe her story. As a result she turned her anguish into anger and that anger turned into progressive activism and the birth of **PAVE**.



**PAVE** marked its 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary this month by initiating a national **Victim's Rights Rally** on Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> to protest the re-victimization of three rape victims after a judge ruled out too much evidence to continue the case. The protest calls attention to sexual assault, the most under-reported crime in the U.S. When victims do report they still often experience victim blaming, language restrictions, and prejudice by the criminal justice system.