

March Newsletter 2011



One in Three Women™ recently returned from a conference in New York City, where international leaders in the domestic violence and trauma fields were invited to discuss a paradigm shift in the global initiative to end violence against women and children.

Conference participants included administrators from the New York Society of

Prevention of Cruelty to Children, Columbia University, Men Can Stop Rape, National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence, Adelphi University, Hedge Funds Care Child Abuse Prevention Foundation, the One in Three Women campaign, and private clinicians who provide therapeutic services within these respective fields. This conference was organized and held by Stacey Bellem, a clinical social worker and activist that has been traveling the United States over the past five years to engage leaders within the domestic violence, sexual assault and child welfare fields of work, to understand the forward-thinking premise that “we will not see a decrease or end in violence against women and children until we begin integrating gendered violence and *mental health theories in our work with victims and offenders (batterers) of abuse in relationships,” said Bellem, founder and CEO of the New York-based Unifying Center.

“The battered women’s movement emerged at the same time as the feminist movement (e.g.) in the early 1970s. Women, children and our communities were in crisis, and there was a huge need for this grassroots movement to help break the silence and stigma around domestic abuse and sexual assault, and develop the kinds of social responses we now have today. Because of the *how*, *when* and *why* in which this movement occurred, many community-based programs developed over the last four decades take a feminist, gendered violence stance,” Bellem explained. “It is my belief, and also why I’m holding this conference today, that to advance our efforts and see a reduction in this social ill, we need to begin adding mental health (and healing) into all of

the work being done with victims as well as batterers, women as well as men.”

As the conference continued, Bellem shared compelling research from over the past decade that included facts and statistics from organizations such as the World Health Organization, American Psychological Association (Division 51—examines men, masculinities and mental health), National Institute of Mental Health and Dr. Ken Harland (a gender-based, psychological expert working in direct clinical practice and research with young men and boys), as well as mainstreamed national and international batterers intervention models widely used today (e.g.) most of which are based on psycho-education of gendered violence.

*“mental health is a resource that each of us needs in order to manage our lives successfully.”
Dr. Ken Harland.

“Violence in relationships is not exclusively a gendered issue; our physical, psychological, socio-cultural and spiritual health and wellness *all* influence how we may act/react in our relationships,” Bellem shared. “It is an interplay of each of these that may cause someone to act violently toward another.”

“To address, respond and treat this issue more thoroughly, we need to take a more holistic approach in our work that includes the emotional health and healing of all people,” said Bellem.

It is from this vision and belief that Bellem founded a new non-profit organization called “[The Unifying Center.](#)” This Center is dedicated to illuminating the need for programs designed to meet the emotional health and well-being specific to men and boys. Join the conversation on our [blog](#).

The [Asia-Japan Women's Resource Center](#) (AJWRC) strives to eradicate all forms of violence and discrimination against women, toward a democratic Japanese society based on respect for human rights and gender equality, and toward a fair and sustainable global society. In order to end all forms of gender-based violence, including sexual violence under armed conflicts and around military bases, trafficking and sexual exploitation, domestic violence, and sexual harassment, they address gender biases and the multiple forms of discrimination which women face, challenging the conventional concepts of peace and security.



AJWRC

engages in numerous activities relating to the promotion of women's rights. These include: information sharing and networking of women's movements in Japan and throughout the world; providing educational opportunities for the general public to understand various issues from a gender perspective; holding seminars and workshops on issues such as violence against women and women's movements in other parts of the world and organizing women's study tours to exchange information and experiences with women's and civil groups

in other countries. AJWRC also monitors cases and policies that may violate women's rights, runs ad-hoc and long-term campaigns, conducts research and surveys for advocacy purposes and actively participates in international feminist debates and campaigns.

