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Minority Groups and Intimate Partner Violence: A Selected Annotated Bibliography

Raquel Gabriel

CUNY School of Law

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MINORITY GROUPS AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE: A SELECTED ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

RAQUEL J. GABRIEL*

ABSTRACT: This bibliography is designed to be an introduction to the topic of domestic/intimate partner violence within the broad definition of those traditionally identified as “minority groups.” Towards that end, the selected annotations cover African American, Asian, Disabled, Immigrant, Latina, and Native American populations.¹ It is intended to be of use to the researcher who will be working with any or all of these populations, and who has little or no previous exposure to the additional challenges a member of a minority group may encounter as a victim of intimate partner violence.²

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*Raquel J. Gabriel, B.A., American University, J.D., Howard University School of Law, M.L.S., Rutgers University, Associate Law Library Professor, City University of New York (CUNY) School of Law. The author wishes to acknowledge the enormous support and encouragement of the faculty, staff, and students of CUNY School of Law, especially Acting Director of the Law Library Julie Lim and Assistant Head of Circulation Ricardo Pla.

1. The selection of groups was based on the amount of source material available, as well as the author’s perception that enough material existed to create a cohesive picture of the problems a particular group faces in terms of cultural and legal barriers for law students. The inclusion of these specific groups carries with it certain inherent limitations, specifically, that there are obviously more “minority groups” than can be covered in any one article, even one that works “selectively.” In the end, the choice of groups was predicated on several factors: the availability of resources, the belief that there existed enough selected resources to adequately represent a particular group, the ability of the material with others in its grouping to create an introductory picture of that group for a law student, and finally, the practical application of choosing the minority groups a student would most likely encounter in the majority of urban settings.

2. The phrase “intimate partner violence” and the more common phrase “domestic violence” are used interchangeably throughout this bibliography. However, for an explanation of why “intimate partner violence” is a more apt descriptor, see Jenny Rivera, The Availability of Domestic Violence Services for Latinas in New York State: Phase II Investigation, 21 BUFF. PUB. INT. L.J. 37, 79 n.2 (2003), and the notes therein.
INTRODUCTION

The recognition of the harm that domestic or intimate partner violence inflicts upon victims is well-documented in academic literature, both legal and otherwise.\(^3\) Like other forms of oppression before it, this particular form of violence existed in some way, shape, or form in most cultures around the world. This behavior was widely regarded either as a normal part of society or denied as a societal problem in most western cultures.\(^4\) However, with the rise of the modern civil rights movement in the 1960s, the gradual examination of different types of oppression began,\(^5\) most notably based on race, gender, and sexual orientation—the various groups

\(^3\) For the purposes of this article, the annotations will rely heavily on those that document the problems individuals of minority groups have had with the legal system, and on those which would be of the most use to a student attempting to learn more about a particular minority group. Numerous other fields of study, including criminology, sociology, psychology, and women’s studies, have all approached the topic of domestic violence in order to determine the cause of such violence.


often considered marginal by the mainstream which demanded recognition—while developing a more active voice against many of the repressive practices its members experienced.

One of the most visible results to develop out of this period was the advent of a women’s rights movement,6 and from these roots, a domestic violence movement.7 The movement towards a more vocal and visible form of women’s rights was powerful in creating an enabling environment whereupon women were urged to make legal, cultural, and societal forces hear their voices.8 However, it is generally acknowledged that the movement of the late 1960s and early 1970s had the effect of being geared specifically towards helping one sort of woman, the heterosexual middle class white woman, to break through the barriers of condoning violence against women as a whole.9

With the growth of the domestic violence movement, the face presented to the general public was invariably a white one, a married one, of a particular economic and social class,10 and arguably, of a certain stereotype that also saw abused women as “victims,” "helpless," and without proper support and assistance from the proper authorities, unable to break the cycle of abuse that surrounded them.11 Individuals who did not fit this preconceived “model” were often ignored, or worse, excused as justifiable victims in the eyes of those who saw domestic violence as strictly a “white woman” issue.12 It can be argued that the ignorance of


8. Howard et al., supra note 7.

9. BELL HOOKS, FEMINIST THEORY FROM MARGIN TO CENTER 1, 6-7 (South End Press 1984).

10. Essentially, domestic violence victims were of the economic “middle class.” Neither rich nor poor individuals would have been conducive to portraying a domestic violence sufferer as an abused individual in terms of the developing stereotype of a domestic violence “victim.” For an example of how such assumptions exclude women of other classes and/or races, see Denise A. Donnelly et al., WHITE PRIVILEGE, COLOR BLINDNESS, AND SERVICES TO BATTERED WOMEN, 11 VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN 6, 14-15 (2005).

11. Id. at 26.

12. Id. at 23.
mainstream society led to the continuing belief that cultural acceptance condoned violence in minority communities.

Since the inception of a modern movement recognizing violence against women, there have been tensions between the idealized version of a battered woman, created at the beginning of the civil rights movement, and the reality of its many different types of victims. The contrasting growth of a movement that based its definition on the shaping of personal identity based on race, gender, or sexual orientation resulted in a growing body of literature that challenged the generally conceived societal view of a battered woman. After reviewing the literature, a common thread presents itself: the problems facing each group mirror the general issues the population faces—namely positive and negative societal ideas of that group as a whole. While this may seem unsurprising, these preconceived constructs create larger obstacles for a victim of intimate partner violence.

Without a doubt, the demographics of the United States are undergoing a major shift with continued immigration, reflected in the latest Census data which illustrate the increasing diversity of the nation.13 The wave of Eastern European immigrants who came to the United States in the 1900s has been replaced in the new century with immigrants from a more diverse global arena. Such an influx redefines not only long-held ideas of who can be categorized as an immigrant, but what constitutes a “minority group” as well.14 The complexity of integrating any new resident arguably grows even more tangled while the issues facing minority groups are still the subject of heated debate in the United States.

While the history of this country is often praised for its openness and willingness to let individuals pursue an “American Dream,” there can be little argument that the creation of this American ideal usually has come at the expense of its minority groups. The tensions that have risen from the historical exploitation of these groups have added to the difficulties in assisting women who become victims of intimate partner violence.

13. See U.S. Census Bureau, http://www.census.gov (last visited Apr. 16, 2007) (detailing the population of the United States by factors such as race, foreign birth, or immigration); U.S. Census Bureau Population Publication, http://www.census.gov/prod/www/abs/popula.html (last visited Apr. 16, 2007) (detailing different racial categories in the United States, such as the Asian American, Black, and Hispanic populations).

14. The tendency to broadly categorize on the basis of the color of one’s skin in the United States may further muddle the debate regarding immigration and minority groups. While the historical wave of immigrants in the twentieth century over time helped ease individuals into the classification of “minority group,” the rapid increase of such vastly different ethnic groups in the past twenty years arguably has made it more difficult to classify individuals into such categories.
It is with recognition that a variety of factors come into focus when discussing domestic violence that the particular selections within this bibliography were chosen.

Researchers will find selections that will assist them in understanding the particular historical, legal, or economic circumstances that may affect a person’s interaction with the legal system. They will also find materials that will better enable them to interact with a domestic violence victim in a way that is respectful of the individual’s cultural background. It is hoped that by reviewing the sources, one will gain a new understanding of the possible issues that confront a member of a minority group who encounters intimate partner violence.

These readings were chosen after a review of the types of material that could impart to a reader the complexity of dealing with members of a particular minority group. While a focus has been on legal materials wherever possible, researchers will also find government documents, articles from non-legal journals, and materials developed for advocates, communities, or individuals, that will help create an impression of a particular population. These materials reflect the experience of these groups within the United States, given the target audience.15

The included readings should be considered a primer for researchers who may need to gain insight fairly quickly into the variety of issues that confront domestic violence victims. In many instances, the material was chosen specifically for its introductory nature in order to encourage this process and to demonstrate the complexity of the causes of intimate partner violence, as well as the societal and historical implications. The growing emergence of new theories and new ideas goes well beyond what can be covered in this bibliography. For researchers who wish to venture beyond such basic material, the listings in the Additional Readings section should be consulted.

Given these parameters, the selected annotations reflect a variety of sources in order to give a reasonable introduction to the issues involved when dealing with intimate partner violence in minority communities.

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METHODOLOGY

Major law reviews and other relevant databases on Lexis and Westlaw were searched, as well as the primary sociological abstract databases available on the Ebsco, ERIC, and OCLC's Worldcat portals. A multitude of Internet sources were consulted, which led to a variety of cross-references across print and electronic media. The selection of materials is not meant to be necessarily authoritative of the types of articles on each group; rather, they were chosen to be presented together as a whole and to give a researcher introductory background material on a particular minority group with which he or she may not have had previous contact in any substantial manner.

It should be noted that the topic of Domestic Violence, to put it mildly, commands a massive amount of information, both in print and electronic form. There is little debate in Western society that such violence should be confronted and eliminated, and the enormous amount of material undoubtedly reflects that conclusion.

To be of the most assistance to the researcher, sources most easily available (i.e. law reviews in print and electronic format and web resources) were chosen in order to facilitate access. When needed, other sources, such as sociological materials, were selected due to the high probability the materials would be available at most medium to large college or university libraries. In addition, the sources chosen for this bibliography range from 1991 to the present, as it appears from a review of the material that recognition of the differences regarding intimate partner violence among minority groups truly began to manifest itself within that time period.


