

UNITING TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE

### Who Are We?

WeWillSpeakOut.US is a movement of diverse faith groups from across the U.S. committed to ending the silence around sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) in the U.S. and worldwide.

Our mission is to work at local, national and global levels to change the culture of tolerance and inaction surrounding SGBV.



### **Current Members: 12**















Evangelical Lutheran Church in America God's work. Our hands.















### **IMA's SGBV WORK**



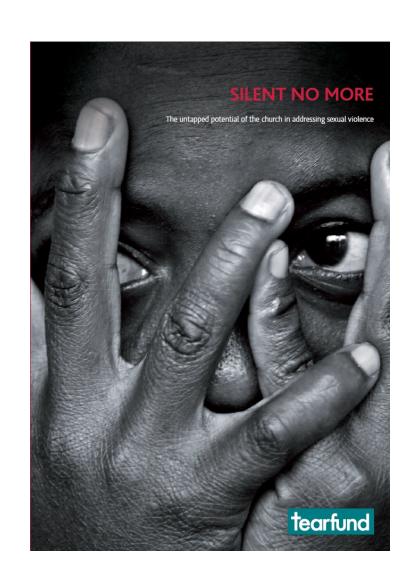
### **USHINDI Project in Eastern Congo (USAID 2010-2015)**

- Medical care  $\rightarrow$  9,921 survivors
- Psychosocial counseling → 15,626 survivors
- Economic development → 2,479 people for literacy;
   12,852 through VSLAs and micro-projects
- Legal Support → 9,014 beneficiaries



### Where We Came From

- In 2011, Tearfund released the "Silent No More" report on the Church's need to address SGBV.
- Tearfund launched UK-based We Will Speak Out coalition to build GBV awareness globally.
- IMA joined, and then officially launched WeWillSpeakOut.US in 2013



### **Initial Efforts**

1. Establish a day for faith leaders to speak out together

SPEAK OUT SUNDAY = November 23, 2014

2. Develop a Sermon Guide to help faith leaders know what to say

ONE IN THREE Sermon
Guide is available free at
www.wewillspeakout.us







• Faith leaders aren't ready: Lack of awareness, training, desire

 Faith leaders aren't connected to community resources for prevention, treatment and response

 "Speaking Out" requires education and sensitivity: We don't want to do more harm than good

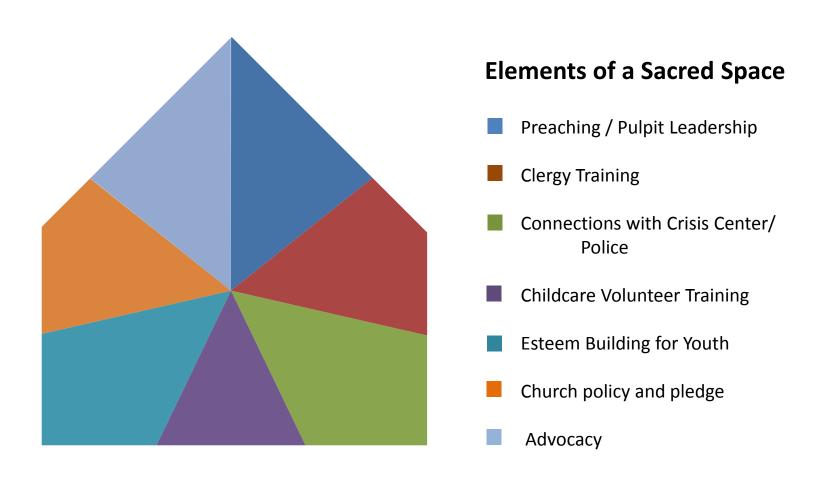


### **New Direction**

- Training and awareness to build a foundation for speaking out
- Training / tools should be accessible, inexpensive, efficient and appropriate to local context
- Great tools and training do exist, but they are not well funded or marketed, not prioritized
- WeWillSpeakOut.US is a great way to unite and promote these tools



### In Development: "Sacred Spaces"



### In the Meantime...

- Sign our Pledge!
- Help to normalize conversations about healthy relationships, violence and equality – women's groups, Bible studies, book clubs
- Reach out to a local Rape Crisis center or other resource to see how your church can connect, or to volunteer
- Tell your story on WeWillSpeakOut.US
- Research existing trainings: HAVEN, MinistrySafe,
   Religion and Violence e-Learning Project, etc.

### We WILL Speak Out!

"Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy."

--Proverbs 31:9

"Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's case."

If people of faith will not speak out, who will?

--WeWillSpeakOut.US











### Joint

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INITIATIVE

### United Methodist Women and **United Methodist Men** have endorsed the message of the National Declaration by Religious and Spiritual Leaders to Address Violence Against Women.