AJWRC currently has a number of ongoing campaigns aimed at eradicating sexual violence against women. These include a campaign to end violence against women perpetrated by US soldiers around their military bases, and also a campaign calling for judicial and legislative reform in relation to cases of sexual violence against women. [Read more...](#)



The [Violence is Not our culture](#) (VNC) global campaign was launched on November 25th, 2007 to end the relentless misuse of religion and culture to justify the killing, maiming and torture of women as punishment for violating the imposed 'norms' of sexual behavior. The Campaign is not against any religion or faith, but believes in promoting the positive, inclusive values and discourses that are part of our cultures.

The VNC Campaign grew out of local women's movements at the forefront of confronting and challenging acts of violence such as stoning, honour killings, forced/early marriage, marital rape, and more. Active across Senegal, the Sudan, Nigeria, Indonesia,

Aceh, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran, the Campaign builds local and transnational solidarity movements in diverse ways.

VNC distributes valuable research and publications produced by local partners. This ranges from documentary films to policy briefing series, which undertake cross-comparative analyses of the practice of stoning and other forms of violence, to the most recent book "Control and Sexuality" which examines *zina* laws across certain Muslim contexts and communities in order to explore connections between the criminalization of sexuality, gender-based violence and women's rights activism. The Campaign also focuses on

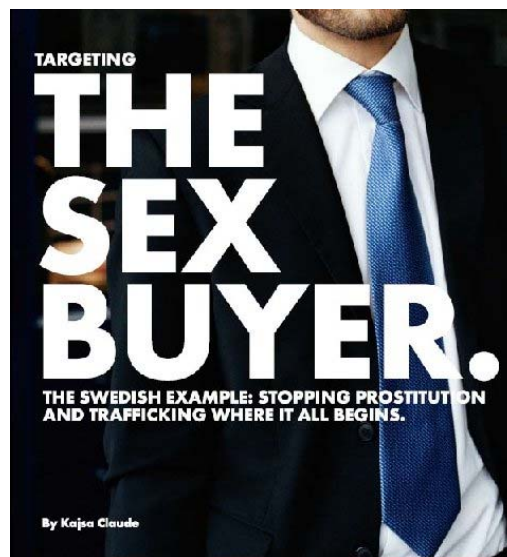
capacity building, and has held training workshops on Social Media Advocacy for partners in both the Africa and Asia regions to enhance their local and global communications strategies. VNC continues to bridge the local-global

divide by bringing women's rights activists to UN forums such as the Commission on the Status of Women and Human Rights Council Sessions. [Learn More](#)



Sweden Stopping Prostitution

The **Swedish Institute**, targeting the sex buyer, has released a new publication on human trafficking and prostitution. The Sex Buyer, stopping prostitution and trafficking where it all begins is written by Kajsa Claude, a Swedish freelance journalist and PR consultant who has been working with domestic violence and human rights issues for many years. The publication is available in English, Russian, Spanish and Turkish.



Our pocket mirrors are being used as a healing tool for women and girls who are overcoming abuse. We'd like to hear how you are using our pocket mirrors as an educative, awareness-raising tool.

Our Canadian colleague, Verna McGregor, shared this passage with us from Louise Hays' book [You Can Heal Your Life](#):

"Mirrors reflect back to us our feelings about ourselves. They show us clearly the areas to be changed if we want to have a joyous, fulfilling life.

I ask people to look in their eyes and say something positive about themselves every time they pass a mirror. The most powerful way to do affirmations is to look in a mirror and say them out loud. You are immediately aware of the resistance and can move through it quickly."

It's good to have a mirror with you as you read this book (You Can Heal Your Life). Use it often to do affirmations and to check where you are resisting and where you are open and flowing. Now, look in a mirror and say to yourself

"I am willing to change."

To order our [pocket mirrors](#) (wholesale and retail).

[PAVE](#) (Promoting Awareness, Victim Empowerment) holds its inaugural National Walk in April for Sexual Assault Awareness Month. To sign-up for an event in your community and find out more about the walk visit [PAVE](#). One in Three Women is a PAVE affiliate member.

The 100th anniversary of [International Women's Day](#) takes place on March 8, and there is **much for women to celebrate**. From increased political representation to better economic situations to increased legal protections, women have made tremendous strides.