17. The sheer amount of websites that even mention “domestic violence” is staggering, with nearly five million results produced when casually searched on Google, http://www.google.com. Even with the restriction of terms and narrowing of the search with the term “minority,” over one million results were produced. Given the enormity of the topic, and wary of the often disappearing nature of websites and their supporting authorities, websites were winnowed down to those that were deemed reliable in terms of access, stability, and overall likelihood of future funding to keep the website active. Several general websites, recognized for their work in the domestic violence field, are included in the Additional Readings portion of this bibliography.

18. While a vast amount of information dealing with domestic violence obviously exists from years prior to 1991, it was generally found that the discussion among scholars and researchers dealing with intimate partner violence began appearing in the various literature in greater amounts in the 1990s.
Materials were broken down into the following categories: 1) Books / Book Excerpts / Manuals / Reports, 2) Articles, and 3) Electronic Resources / Selected Online Bibliographies. Altogether, the purpose is to steer researchers toward material that will give them a succinct snapshot of the groups included in this bibliography. The additional readings and bibliographies, as well as the footnotes within each annotation, will further serve the reader well in expanding his or her familiarity with the topic at hand.

I. AFRICAN AMERICAN

The historical tensions affecting race relations in the United States have had a definitive effect in terms of the problem of domestic violence in the African American community. Some authors, such as Allard, maintain that the traditional model of a white woman as a victim has perpetuated harmful stereotypes to both African Americans and victims of domestic violence as a whole.\(^{19}\) Others, such as Martinson,\(^{20}\) point out the closed circle of thinking that sometimes pervades the African American experience in wanting to protect a black male that often receives the worst of the criminal justice/legal experience. Professor Fenton\(^{21}\) points out that the cultural idea of “strong” black women is at odds with the traditional model, and therefore, is a justification for not assisting a victim.

While the historical literature is forthcoming, the plight of African Americans and domestic violence is one of the more active areas researched in academia. Given the interest in African American studies, many of the studies in other disciplines have focused on the societal problems facing the African American community as a whole and the underlying causes that have shaped such difficulties. While outside the scope of this bibliography, some of the readings point to the larger issue of race in America, which is invariably part of the domestic violence discussion in the African American community.\(^{22}\)


\(^{22}\) As noted, the complexity of the African American experience is beyond the purpose of this selective bibliography. While there exists an enormous amount of information in print on black history in the United States, the advent of the Internet has meant that powerful historical materials now have a much wider audience, further aiding in understanding the development of the African American experience in the United States. *E.g.*, The African Presence in the Americas, 1492-1992, [http://www.si.umich.edu/CHICO/Schomburg/index.html](http://www.si.umich.edu/CHICO/Schomburg/index.html) (last visited Apr.

Hemmons, a former attorney and current sociologist, attempts to show the reader how interactions between black couples in the court system show the institutional inequalities toward both when dealing with the topic of domestic violence. She does this mainly through the recounting of case studies of previous clients, where she details the case history and occasionally comments on the situation. The conclusion of the book is that racial institutionalism and other societal problems that confront black men and women as individuals add burdens to an already stressful situation that may affect domestic violence. Overall, the book may be of more use to those interested in the in-depth review of case histories for the advantages the approach offers in demonstrating the dynamics of a relationship rather than for any detailed theories as to the origins of violence.


Rasche makes the critical observation that while both white women and women of color experience battering, women of color face greater barriers in escaping such violence. Too often they are limited in terms of viable options that take into account their particular needs based on culture, societal prejudices, and economic class. In addition, Rasche touches upon the problem of underreporting by minority women due to the aforementioned limitations, which makes this particular selection a good introduction to the issue of domestic violence within the African American community.

Antonia A. Vann, Asha Family Serv., Inc., Developing Culturally-Relevant Responses to Domestic Abuse (2003).

Written by the organization’s director, this manual primarily serves as

an overview of the way in which domestic violence counseling services can be adjusted to be sensitive to the cultural needs of the African American community. While much of the manual addresses the practicalities of setting up services, there are several pages dealing with the ways in which African American women may feel distanced or ostracized from traditional avenues of help for battered women. By reviewing these problems and giving guidance on how to assist such victims with an understanding of the cultural background, this source gives researchers a base from which to extrapolate helpful hints on how to deal with African American women who are victims of violence.


This report analyzes group discussion sessions among individuals concerned with violence in the African American community held in the San Francisco and Alameda County areas of California. Of particular interest to researchers are the findings of each group, all of whom reached the conclusion that domestic violence was pervasive in the community. Among the issues creating this perception was a lack of cohesive and coordinated effort to combat violence, the deterioration of specific cultural services within the community, the reluctance to discuss any type of sexuality within the community as a whole, and the simultaneous denial and acceptance of violence within the population. The participants also acknowledged that violence easily escalates and is propagated through generations, thus affecting future descendants. The report is strongly recommended for the diversity of viewpoints it highlights, as well as for its findings, which are worth reviewing for understanding the myriad of historical, societal, and cultural barriers to assisting the African American community.

B. ARTICLES


Allard’s article maintains that the theories of “battered woman syndrome” are based upon the societal ideas of behavior expected of white women. By failing to address the roles that race, historical experiences,
and circumstances play in such a context, current theories can account only for a partial explanation of the behavior of battered women. Allard examines the historical treatment of black and white women, as well as their media portrayal, demonstrating that the historical experience of black women often excludes them from conduct generally described as battered woman syndrome. By maintaining such a narrow definition of a battered woman, the theories perpetuate stereotypes of subordination for both black and white women. This selection is strongly recommended for researchers interested in the feminist view of the African American and domestic violence experience.


Ammons starts by discussing the creation of the battered woman syndrome and illustrates how in many instances, the concept has no connection to the image of an African American woman. She then tackles the more weighty issue of African American women and the stereotypes society has held of them over the years, making the assertion that the majority of them have been destructive, harmful, and disrespectful in their portrayal of black women. Ammons then questions whether an African American woman attempting to utilize the battered woman defense in a court of law would be able to do so effectively, given the pervasive stereotypes at work in today’s society. While acknowledging that battered women themselves may have a variety of reasons for turning to violence in certain situations, she concludes that with effective culturally-competent representation, African American women will at least have the chance to be heard without the burden of negative stereotypes. Hammering home the point that African American women have negatives that white women do not even perceive before stepping into a courtroom, Ammon’s article is a suitable read for researchers who may not have even consciously realized or acknowledged all of the examined stereotypes, and who should be aware of how both positive and negative clichés can affect the concept of intimate partner violence.

Asbury begins by reviewing the mainstream literature on domestic violence and moves to discussing the limited amount of material available with an Afro-centric perspective. For example, Asbury points out that the precarious situations of African American males in American society have not yet been fully examined as they pertain to contributing to domestic violence. She discusses the obstacles an African American woman may perceive in obtaining assistance, as well as the internalized stereotypes that may contribute to her hesitation. Finally, Asbury addresses issues surrounding the push for victims to leave their abusers, a difficult point for an African American woman with a strong sense of loyalty to ideas of family and responsibility for the African American community. Overall, Asbury outlines some of the major difficulties in the current research and creates more interesting questions for further research and exploration.


This article traces the different types of cultural identity and stereotypes that may affect African American women who are attempting to end a violent relationship. Skewed towards affecting a change in the therapeutic approach of treating victims of domestic violence, the authors review both positive and negative societal and cultural attitudes about African Americans. Reviewing some of the major literature dealing with African American identity in the sociological field, the article serves as a companion piece to the law articles that focus on the topic. Of particular interest is the recognition that what it means to be “African American” differs with each individual, based on his or her own personal experience, and that domestic violence programs should be wary of trying a uniform approach to deal with all African American concerns.

Crenshaw’s article on the intersection of race and gender as applied to women of color is widely cited for its discussion of how the concept of each of these ideas has created obstacles for those seeking assistance in battering and/or rape situations. Crenshaw discusses how the social constructs of race and gender, however subtle, are assimilated into the ways in which the mainstream addresses domestic violence and rape, and how they in fact may generate greater tension for women of color. Both race and gender come into play when speaking of the resources and political clout made available to those who are victims of rape and battering. Services and accessibility become problems for women of color when they have not taken into account, and cannot take into account, the problems race and gender create above and beyond the problems of sexual violence. While discussing several areas and concerns beyond domestic violence, it is recommended for review when thinking of the larger implications of race and gender, and how the presence or absence of such discussions can define an entire community’s experience.


Fenton’s article examines how strongly-held societal stereotypes feed gender violence. She examines how such ideas are formed, how society uses them as a tool to control particular groups based on race and/or gender, and how they serve as justification for violence upon these groups. She then discusses social power dynamics, explains the operation of stereotypes, and finally determines how these stereotypes can be deconstructed in order to achieve justice. Using powerful recent examples in U.S. history, such as the O.J. Simpson trials and the Clarence Thomas hearings, Fenton manages to demonstrate her assertion that race and gender assumptions often revolve around ideas of sexuality that mainstream society often refuses to acknowledge as factors in perpetuating stereotypes. The recognition and argument that ideals of sexuality may play a part in the tensions revolving around gender violence and the reaction of mainstream society are not new, but Fenton’s assertion still serves as compelling reading for the researcher.

Fenton’s brief article focuses on examining the societal factors that converge to impact black females in a far more negative way than any other group when it comes to domestic violence. For example, the stereotype of an angry black young male as a victim at the mercy of a racial world reverberates within the African American community and leads a battered woman to excuse a male who inflicts violence upon a female. Therefore, black women have to contend not only with general societal stereotypes, but with reactionary stereotypes created within their own community as well. Coupled with the previous article, Fenton’s work explores the problems confronting the African American woman who finds herself at a distinct disadvantage within mainstream society before even addressing the issue of intimate partner violence.


