

## REPLY LETTER TO THE BOSTON GLOBE

Cathy Young's article about domestic violence widens the very gaps she claims she wants to bridge in our understanding of domestic violence. She attacks the battered women's movement and promotes misinformation about the Duluth program for abusive men.

Repackaging theories like "women are as violent as men" flies in the face of reality. Police officers and medical professionals see daily the broken bones and bruised bodies of battered women. We acknowledge that women use violence in intimate relationships, but women don't typically accompany their violence with intimidation, rape, and coercion, even in abusive relationships.

Young cites Kenneth Corvo who believes anger management groups are better approaches to use with batterers. Teaching a batterer to control his anger will not stop his violence if his intent is to control his partner. In the UK, probation officers discontinued anger management groups, stating that such groups are "inappropriate and ineffective and are means for perpetrators to manipulate the courts".

Researcher Ed Gondolf conducted a multi-site evaluation of batterers programs. His research demonstrated that cognitive behavioral approaches like the Duluth model with tight controls by the court had significant success in changing a batterer's behavior as reported by victims. For Young and Corvo to discredit the Duluth model does a disservice to battered women, offenders who need help and professionals in the field trying to address this entrenched social and historical problem.

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