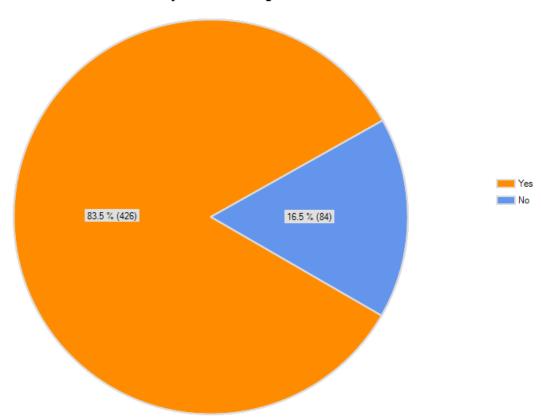


How does domestic violence affect us, our church, our neighborhood?



### Domestic Violence Survey Results

Have there been incidences of domestic violence in your family, church, community or surrounding area?



## What has been happening?

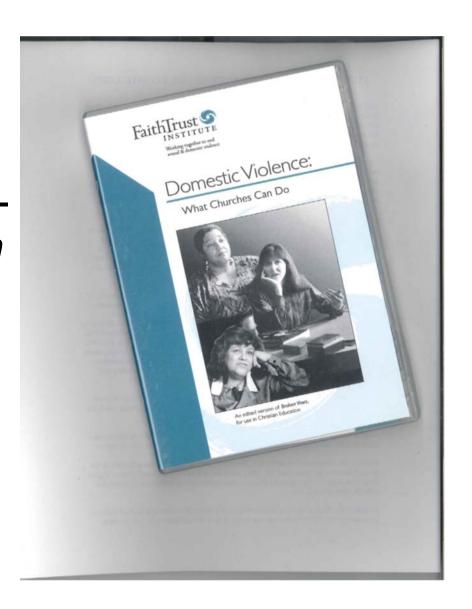




Working together to end sexual & domestic violence



Domestic Violence – What Churches Can Do, a primary resource shared with every conference



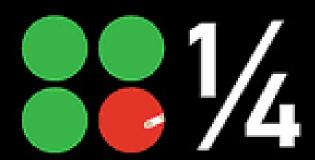
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#### It is an issue of faith.

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in four one every women will experience domestic violence her lifetime



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more than three weemen. and one man are murdered by their intimate partners in the U.S. every day



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### does your partner:

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If you anothered 'bes' to even one of these questions, you may be in an abusive relationship.



If you are in danger, please call 911 or the National Domestic Visience Hotline at 1-800-759-SAFE (1285)

For more information and to get involved, visit.

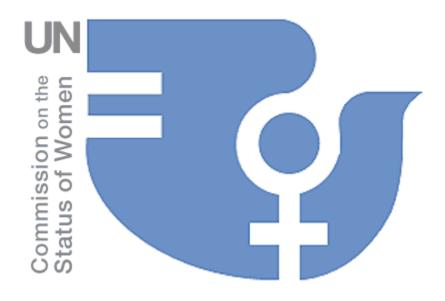
### I BELIEVE YOU

Faiths' Response To Intimate Partner Violence



The Domestic Violence group on UMWOnline is a place for connecting to share ideas and supporting each other

http://www.umwonline.org/groups/domesticviolence/



## Faith's Response to Domestic Violence

Workshop co-sponsored by United Methodist Women and FaithTrust Institute
Tuesday March 5, 2013
12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.



## Intersections of Domestic Violence and Maternal Health

See the content of the webinar at

http://umchealthyfamilies.org/content/blog/Intersect ions\_of\_DV\_\_FP\_Webinar\_FINAL.pdf

## United Methodist Women address Gun Violence





# United Methodist Women supported the Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)





### Congregational Team Training

### A Laity Training Approach for Conferences

Training for local church teams





## 11 August 2013 Program for the Baltimore/Washington Conference

Shades of
Violence, Paths
to Healing: Open
Gathering on
Stopping
Domestic
Violence and
Abuse



## United Methodist Women April 25-27, 2014



Assembly 2014: Louisville

Workshops:

Ending Domestic Violence, Getting Men Involved "DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS NOW RECOGNIZED AS BEING THE MOST PERVASIVE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION IN THE WORLD."

-HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON





## Domestic Violence Initiative PHASE III— Train the Trainers

Under development with



Working together to end sexual & domestic violence

### 84% of homeless families are headed by a woman.



The top cause of homelessness for mothers and children? Domestic violence.

Respect all women on Mother's Day.

#respectmothers

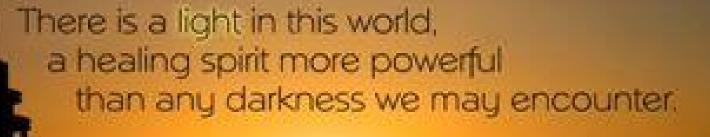
#respectwomen

We proclaim...that violence exists in all communities, including our own, and is morally, spiritually and universally intolerable.