The authors of this particular study focused on the comfort level of African American women in seeking assistance from formal and informal support networks as victims of domestic violence. Like the majority of sociological articles, the conclusions of a multitude of other studies regarding African American women’s perceptions on violence are included before discussion of the main study. The review of these additional studies highlighting the perceptions of alienation, racism, and cultural insensitivity that African American women feel when confronting individuals and organizations outside of their own networks is a useful primer for those seeking an understanding of how studies in other fields have perceived the African American experience.


Martinson’s Comment serves to inform the reader of the effects of racism on African American women and the concerns they have when
dealing with the current domestic violence system. The author notes that racist stereotypes of African American women have impacted the historical exclusion of domestic violence in the dominant model, which is clearly based on a straight white woman’s perspective. In exploring the issues facing African American women caught between the expectations of their own culture and their own individual rights, Martinson portrays the difficulties of many African American women who are victims of violence, and she offers suggestions that can be made to assist them. This work is recommended strongly for researchers seeking an overall view of the tensions that members of the African American community may feel.


Ruttenberg examines the historical relationship between black and white women, as well as each group’s interaction with domestic violence and mandatory arrest laws. The author states that police response in such situations favors the credibility of a white woman over a black one, and she notes the higher probability that a black man will be subject to arrest and prosecution. Maintaining that such laws, like other societal responses to domestic violence, rise out of a white woman’s perspective, the author calls on feminists and legal authorities to realize that such a view adds to the oppression of black women and furthers violence against them.

C. ELECTRONIC RESOURCES / SELECTED ONLINE BIBLIOGRAPHIES

Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community, http://www.dvinstitute.org. 23

Jointly sponsored by the University of Minnesota and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, this website is the home of the Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community (IDVAAC) which is dedicated to exploring all arenas of domestic violence as it applies to African Americans. The website’s main strength is a mostly unannotated bibliography that addresses various topics dealing with domestic abuse in the African American community. For some time, current updates seemed to be sporadic, however, as this article goes to

press, it appears that there has been significant effort to relaunch the site, and therefore is recommended for researchers, as it is often cross-referenced in other material discussing domestic violence in the African American community.


This article reviews some of the general statistics regarding intimate partner violence in the general population and in African American women and explains how violence impacts each group. The authors make the point that few socio-cultural theories explain violence, and none explain violence among African American women. Generally, theories extensively rely on psychological models, disregard the possible importance of cultural and/or ethnic differences, and fail to adequately explain the reasons for intimate partner violence. Calling for more robust studies that would examine a multitude of variables, they encourage development of culturally-sensitive assessments that would further examine the African American experience and they encourage an interdisciplinary approach for community agencies in tackling the problem. While not directly on point regarding legal concerns, the article is still recommended for researchers as an example highlighting how the problems in one field can ripple across the spectrum into different fields.

II. ASIAN AMERICAN

Asian American victims face a somewhat unique perspective in terms of combating domestic violence. First, the term “Asian American” usually subconsciously strikes a reader that all Asian American groups face the same cultural, societal, and economic issues. The continuation of the myth of the “model minority” has at times harmed the open discussion of the differences in Asian cultures and the difficulties that domestic violence victims face.

While it may be argued that certain characteristics may work to bind

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24. This term includes individuals of Asian, Asian American, Pacific Island, and South Asian origin.

certain commonalities of the Asian American experience, the truth is that the historical context of how each particular sub-group arrived in this country, as well as the subsequent experience of each group, has led to varying degrees of assimilation into American society.

Stereotypes among subgroups within the larger Asian community add to the difficulty of establishing a uniform response to the problems these groups face. For example, tensions between Asian Americans may arise from differing religions, even if they are from the same country. What follows are summaries of readings that address both the commonalities and contradictions within the Asian American community, and the need for identification in a manner that will assist victims of intimate partner violence.

Recent attention on Asian issues in domestic violence has also focused on Asian immigrants. For the purposes of this bibliography, articles that deal with the immigrant experience and Asian women have been included under that heading, although they are incorporated by reference into this section.

What became apparent in gathering materials for both Asian Americans and Latinas is that in terms of examining intimate partner violence, the momentum to carry forth research and look for solutions exists primarily at the grassroots level. Both Asian and Latina activist groups have taken the initiative in examining such causes of violence within their midst, battling a large amount of traditional cultural opposition. It is hoped that in the near future, more legal scholars who are creating and expanding the fields of Asian and Latin scholarship turn part of their intellectual efforts towards such research.

26. While defining themselves as distinct Asian American group identities, it is arguable that the majority of individuals in the Filipino, Chinese, and Japanese communities would not deny that, among all three communities, there is a high regard for the family structure, the respect of elders, and even the lower status of women in the traditional home. If more Asian groups were folded into this general umbrella, such as the Vietnamese, the Korean, and South Asian Indian, it is likely that the "generalities" accorded the overall group of "Asian American" might also hold. See generally U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER POPULATION IN THE UNITED STATES, CURRENT POPULATION REP. 20 (2003), available at http://www.census.gov/prod/www/abs/asian.html (providing information on the Asian population in the United States).

27. For example, in the Philippines, Roman Catholicism holds sway over approximately 80.9% of the population, in sharp contrast with the next largest religious group, Muslims, who have a 5% following. The World Factbook, Philippines, https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/ff.html (last visited Apr. 16, 2007). The emphasis on the rights of the religious majority has led to a series of ongoing clashes with militant groups that support the formation of a separate Islamic state within the country. Council on Foreign Relations, Backgrounder, http://www.cfr.org/publication/9235 (last visited Apr. 16, 2007).
A. BOOKS / BOOK EXCERPTS / REPORTS


In a basic article detailing the issues facing Asian American women and domestic violence, Foo lays out the essentials of the overall challenges facing Asian Americans. These barriers include the lack of services available, the laws that act to sometimes prevent assistance, and the cultural norms that work against Asian Americans seeking help in domestic violence situations. A good overview for the researcher, Foo’s chapter is simply structured, easy to read, and may spur one to locate more in-depth reading on the topic.


This title brought together activists in the battered women’s movement, specifically those working with Asian Pacific Islanders who were victims of intimate partner abuse. Taking a look at the goals of the “mainstream” domestic violence movement, they contrasted it with the real life experiences of Asian Pacific Islander women and examined how such models failed to take into account the reality of the cultural, economic, and social norms that work differently in the context of Asian Pacific Islander interaction. By interviewing victims, the report fleshes out some of the first person accounts of those who have worked on both sides of the frontline of domestic violence, finding that substantial gaps exist between mainstream methods and ideology surrounding domestic violence and Asian Pacific Islanders. The report includes discussion of possible ways in which advocates can approach the problem, and new ways to think about domestic violence in order to better assist Asian Pacific Islander victims. The report will be of primary interest to those who want to examine the types of situations that distinguish Asian Pacific Islanders from other minority groups.


Warrier's report details the findings of a small focus group investigating the prevalence and causes of domestic violence in Asian American communities. Drawing upon a cross section of Asian American and Pacific Islanders, an in depth questionnaire was given and discussions were held to determine recommendations and ways of increasing assistance to victims of intimate partner violence. Widely available, frequently cited, and only thirty-two pages long, it is a solid introduction to the overall problems Asian Americans face in terms of accessing assistance in domestic violence situations, as well as documentation of this particular group's problems in dealing with it.

B. ARTICLES


Please consult the section on Immigrants for this annotation.28


Please consult the section on Immigrants for this annotation.29


As a well-established community activist, Rimonte writes on the factors present in the culture of the Pacific Asian community and how it condones domestic violence against women. While acknowledging that many differences exist among the groups labeled "Pacific Asian," the

28. See infra Part IV.B.
29. See infra Part IV.B.
author stipulates that all these groups share some common ground in terms of recognition of the threat of domestic violence in their community. The abuse is either ignored or the perpetrators are considered mentally ill or victims of the stresses of adjusting to a new culture that marginalizes them. Women are seen as legitimate victims, and Rimonte gives examples of aspects of culture that subjugate Pacific Asian women. The cursory examination of the topic, while clearly discussing a sensitive subject, limits Rimonte’s discussion, and lumps several dozen “Asian” groups under one broad heading. However, her observations are still valid interpretations of the issues facing victims of intimate partner violence.


Volpp examines the use of culture in the courtroom as a defense in terms of explaining criminal behavior. She finds numerous problems with using cultural traits of a particular group to help define and explain distinctions between cultures as there exists a danger that it may rely upon stereotypes that fail to take into account the particular circumstances of an individual case. Volpp examines two cases involving domestic violence and parent/child homicide and traces how the cultural defense used in each situation failed to take into account all of the personal factors at play in each situation. She cautions that the proper use of allowing cultural factors into the courtroom must be done with careful consideration to insure that decisions are not based on preconceived constructs of a particular group. Given that much attention in the area of domestic violence in the Asian American community has focused on cases of cultural defense, this article works well to explain the basics of the theory.


Volpp’s short piece on the concept of culture within the realm of domestic violence calls into question much of the debate regarding the use of “culture” as an explanation for violence in communities of color. She asserts that with Western subjects, psychology is often used to explain acts of irrational violence, while with non-Western subjects, there is the selective use of the term “culture.” Volpp takes issue with the description of Asian culture as a monolithic static entity when examined within the
context of domestic violence. While there is a difficulty in describing the specifics of culture, Volpp recognizes that cultural practices are infused with material and political forces, as is the invocation of a particular individual’s cultural experience. Both of these factors should be considered when talking about culture as it relates to domestic violence in communities of color, avoiding the broad strokes of a uniform approach. As with the Fenton pieces provided in the African American section, Volpp’s two articles work together to inform the researcher of the reliance of mainstream society to use “culture” as an excuse or explanation for violence in communities that it has made very little concentrated effort to understand.


Like other authors, Wang observes that domestic violence responses in the U.S. are based on a white woman’s perspective. Wang then proposes that the majority of Asian American women share common perspectives that can be extrapolated upon consideration. Most come from communities almost entirely consisting of immigrants. While maintaining differences, most Asian communities share similar cultural beliefs, and many Asian communities suffer from harmful stereotypes of both Asian communities and Asian women. Wang then gives examples of each trait in depth, and concludes that the domestic violence movement needs to embrace a framework that includes the realities of the communities in which the violence occurs, entailing a broad concept of domestic violence that realizes the multiple identities of its victims. Overall, this piece is a good introduction for researchers seeking to define the Asian American experience in the United States.


This study focused on the results of a telephone survey of over 260

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individuals of Chinese descent who were questioned about the prevalence of violence in their particular households. Beginning with a review of the limited amount of literature on the topic, the authors give a brief synopsis of the different ideas of how Western and Chinese cultures differ on the idea of mental health. While Western treatment techniques focus on a separation of body and mind, the Chinese see the two working together, with the body often manifesting mental difficulties. This initial separation is intriguing when coupled with the findings of their study that while the participants acknowledged very little physical violence, eighty percent felt the effects of verbal and/or psychological violence. The authors' discussion of the implications for practice points out that in such instances, only active intervention with the perpetrators may prevent violence. This is an interesting read for those who may need to consider that psychological and verbal abuse at times may be harder to reconcile with traditional models of what constitutes “domestic violence”—but they are harmful all the same.

C. ELECTRONIC RESOURCES / SELECTED ONLINE BIBLIOGRAPHIES

Asian & Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence, http://www.apiahf.org/apidvinstitute/default.htm.31

This is an enormous website dedicated to exploring gender violence issues in this particular community, with substantial information explaining gender violence in a variety of forms, including intimate partner violence. The site includes materials such as publications, statistics, help sheets, and areas specific to particular Asian groups, with some materials available in Asian languages for download and distribution. One can find unannotated bibliographies of additional readings on domestic violence in Asian groups, and smaller bibliographies aimed at specific ethnicities. The website also breaks down “critical issues” and lists available resources and links to further information. Heavily cross-referenced in other websites and literature, this well-maintained site helps any researcher wanting to delve into further reading and research on the particulars of Asian and Pacific Islander gender violence.


As an example of one of the many websites dedicated to informing women in minority communities, SAKHI stands out as a website devoted to assisting women of South Asian descent in the New York City metropolitan area. According to the website, this includes any women “tracing their origins to India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and includes immigrants from the larger South Asian diaspora, such as Guyana, Trinidad, Africa, England, etc.” The site is easily navigated and gives information to women who are considering seeking assistance. It also outlines the sorts of services SAKHI will give to victims of violence who are located in New York City. Given the limited materials dealing with individual Asian American groups, the existence of this website and its tone of reaching out to a group of women of a specific group reflect the growing intolerance across all ethnicities for continuing violence against women. It is recommended to students for review of the types of well-written, supportive, and non-confrontational information that can be presented to domestic violence victims.

III. DISABLED

Of all the groups covered in this bibliography, the literature addressing the disabled is the most sparse. In theory, this partially could be due to the fact that, like the forty-year-old civil rights movements based on race, the societal shift in recognizing the disabled as a concrete group with a distinctive voice has recently begun to be heard. As with Asian Americans and Latinas, disabled people face the problem of not having a “one size fits all” approach that mainstream society easily understands. Even the distinction between physical and mental disability poses problems when dealing with issues of intimate partner violence for both the victim and the accused.

A particular problem unique to the disabled may arise when dealing with victims of domestic violence who have cognitive disabilities that are not readily apparent to other individuals. Someone hoping to assist a

34. While the legal literature may be limited, the examination of the difficulties the disabled face in today’s society, like many of the other groups in this bibliography, is being thoroughly examined in other social science disciplines. See Sobsey, infra Part III.B.
36. See WISCONSIN COALITION FOR ADVOCACY ET AL., CROSS TRAINING WORKBOOK:
disabled person may not recognize that failure to answer questions or participate may be due to having a mental or physical disability that presents a challenge to communication; or, perhaps, coupled with the fear and stress added in a domestic violence situation, the disabled victim that seeks assistance may not be able to find a shelter equipped to deal with her particular needs. This problem is most acute for disabled women whom caregivers abuse, and the limited literature reflects the difficulties in such situations.

Official government funding has sponsored a majority of the materials dealing with the disabled that appear within the relevant literature. Unlike other groups where most individuals are given continual societal reinforcements as to how to interact with people of different racial, religious, or cultural backgrounds, many researchers will not have had extensive exposure to someone with a mental or physical disability, or will not have had the personal experience to guide their reactions.

A. BOOKS / MANUALS / REPORTS


VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES 28 (2004).

37. See, e.g., id. (stating in the beginning pages that the Violence Against Women Office of the Office of Justice Programs in the U.S. Department of Justice provided a grant to support the project).
Washington State has created a strong group of publications available online, aimed at increasing the efficiency and sensitivity of state agencies interacting with the disabled. Taken together, the items give practical advice on how to interact with the disabled in a proactive manner that is sensitive to an individual's particular needs.

The Domestic Violence Agency Self Assessment Guide acts as a primer for those organizations wanting to assess its level of accessibility to members of the disabled population. The checklist format manages to make employees aware of the things they can do to make a disabled individual feel more at ease, and to help employees spot potential problems, thereby making the entire process more efficient.

Enough and Yet Not Enough is aimed at state employees who work with domestic violence victims, and offers in another format ways domestic violence shelters and workers can increase their knowledge to make their services accessible to the disabled. Especially helpful in this particular publication are the descriptions of the various types of mental, physical, and “hidden” disabilities and a review of disabilities as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Model Protocols on Safety Planning and Screening Practices give practical advice to advocates on how to best communicate and interact with victims who have various disabilities. They give steps that can be taken to ease accessibility of the disabled to an advocate's services, and both protocols give guidance as to how to formulate policies and procedures that can assist in creating a supportive atmosphere for disabled victims.

Nothing About Us Without Us is a Report of the Disability Advocacy Project of the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence. It discusses the results of a pilot project aimed at increasing the ties between domestic violence and disability advocates in order to assist survivors of domestic violence. It serves as a strong resource for those wishing to understand how disabled women feel regarding their abuse and ways in which advocates can address victim concerns. Especially relevant are the sections which discuss the findings of a survey of disabled women and another on victim perceptions shared in a discussion series.

Working from previous studies which stated that disabled women suffered higher incidences of domestic violence, Michigan sought to document the status of such women. They found that while one state survey previously reported thirty-eight percent of women suffered domestic violence, the survey undertaken for this report found that fifty-six percent of the physically disabled women experienced domestic abuse. While shelters and other resources were generally available to the physically disabled, there were some definitive limitations on individuals that could be assisted in terms of those who experienced limited physical mobility. Suggestions included expanding the awareness of support programs, creating programs geared toward the physically disabled, and more effective training of program support staff in shelters in order to better assist disabled battered women. This is a solid review of the types of issues that face disabled women and is recommended for the researcher.


Sobsey's lengthy work brings together over one thousand annotated bibliographic entries from various disciplines on topics related to disability, sexuality, and abuse. Broadly defining sexual abuse among the disabled, the annotations cover both domestic and international citations. While helpful in terms of gathering a wide range of material on the disabled, the sections dealing specifically with legal ramifications and/or domestic violence are limited. Geared more toward professionals in other disciplines, this book might be most helpful for those students looking for the ways in which other researchers have examined the problems of sexual abuse among the disabled.


An updated edition from this work supplements and expands the previous work listed. In this particular volume, the recognition of intimate partner violence is acknowledged with the slightly increased number of annotated entries relating to the topic. Once again, covering both domestic and international resources, the title is recommended to gain an understanding of the types of research being done in the more general field of violence involving disabled individuals.

Waxman and Fiduccia discuss the various problems facing disabled women in today's society, finding that for such women, violence in their lives is their top fear. The authors also review findings and list circumstances demonstrating how even those who are supposed to assist with day-to-day tasks abuse disabled women. While the Violence Against Women Act of 2000 ("VAWA")\(^\text{38}\) included specific reference to the disabled in order to protect their rights, the implementation of such affirmative protection is still slow to progress. As a brief report, it is often cited in other literature as one of the primary studies discussing violence against disabled women.


The Violence Against Women With Disabilities Project developed this workbook, which serves as a strong introduction to the basic topic of violence against the disabled. Designed to be an interactive exercise, the material covers introductory issues, such as defining disabled and domestic violence, and uncovering the reader's own prejudices regarding disabled individuals. Additional topics examine the reader's comfort zone with the disabled, and determine whether support from an organization is "conditional." Examples are based on a mission statement of further in-depth questions asked of readers. Coupled with strong appendices outlining basic terminology and well-written to engage the reader, this text is highly recommended as a general introduction to those who may wish to examine their own attitudes toward the disabled and who must deal with intimate partner violence.

A. ARTICLES


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\(^{38}\) Pub. L. 103-386, 114 Stat. 1491 (2000); see notes 47-50 and accompanying text.
This is a short article where Davis gives straightforward information summarizing statistics on the violence that disabled women suffer. She states that individuals such as family members, advocates, and caregivers need to train themselves to recognize the signs of victimization and to be aggressive in determining whether a woman is being abused. Davis advises an extremely proactive approach toward assisting the disabled and tells how the power of recognizing the signs of intimate partner violence can better serve the disabled population.