We commit ourselves to working toward the day when all will be safe and abuse will be no more.

(Taken from the declaration, modified for inclusive language)





We sometimes lose sight of this force when there is suffering, too much pain. Then suddenly, the spirit will emerge through the lives of ordinary people who hear a call and answer in extraordinary ways.



Mother Teresa

# African American Faith Communities Responding to Domestic, Sexual, and GenderBased Violence

Reverend Maxine Lloyd Ball, M.Div.
President & Founder
Isaac Ministries, Inc.
(240) 764-4908

### African Americans Family Values

- Family is important
- Goal is to keep their family together
- Family business is held within confounds of family (Secrecy)
- Spirituality and Religion is very important
- The pastor is trusted leader to whom victims disclose their abuse

### The Black Church

- African American church by virtue of the historical oppressive racial realities of life in the United States, has been and remains the center of the African American community.
- The Black Church is more than a Sunday religious or social experience; it holistically tasks itself to oversee the social, cultural, and spiritual center of its community.
- The complex interconnectedness between the church and its members, the form of spirituality received by African Americans is embedded within their psyche and is continually reinforced through the Sunday church experience, personal relationships, and interaction within the community (Arnold, 2012).
- Pastors also educate their congregation on proper "political, educational, and moral/ethical conduct in society" (Latimore III, 1984, p. 11)

## Do's and Don'ts/ Moral, Ethical & Theological

CASE STUDY - THE UNMENTIONABLE SIN

SCRIPTURES RESOURCE OR ROADBLOCK

Malachi 2:13-16 Ephesians 5:22-30 Matthew 6:15

#### WAYS OF BEING

Relay Empathy Listen to Story

Give Encouragement Build Trust

Cultural Context Scriptural Context

Non-judgmental Stay Calm

Hold Perpetrator Accountable Refer

### Malachi 2:13-16 (NKJV)

That He hates divorce,
For it covers one's garment with violence,"
Says the LORD of hosts.
"Therefore take heed to your spirit,
That you do not deal treacherously."

### Ephesians 5:22-30

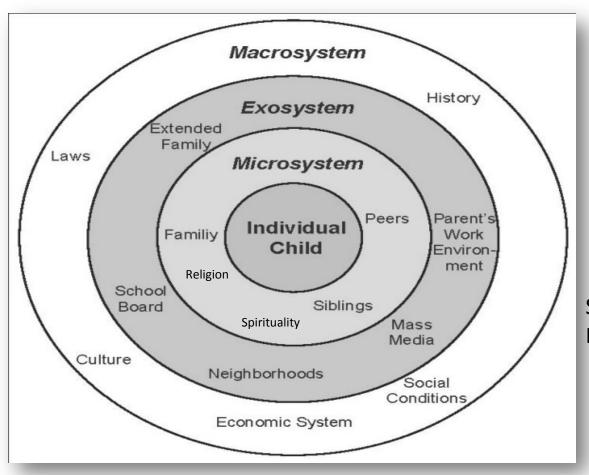
Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. <sup>24</sup> Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in everything

### Matthew 6:14-15

"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

## ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS MODEL OF INTERVENTION



Spirituality & Religio Rev. Maxine Ball

(Bronfenbrenner, 1979)

## WAYS OF INTERVENING ZERO TOLERANCE

- 1. PROVIDE RESOURCES
- 2. DISPEL MYTHS
- 3. ENCOURAGE HEALH & WELLNESS
- 4. COURT APPEARANCES
- 5. SAFETY PLANS
- 6. COUNSELING GROUPS, INDIVIDUAL
- 7. LEAVE ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIP
- 8. TELL SOMEONE
- 9. REFRAMING/RELABELING
- **10.SETTING GOALS**
- 11.FINANCIAL PLANNING
- 12.CAREER COUNSELING
- 13.EMPOWER

### References

Arnold, B. (2012). Shepherding a flock of different fleece: a historical and social analysis of the unique attributes of the African American pastoral caregiver. Journal Of Pastoral Care & Counseling (Online), 66(2).

Bronfenbrenner, U. (1979). *The Ecology of Human Development: Experiments by Nature and Design*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. (ISBN 0-674-22457-4)

Lattimore III, V. L. (1984). Pastoral Care Strategies of Black Pastors. Northwestern University.

Lloyd, M. (2006). I'm Mad as/at Hell, A Journey to Sanctified, Satisfied and Single – Understanding the Dynamics of Spiritual Warfare and Domestic Violence, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Columbia, MD: ML Publishing. (ISBN 10: 0-9761322-2-2).