Emanuel’s article is an overview of the problems facing the disabled in terms of sexism and ableism in mainstream society. Given these two bases of discrimination, the author points out the difficulty of such women assimilating into a society that does not recognize them as members of society, and points out the propensity of such women to be victims of higher levels of violence due to marginalization. Emanuel calls on the advocate community to recognize the special circumstances of the disabled, and challenges it to reach out to those working on behalf of the disabled to create services that can utilize the experience of both groups to assist women.


This special issue highlights the problems of the disabled in confronting violence, and several of the articles listed below speak to the particulars of violence that would be of interest to a researcher.


Nutter’s note serves as a strong introduction to the problems of
women with disabilities who are victims of intimate partner violence. After reviewing the basic problems able-bodied victims face, she elaborates on the issues that confront those who are physically or developmentally disabled. She also examines the shortcomings of shelters that are ill-equipped to deal with the disabled, examining four shelters in the Los Angeles area and their approach to dealing with victims. While maintaining that each shelter had the sincere intent to help individuals with disabilities, each lacked the proper funding and/or staffing to assist disabled victims. Nutter concludes with the notion that funding and lack of awareness will continue to make the difficult decision of battered and disabled women of whether to seek help even more difficult. The author amply illustrates how limitations on both knowledge and resources restrain the good intentions of advocates, and illustrates how to improve access for the disabled.


This brief article introduces itself with the sobering statistic that ninety-two percent of disabled women rank violence against them as a top concern. The author then briefly reviews the problems of sexual violence, physical violence and homicide, intimate partner violence, caregiver violence, and finally, peer violence against disabled women. Outlining the variety of violence that occurs, Sobsey indicates that additional resources are needed to investigate the causes of violence against the disabled. This is an excellent, but brief, introduction to the issues facing the disabled who are victims of violence.


Whatley examines the failure of traditional statistical models to fully account for “invisible” victims, such as the disabled, when collecting data on victims of crime. Even with the passage of the Crime Victims with Disabilities Awareness Act in 1998, which mandated statistical collection...
that would adequately reflect disabled victims, the result is that the information that would present an accurate picture is still in its formative stage. With the passage of the Violence Against Women Act in 2000, sections dealing specifically with disabilities were added to the article in order to aid such research. Whatley's piece makes it clear that further research is needed to address the topic, and that legislative assistance, while often well-intentioned, is often slow to produce meaningful results.

B. ELECTRONIC RESOURCES / SELECTED ONLINE BIBLIOGRAPHIES

The Center on Human Policy, Law & Disability Studies, Syracuse University, available at http://disabilitystudies.syr.edu/default.aspx.41

Based at the Center on Human Policy, Law and Disability Studies out of Syracuse University, the Center brings together various faculties from within Syracuse University to examine the lives of the disabled within society at large. With the coordination of research and individuals from the legal, educational, and social work fields, the interdisciplinary approach improves opportunities for the disabled and moves toward educating those who seek more information on issues affecting the disabled.

The Center has collected lists of publications and research studies as well as an unannotated bibliography. While not focused on intimate partner violence, the existence of the Center and the links to general information on a variety of interests related to the disabled make it a worthwhile site, especially for those researchers who are interested in the intersection of other social science disciplines and the disabled.


The Justice Department's Office for Victims of Crime and the National Organization for Victim Assistance sponsored this bulletin as a result of a symposium created to address the issues of abuse in the disabled community. Offering an overview of the problem with easily navigable links to various recommendations, researchers should find suggestions for disability rights specialists and the notice of disability "vocabulary"

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helpful. A short linked bibliography is also available for those seeking further reading.

IV. IMMIGRANT WOMEN

The issue of immigrant women and intimate partner violence has come under close scrutiny in the past ten years with the passage and reauthorization of the VAWA in its various incarnations. As with other public services, the extension of public benefits, including assistance given under domestic violence statutes, has at times been called into question due to the ambiguity of the legal status of the victims. Recent scholarship on the topic of immigrant women relies heavily upon the reasoning found in VAWA to combat intimate partner violence. However, the problem with addressing the issue lies in part with the complexity of this particular class, as the term “immigrant,” by definition, encompasses a variety of ethnic, social, and cultural groups.

The sources reflected here do not skew towards one particular ethnic group. Instead, they are grouped to give a rounded view of the sorts of issues facing those individuals who have little substantive experience with either American culture or the legal system. In addition, the inclusion of several resources focusing on how VAWA provisions can be utilized to assist immigrants helps inform the researcher of the complex maze of legal entanglements that are unique to holding immigrant status within this country. The recent and often heated examination of immigration and immigrant rights within the United States highlights the need for rational debate on the presence of both legal and illegal immigrants in the United States, and also demonstrates the urgency to find ways to assist those who may find themselves victims of intimate partner violence.

A. BOOKS / BOOK EXCERPTS / MANUALS / REPORTS


While focusing on the plight of women in the Twin Cities area, this report actually reviews several different areas of resources to present a collective response to the problems of immigrant women who seek assistance for domestic violence. Portions of the document discuss in depth the obligations of the United States in terms of human rights, and probe the difficulties immigrant women have in seeking assistance. The failure of various governmental bodies to adequately assist immigrants is documented, including the judicial system, law enforcement, and immigration authorities. The chapters on federal immigration law, federal and state assistance and domestic violence centers may be useful to researchers wishing to familiarize themselves with the basic framework of federal laws surrounding domestic violence. Reporting on how the intersection of state and federal authorities still fails to adequately meet the needs of victims, the findings can be surmised to affect not only the Minneapolis/St. Paul area, but other large metropolitan areas as well.


This manual, an invaluable resource for those working with immigrant populations, takes the reader step-by-step through the process of assisting an abused woman through the maze of the VAWA requirements. Chapters include such topics as initial contact with clients, the self-petitioning process, available waivers under VAWA, U and T nonimmigrant visas, and conditional permanent residence for abused immigrants. Two chapters cover gender-based asylum as well as how to obtain public benefits for immigrants. Over 300 pages long, the document appears on the website of the National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence. The manual serves as an excellent resource for researchers attempting to understand the additional complexities facing an immigrant woman who is a victim of intimate partner violence. As of the writing of this bibliography, a new revised edition for 2006 was available for purchase directly from the Immigrant Legal Resource Center, at http://www.ilrc.org.

Shamita Das Dasgupta, Women's Realities: Defining Violence Against

Dasgupta starts her discussion by finding that the definition of "immigrant" has become a constructed image in this country, rather than a legal one. This constructed image of immigrant women and the stereotypes associated with it have led to a misconception of the barriers that face immigrant women in abusive relationships, and limit the types of effective assistance immigrant women need to leave such situations. The author gives examples of personal, institutional, cultural, and ideological reasons as to why immigrant victims do not leave their abusers. Dasgupta ends with the suggestion that the complexities of the matters of immigrant women and domestic violence need extensive research in order to fully provide and understand how to prevent further violence.


This text serves as a useful primer for those wishing to gain familiarity with the practical issues facing immigrants who have become victims of violence. A short section at the beginning of the manual outlines the various avenues immigrants can utilize to gain assistance. An extensive appendix gathers materials in both English and Spanish with materials that explain immigrant rights under VAWA, government benefits, and the way to apply for various forms of aid. Several memos and informational notices from the federal government are included, as are copies of checklists of various organizations that assist immigrants in filing for the appropriate visas.


Lupita Patterson has written a brief paper outlining the recommendations for dealing with women with limited English proficiency who seek assistance from various Washington State agencies due to
domestic violence. Covering different types of service agencies, the
guidelines give practical ways in which agencies can improve or tailor their
interactions with women of limited English proficiency in order to offer the
most effective assistance. While much of it seems to be common sense (for
example, insuring that adequate interpreters are available), the information
is still valuable for those wanting to insure a baseline of adequate
assistance for victims.

B. ARTICLES

Nimish R. Ganatra, Comment, The Cultural Dynamic in Domestic
Violence: Understanding the Additional Burdens Battered Immigrant

Ganatra’s comment reviews what she believes are the commonalities
of experience among immigrant Asian American women, including
language barriers, similar cultural patterns, a distrust of law enforcement,
and the lack of domestic violence laws in their home countries. She
recognizes that the emphasis of the domestic violence movement in the
United States through the white woman’s perspective cannot adequately
take into account the experiences or difficulties an Asian immigrant who
before obtaining relief, must often navigate difficult legislative procedures.
As part of her recommendations, Ganatra maintains that culturally sensitive
shelters, services, and immigration law reforms will go a long way toward
improving the plight of immigrant women who are victims of violence.

Susan Girardo Roy, Note, Restoring Hope or Tolerating Abuse?
Responses to Domestic Violence Against Immigrant Women, 9 GEO.

Roy’s article begins with an overview of domestic violence in
America and the contributing legal, social, and cultural factors that lead
battered women to stay with their spouses. However, immigrant women
face additional hurdles beyond the ones stemming from communicational,
educational, and economic concerns. Roy touches upon how substance
abuse, stress, mental illness, fear of deportation, cultural norms, and other
conditions the husbands of immigrant women suffer may lead to a greater
number of immigrant women being abused.

Roy suggests that a multi-faceted approach be taken in dealing with
domestic violence and immigrant women, including such options as
considering cultural defense at the proper time and appropriate junction within the legal system. In addition, expanding social services programs that recognize the immigrant experience could work for populations handling the realities of adjusting to American culture and its views on domestic violence. Roy's most ambitious suggestion is that the federal government should take the lead not only in funding, but also by creating such programs that address the issue, implying that only the lead of the federal government will force a change at the state level.


Harris uses her article to illustrate the problems an immigrant victim defendant faces when trying to confront a problem of domestic violence under current immigration law and VAWA. The author illustrates the various possibilities a victim of violence faces and the uncertainty of her eventual fate as she moves through the judicial system, even when the law appears to be on her side. Harris suggests local prosecutors, who may consider the circumstances of immigrant women, put into place a discretionary model, and perhaps federal law may then be impacted as a direct result of state level prosecutorial actions. The author argues for an individualized case assessment by prosecutorial staff specially trained in identifying domestic violence victims, as well as VAWA diversion and other case disposition alternatives for battered women. She concludes that prosecutors must establish ongoing training for their offices in order to best serve victims of domestic violence and provides a strong demonstration of how well-intentioned processes may often re-victimize an individual in failing to adequately balance the tensions between federal and state law.


Morgan's main focus is to argue that the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services Agency (USCIS) fails to deliver the protections VAWA, guarantees to immigrant women by not offering services that take

into account the barriers Limited English Proficient ("LEP") women face, thereby depriving these women of due process under law. She then illustrates how this lack of services can lead LEP women who attempt to seek the assistance outlined under VAWA to be thwarted at almost every turn from the unavailability of sufficient programs. Morgan contends that by neglecting the particular circumstances of LEP women, the USCIS is guilty of discrimination against immigrant women. While she is essentially arguing policy, the author does a good job of illustrating the problems an immigrant woman may encounter when trying to navigate a system hastily revamped after September 11, 2001.


This is a solid introduction to the history of immigration laws in the United States and how they have historically failed to protect immigrant women from domestic violence. The authors, affiliated at the time of writing with the NOW Legal Defense Fund, each provided technical assistance to Congress with the various legislative pieces discussed in the article. Starting with a historical perspective of how immigration laws arose in the United States, the authors carefully review the Immigration and Nationality Act Amendments of 1986, the attempt to reform them in 1990, and the 1994 and 2000 versions of the Violence Against Women Act. In reviewing the VAWA Acts, the authors highlight the strengths and weaknesses of the 1994 version and how the 2000 version tried to address the shortcomings of the previous version. This work is strongly recommended for those researchers who will be working with immigrants and/or wish to understand the historical background and complexities of how VAWA works within the scope of current immigration laws.

C. ELECTRONIC SOURCES


Established in 1979, the Immigrant Legal Resource Center has a history of assisting immigrant populations with immigration law, policy, and other issues that are of concern to immigrants. In 2002, the Catholic Legal Immigration Network and the ILRC co-authored the VAWA Manual: Immigration Relief for Abused Immigrants. While a new 2006 edition is available for purchase, ILRC has made available on its website several chapters updated in 2004, in Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) format, at http://www.ilrc.org/online/resource.html. The chapters are entitled: Document Gathering for Self-Petitioning Under the Violence Against Women Act, Initial Discussion with Clients, Requirements for Self-Petition, and the Self-Petitioning Process. The website is strongly recommended as a starting point for researchers interested in domestic violence as it applies to immigrant women.

V. LATINA

As with Asian Americans, the problem in defining the individuals that make up the “Latina” group poses difficulty when doing research. A single label that purports to unify distinct groups of individuals may disservice a group that possesses a distinct cultural identity. The blurring of identity may then create a stereotype that can in no way be representative of the cultural richness behind it. In addition, this division may also lead to avenues of research that spread limited resources among too many subgroups. Research may focus only on “Puerto Rican,” “Mexican,” or “Cuban” groups, when what is needed is in-depth research on each of the groups in order to accurately portray a “group” experience.

Like the Asian American experience, much of the push to advocate


50. This term includes individuals of Hispanic and Latina origin. However, what constitutes an individual of “Hispanic” or “Latina” origin, to some extent, is debatable. See Suzanne Oboler, et. al. Latino Identities and Ethnicities, 2 The Oxford Encyclopedia of Latinos & Latinas in the United States 510 (2005). The United States government confuses the issue a bit further with its ideology that for purposes of the United States Census, which separates the concepts of “Hispanic” with those of “race,” Hispanics “were those who indicated that their origin was Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or some other Hispanic origin.” See U.S. Census Bureau, http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/Hispanic/hispdef.html (last visited Apr. 16, 2007). For the purposes of this article, the term “Latina,” which more often refers to women of Hispanic/Latina origin in the United States, is used in this heading.
for the cause of Latinas in terms of domestic violence comes from a movement within the community where organizations such as La Alianza, have taken the initiative in combating domestic violence. Much of the research in terms of domestic violence and Latinas has focused on the immigrant experience, as with the articles under “Asian Americans,” those that deal with a Latina group and immigrants are listed under the “Immigrants” heading and referenced herein.

A. BOOK EXCERPTS / REPORTS


The authors have written a strong piece discussing the situations of Puerto Rican women and their experiences with intimate partner violence. Using stories to illustrate the seemingly contradictory themes of optimism and disappointment, the authors also discuss cultural and societal constraint. Nevertheless, the women remain optimistic overall about their ability to move forward into a better life, a common theme that appears to stretch between generations. Even with all the harrowing experiences, the graceful dignity in which victims face encountered oppression is typical of what the authors call the “quiet resistance.”


Focusing on the results of a year-long study of abused women in New Mexico, the authors tracked the experiences of Anglo and Mexican/Mexican-American women and their interactions with shelters and the legal system. Since this work is heavy on statistical information, researchers may find interesting the narrative portions of the text that discuss the findings in more detail. Among the conclusions reached was that, while Mexican/Mexican American women faced difficulty in separating themselves from their abusers, assistance that allowed them to

discuss and speak about the abuse was a form of empowerment. The difficulties that non-Native speakers and women experienced with limited options for supporting themselves and their children were also noted as obstacles to leaving an abusive partner.


Both of these reports work as a review of the findings of La Alianza when it researched the issue of domestic violence in the Latino community. The majority of the first paper discusses the formation of the focus groups, the methodology used, and their findings regarding domestic violence in the Latino/Latina community. The second report summarizes the efforts of Alianza to compile and review materials, services and agencies purporting to address the needs of Spanish speaking domestic violence victims. The findings of focus groups are discussed, as well as suggestions for preliminary guidelines in developing Spanish language materials. For those wishing to see what an advocacy group on a national level has initiated and the way in which it has chosen to frame the issue, La Alianza’s materials work as an excellent example of a commitment to improving the experiences of its community.

B. ARTICLES


Coker’s article challenges the response of the legal system in assisting battered women, given that it is based on a response geared towards white women of a certain socio-economic class. Coker argues that when research
and material resources are aimed toward assisting battered women of "color," they usually are narrowed to the African American experience, or they fail to take into account the variety of cultural groups that can be classified as Latina. After outlining various ways in which the legal system fails to recognize the distinct issues confronting Latinas, she calls for a shift of sources and research to improve the situation of all battered women, regardless of racial background.


This work examines the inadequacy of state and federal laws in protecting Hispanic women, given the higher risk of intimate partner violence. DeCasas starts with an overview of intimate homicide and the number of risk factors involved that may lead to it. She then moves on to explain how Hispanic women have a higher probability of being victims of such homicide due to their greater exposure to such risk factors. Moving onto the issues of language, culture, and the tangles both mandatory arrest policies and the confusion that may arise under VAWA provisions, DeCasas concludes that the mainstream domestic violence movement needs to reach out and be more inclusive of minority populations. The article serves as a good basic introduction to the issues facing the Hispanic population in terms of intimate partner violence.


The authors present the results of an extensive survey done in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area regarding Latinas and their perceptions of available services relating to domestic violence. The results confirmed that while Latinas are susceptible to domestic violence like other women, the barriers to gaining meaningful assistance are much greater than the norm. Well-written, it lays out many of the issues facing Latinas in obtaining assistance and offers ways in which lawyers, advocates, and other authorities can improve assistance to battered women.

Although reporting on a relatively small sample of nine women who have suffered abuse, this article works as a general introduction to the problems of battered Latina women by reviewing the issues that confront them in seeking assistance. Given its structure as a sociological article, the recitation of the perceptions of the study’s subjects makes it easy for the authors to relate how their viewpoints reinforce earlier research on the same topic without getting bogged down in legal jargon or lengthy explanations of statistical models. Focused on giving recommendations to counselors who work with battered Latinas, much of the advice can be applied to researchers who work with such women.


This brief article reports on the findings of a large survey of over 300 Hispanic women in the Southeast who were asked about their exposure to domestic violence. A startling seventy percent indicated that they had experienced some type of violence in the past year and an almost equal amount stated that they were victims of a husband or boyfriend’s violence. Overall, women as a whole reported that the biggest barrier to obtaining assistance was language, and a substantial amount stated that transportation issues, legal issues, and fear of deportation factored into the decision of whether to seek assistance. The widespread amount of violence to which Hispanic women in the study were subjected to was hard to ignore, and the authors called for more programs that took into account the particular cultural needs in assisting immigrant women. A sobering look at the amount of violence in one area of the country that summarizes previous sociological research, this article serves as a strong reminder to researchers of how prevalent violence is within this particular community.


Rivera’s article examines the particular difficulties facing Latinas who are victims of male violence in their community. Initially, the author
divides into statistical evidence to show the Latino community’s overall lack of political and economic strength in American society, and examines the negative stereotypes of both Latinos and Latinas. Rivera then addresses the shortcomings of several organizations ostensibly in place to help victims, such as law enforcement, the criminal justice system and social services and indicates how they fail to take into account the specific needs of Latinas. Such neglect, which manifests itself in the lack of culturally appropriate responses, leaves women with no accessible avenues from which they can seek assistance. Rivera urges that developing strategies that account for the racial and cultural differences of Latinas will be required that also address negative Latino stereotypes. Such an endeavor will need both the requisite financial support an the collective will of both the Latino community and advocates seeking to end domestic violence.


Rivera starts her article by stating that current models that frame violence against women as an area of federal interest arose out of a shift in legislative thinking to consider community and constituent concerns at the state level. However, the push to do so in the context of domestic violence failed to take into account the concerns of women of color, in part due to the historical lack of representation of communities of color within legislative power structures. Part I of the article addresses the barriers traditionally faced by Latino communities and the myth of democratic representation, while Part II evaluates community models evolving from Latino initiatives within a community that improved the lives of women suffering from intimate partner violence. Rivera points out that such models, based on the purposeful inclusion of community activists, show a way to think about recasting solutions in an area where traditional modes of legislation and government assistance have failed. Rivera gives a strong introduction to how community initiative may become the key factor in establishing connections to women who are victims of intimate partner violence.


Rivera’s article reports the findings of a study undertaken by the New York State Spanish Domestic Violence Hotline Advisory Committee that
examined the availability of services to Latina victims. Relying upon federal and state statistical data, as well as a survey of state shelters and interviews with Latina victims, it was found that New York state shelters failed to offer adequate services that took into account the special needs of Latina victims. Besides a lack of funding, the shortage of an adequate number of bilingual staff that could communicate with victims was noted as a shortcoming of state services. In addition, certain practices developed to aid women to escape abusive situations, such as transfers to upstate shelters, instead exacerbated the isolation and problems presented to Latinas. Such issues leave Latinas with very few viable options in securing assistance in escaping a partner who abuses them when they wish to stay within the reach of a known community. Rivera presents a list of recommendations that move toward making shelters and social services more available to Latinas, including more activism on the part of the local, state, and national governments in increasing funding for all domestic violence programs.

C. ELECTRONIC RESOURCES / SELECTED ONLINE BIBLIOGRAPHIES

National Latino Alliance for the Elimination of Domestic Violence
http://www.dvalianza.org

Much like the organizations dedicated to combating intimate partner violence in the African American and Asian American communities, Alianza aims to address the problems of violence within Latino communities. Focusing on the four major areas of community education and development, public policy, research, and training and technical assistance, each section has an area devoted to it on the website and outlines the steps Alianza has undertaken to increase awareness of domestic violence. Of particular interest is the Research section, which discusses the establishment of El Centro, a national research center developed in conjunction with Georgia State University, which as part of its mission, promotes culturally relevant research. Along with references to fact sheets, reports, articles and books, there is an annotated bibliography located at http://www.dvalianza.org/resor/bibliography.htm. It should be noted that the bibliography does not restrict itself to the United States, and therefore covers domestic violence as it applies to Latino communities worldwide. A strong starting point for researchers intending to examine intimate partner violence in Latino communities.
VI. NATIVE AMERICAN

Like African Americans, the history of Native Americans in United States culture recalls the bitter and often destructive influence of a mainstream society forcing assimilation upon a smaller one. There is little argument that the settlement of the United States by Europeans devastated Native American people by inexorably altering the framework of Native American cultural society. The literature on domestic violence traces another impact of conquest, mainly the erosion of matrilineal authority and general respect for Native American women by European settlers. This ignorance and refusal to associate women with positions of power in turn weakened traditional concepts of equality and respect for women. The battering of this collective memory, reinforced by subjugating practices towards Native Americans, became one of the many causes for increased incidents of abuse among the population.

The addition of a multitude of United States laws governing criminal or civil matter jurisdiction on reservations and the potential barriers facing a Native American woman interacting with the legal system extend beyond a singular immediate community. Coupled with an individual tribe's own system of peacekeeping or legal authority, a woman may find that the various intersections of power affect her ability to leave an abusive relationship. The altered modern perceptions of women within her own culture, the structural basis of her own tribe, and the hesitation of state or federal laws to intervene on her behalf in an attempt to maintain a sense of continuity and respect for her culture and womanhood.


Native American identity can all act as obstacles to the battered Native American woman seeking relief.

A. MANUALS / REPORTS


As an invaluable resource for information on domestic violence in the Native American community, this website’s main strength is its “Resources” page, where a list of material accessible via the web and Adobe Acrobat is available. Of particular interest is the Technical Assistance Project: Introductory Manual to Domestic Violence in Indian Country, last updated in 2003. With various articles gathering viewpoints on dealing with domestic violence in Native American communities, the Manual is an excellent introduction for researchers interested in the history of domestic violence in Native American communities and the related issues and problems that are involved in combating it. The two articles below would likely be of the most assistance to the researcher, and inspection of the entire Manual is encouraged for those who wish further reading.


A brief paper that essentially serves as a timeline of historical events that led to the growth of domestic violence in Native American communities. The paper starts with pre-contact societies and then discusses the major events regarding colonization waves and the passage of United States laws. It marks the history of the significance of Native American rights including the 1990s and current issues. The timeline pays particular attention to the places where legal authority addresses the recognition of domestic violence as a problem and works as a quick overview of the way the Native American community reacted to the growing violence in their midst.

Researched with a grant from the National Institute of Justice, and at 480 pages this manual is dedicated to examining violence against indigenous women, and clearly not for the casual reader. However, for those researchers who plan to work with indigenous people or who are in areas of the country where such individuals may seek their services, it is worthwhile to review the portions of the document that deal with the traditional ideas of women in indigenous societies.


This article traces the historical influence of women in several traditional Native American societies, where a tribe’s focus was based on a concept of matrilineal authority. The importance of the female role in keeping a tribe functional is reviewed, including in some tribes the ability to govern. It was the arrival of European settlers which led to the undermining of women’s roles in their Native tribes, though many women battled to keep their voices heard among the rapid changes. While lightly touching upon the problems European settlement brought upon Native Americans, the article serves as a good introduction to the historical view of women in many Native American tribes.


The main thrust of this study was to assess community awareness and the level of responsiveness to violence against Native American women. Through surveys and with no direct interviews of abused women, the authors found that while many understood there was a problem of violence within Native American communities, ways to address such issues were unfocused and unsupported by the community. This particular text is of
more interest to those who have the time and the inclination to read a lengthy report on a snapshot of different communities' attitudes towards violence.

B. ARTICLES


Coker's article examines the Navajo method of Peacemaking, a traditional format that seeks to have conflicted parties work out their differences instead of heading to a more traditional judicial setting. In the context of domestic violence, Coker analyzes portions of the process that may empower domestic violence victims in a way that the more formal structure of adjudication cannot address. She also examines a small set of statistics regarding peacemaking to determine the effectiveness and level to which it is used in relation to domestic violence cases. While supportive of the particular benefits, some aspects of peacemaking can bring help to Navajo women who are victims of domestic violence. The process is only a partial answer to assessing the needs of such victims, but an interesting example of how domestic violence can be addressed in the context of a culturally accepted practice.


Murray observes that Roman Civil Law and Anglo American Law, though born of different traditions, developed from common Judeo-Christian beliefs when dealing with domestic violence. Contrasted with the examples of three American Indian tribes, (Cheyenne, Navajo and Cherokee), Murray effectively outlines the ways in which the tribes handling of domestic violence situations historically differed. The author suggests that a re-examination of historical bases of how violence was treated might point to how future models to prevent domestic violence might be constructed. As with other pieces in this section, Murray's conclusions suggest that traditional Native American modes of cultural interaction may merit further study when creating appropriate relevant culturally relevant frameworks dealing with domestic violence.

James W. Zion & Elsie B. Zion, *Hozo’ Sokee’—Stay Together Nicely:

The authors cover the particular traditions that have propelled Navajo culture in the past, examining among other things, how the historical concepts of matrilocal residence and polygamy likely reduced the threat of domestic violence. While the concept of a clan-type extended family still exists, the realities of a hostile culture's conquest have led to traditional values being undermined and to an increase in domestic violence. The authors suggest that a return to tradition can successfully address the treatment of the problem of domestic violence within the Navajo nation, also arguing that failing to do so will likely end in a complete obliteration of the unique Navajo culture. Like the Coker article earlier in this section, this piece provides an example of how culturally relevant studies may hold the key to creating new theories of combating intimate partner violence.

C. ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

National Tribal Justice Resource Center, http://www.tribalresourcecenter.org.54

A project of the National American Indian Court Judges Association, the Native Tribal Justice Resource Center was created as a support system nationwide for tribal justice systems. Collecting an impressive amount of resources on Native American law, a researcher can peruse the list of tribal court sites, search tribal court decisions or tribal court codes and constitutions, which historically have at times been difficult to locate using traditional research methods. The site has a section on Domestic Violence that includes model and sample codes of various Native American tribes relating to domestic relations and family law, as well as a short chapter detailing Tribal Courts and Victims' Rights and a Tribal Court Benchbook for Domestic Violence Cases. The site is recommended for those researchers seeking additional information on a particular Native American tribe and its approach to intimate partner violence.

VII. CONCLUSION

As stated in the Introduction, this selected bibliography is meant to introduce the researcher to the sorts of issues that may come into play with
members of particular minority groups. The brutality of domestic violence is harsh enough, but compounded with the added parameters of race, language, or disability, the magnification of the problems in failing to adequately serve these populations is apparent. With the rise of women’s equality as a concept not only in Western societies, but also increasingly across the world, the current trend in domestic violence research is to frame intimate partner violence as a violation of basic human rights.\textsuperscript{55} By doing so, intimate partner violence can no longer be simply and ignorantly classified as part of a culturally acceptable practice where a man loses his temper. Invoking the concept of the basic human right to be free from violence moves the argument into a sphere that binds all the groups listed here into a commonality in a way that very few other topics could do.

As these readings illustrate, the unconditional condemnation across all racial and cultural lines of such violence against individuals may still be forthcoming, but the manner in which we treat such victims can be better informed based on our comprehension of the particular circumstances of their experience. Violence is violence, and victims of intimate partner violence who seek assistance are best served by researchers and advocates who understand the complexities of their situtations.

VIII. ADDITIONAL READINGS / RESOURCES

The following sources may be consulted when seeking further information on intimate partner violence. However, an excellent starting place to locate materials on domestic or intimate partner violence that should not be overlooked is Professor Natalie Sokoloff’s extensive list of annotated citations,\textsuperscript{56} which is further highlighted below in the section on Electronic Resources.


\textsuperscript{56} NATALIE J. SOKOLOFF, MULTICULTURAL PERSPECTIVES ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE U.S. (2005), available at www.lib.jjay.cuny.edu/research/DomesticViolence. Professor Sokoloff’s list is so exhaustive that it makes this particular listing of additional readings deliberately short; those who choose to peruse this line of research should consult her website for
As stated in the Introduction, the multitude of materials on intimate partner violence spans the social sciences sphere. The reader should note that this section merely reflects some of the vast amount of available materials. Several of the websites given within the section have extensive lists of resources, as do the assorted bibliographies mentioned in various sections of this bibliography. In addition, almost every source selected for inclusion within the main body of the bibliography has its own list of references. With the aim of providing introductory material to the researcher, this section does not reproduce the lengthy lists found elsewhere; instead, it is again a limited set of resources to assist a researcher.  

A. ARTICLES / BOOKS / MANUALS / REPORTS


57. Titles without description are either legal casebooks, or general books of interest on domestic violence that address a specific population.
This recent annotated bibliography, while also dealing with domestic violence, takes a much broader view in gathering materials. Covering general domestic violence resources, the author also addresses materials dealing with children, federal law and judicial issues as they intersect with the topic. Finally, she brings together different sets of materials on the elderly, same sex couples, and concerns regarding international and asylum-rated domestic violence issues.


Coker’s piece examines how current domestic violence law, aimed at a general stereotype of “battered women,” fails to address the particular issues of minority women and the material needs that often are critical to a woman’s existence outside of an abusive situation.


An overview of the Miami-based project LUCHA, detailing the basics of the program and its client base of battered immigrant women.


This is a brief article outlining the remedies that tribal courts may provide victims of sexual assault.


An examination of how the “cultural defense” argument actually works against battered women who are victims of violence, namely by excusing the aforementioned violence.


This work discusses and reviews the literature on African American males and violence.

ISSUES IN INTIMATE VIOLENCE (Raquel Kennedy Bergen ed., 1998).


Lockhart’s piece appearing within a sociological text, documents a research study comparing violence in white and black marital relationships.


A Note arguing for tribal jurisdiction over Non-Indian members when it comes to domestic violence.


A short piece that visits the issue of domestic violence and the
problems encountered when combating it within the Asian community.

K. E. SUPRIYA, SHAME AND RECOVERY: MAPPING IDENTITY IN AN ASIAN WOMEN’S SHELTER (2003).


This is a comparison of the battered woman and the cultural defenses, with a discussion of the pros and cons contrasted to each other.


This is a discussion of the jurisdictional and financial obstacles that impede the assistance of Native American women who are victims of domestic violence.


While essentially an annotated bibliography of materials dealing with domestic violence and how it impacts Native American/Alaskan women, many of the resources have been cited in the collections of materials mentioned above in the section on Native Americans.

B. ELECTRONIC RESOURCES / SELECTED ONLINE BIBLIOGRAPHIES

Aardvarc, An Abuse, Rape and Domestic Violence Aid and Resource Collection, http://www.aardvarc.org.58

A general website dedicated to informing individuals about abuse in a variety of forms, that at times may be overwhelming with the amount of material it offers to those interested in a specific topic. However, the site gives solid practical advice on how to leave an abusive relationship, and offers commercial links to sources recommended for further reading. Overall, the site is reminiscent of an actual "textbook" on domestic violence for those experiencing it, and the straightforward approach is perhaps its strongest point.


While not separated into categories other than by publisher, type, and media format, the ABA's general bibliography still gathers a significant amount of material into one place for the student beginning to explore the topic of intimate partner violence.

Communities Against Violence Network ("CAVNET"), http://www.cavnet2.org. 59

Aimed towards creating a network of anti-violence experts and advocates, CAVNET has a wealth of material available to members for a yearly charge. The public portions of the site allow non-members to search their database and determine if there is enough worthwhile information to purchase a membership. With sections devoted to recommended readings and topical lists dealing with various areas of violence detailing the database's holdings, CAVNET is still a worthwhile visit for collecting domestic violence information.


Librarian Jacquelyn Coughlan of SUNY Institute of Technology has collected into a bibliography over 250 unannotated citations detailing the discussion of domestic violence within a cultural context.

Domestic Violence Project of Silicon Valley California, http://www.growing.com/nonviolent/main_intro.htm.\(^6\)

Claiming a collection of over 1400 links to online resources dealing with domestic violence, the website includes research links which point to web resources in a variety of areas, including some minority groups. Book lists and online journals are included, as well as general information for a victim who needs assistance in California.


This is a website chronicling some of the issues confronting women and girls with disabilities.


An offshoot of the Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, the Resource Center is an excellent website gathering various types of information on sexual and domestic violence. Along with topical bibliographies, there is a well-organized internet portal arranged by topic with web links. This is a good starting place for any student wishing to begin internet research or wishing to obtain short unannotated bibliographies on a specific topic.

Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse, http://www.mincava.umn.edu.\(^6\)

This is an electronic clearinghouse of what the creators state is over 3000 sources dealing with domestic violence. Many of the sources are listed on the website in text and/or Adobe Acrobat format, allowing easy access to materials for the general public, and overall a worthwhile site for gathering information on violence against women.

\(^{63}\) Last visited Apr. 17, 2007.  
\(^{64}\) Last visited Apr. 17, 2007.

This Texas-based organization provides training and support to organizations looking toward ending domestic and sexual violence. The website is a very good collection of related links and publications relating to domestic violence. It contains a section on domestic and sexual violence in the military, which is not covered in this bibliography.


This is an extensive website of a twenty-five year old organization dedicated to combating domestic violence. Of particular note is its reading list, giving citations to articles dealing with different areas of domestic violence.


Available only on the web, these are proceedings of the National Institute of Justice detailing the problems and issues facing multicultural research.


A collaboration between the National Center on Injury Prevention and Control and the Centers for Disease Control, VAWnet is a part of the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence. With a goal of creating easily accessible full text material on sexual violence, domestic violence and other related issues, this massive website collects papers from other

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branches of the federal government and consolidates them under its umbrella. Designed for those combating these issues at the local and state level, the site may initially be difficult to navigate, but the information gained is well worth the time.

National Women’s Health Information Center, http://www.4woman.gov/index.htm. 69

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office on Women’s Health, this source includes a broad section on violence against women and a smaller section on domestic and intimate partner violence. While it repeats some of the same information found at many other sites, it is perhaps best used for its limited set of links to government fact sheets and reports on domestic violence that the federal government makes available.


This is an extensive list of unannotated sources drawing from a variety of social science disciplines detailing domestic violence in cultural settings. Last updated in March of 2005, Professor Sokoloff has collected a massive unannotated bibliography of citations regarding domestic violence in a variety of multicultural communities. In addition to those covered in this article, she includes material grouped based on religion, sexual orientation, the elderly, and women in prisons. She ventures further by collecting material on whites in all economic classes and she compares it to other ethnic groups. Covering a broad range of sources including social sciences and the law, anyone doing research in the domestic violence field with these populations should consult this ongoing work in progress.


Created in 1995 as part of the passage of the VAWA in 1994, this branch of the Justice Department is in charge of developing and coordinating Justice Department policy on violence against women and spearheading a leadership role with other offices within the federal government in the implementation of VAWA. The website includes a variety of links to various programs, government publications, statistics, and reports, among a myriad of sources, including the Office of Justice Programs and the National Criminal Justice Service. It is a useful website for those curious about the "official" stance of the federal government on violence against women.

Violence Against Women Online Resources, http://www.vaw.umn.edu.\textsuperscript{72}

With a recently revamped website, this is a joint project between the Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse ("MINCAVA") at the University of Minnesota and the Office on Violence Against Women within the U.S. Department of Justice. The site serves to bring together information on a variety of topics concerning violence against women, including several papers specifically dealing with domestic violence.

WomensLaw.org, http://www.womenslaw.org.\textsuperscript{73}

Organized by attorneys, teachers, and advocates working in the domestic violence field, the site purports to provide legal information in a more accessible and understandable format for victims of domestic violence. Toward that end, the site provides a comprehensive state-by-state listing of information geared toward assisting a victim to navigate through the court system and to understand what laws may apply to her. It contains links to forms, courthouse locations, and other resources. In addition, information is provided on matters concerning tribal courts, military courts, and immigration concerns. Overall, this is a solid resource for victims and a good starting reference point for researchers who may wish to quickly comprehend the court process as it pertains to domestic violence in other jurisdictions.

\textsuperscript{72} Last visited Apr. 17, 2007.
\textsuperscript{73} Last visited Apr. 17, 2007.