



# When **SHE** hits **HIM**:

## Why **Gender & Context** Matter



**National Conference in Michigan**  
**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN**

**November 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

***Be a Part of This Pioneering Event!***

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual

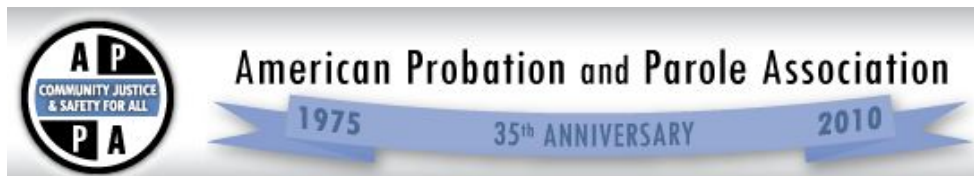
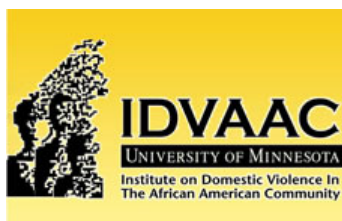
BISC-MI Fall 2010 Conference  
Pontiac, Michigan

Women's use of force in heterosexual relationships presents controversial and complex issues, particularly when the majority of these women are survivors of domestic violence. Survivors' use of force challenges service providers across institutional settings. These challenges can be difficult to talk about and especially difficult to address. In an effort to inform the evolving conversation - and respond to erroneous claims of gender symmetry - the Batterers Intervention Services Coalition of Michigan (BISC-MI) is hosting a national November 4 & 5, 2010 conference titled: **When *She* Hits Him: Why Gender & Context Matter**. This pioneering event will assemble professionals from diverse fields to share innovations in thought, perspective, intervention, and systems navigation. Conference participants will have the opportunity to enhance their knowledge base as they explore why a gendered analysis and contextual approach to intimate partner violence are essential components of informed and effective service provision.



Presented by the Batterer Intervention Services Coalition of Michigan

# CONFERENCE SPONSORS



**Family Violence  
Prevention Fund**  
[www.endabuse.org](http://www.endabuse.org)



# Conference Rates

## **Before October 15, 2010**

\$175.00 BISC-MI Member\*

\$235.00 Non Member\*

\*After October 15, 2010 all fees above increase by \$50.00

The conference rates include the following meals:

2 continental breakfasts and 2 lunches

\*To find out more about becoming a BISC-MI member

go to: [BISC-MI Membership](#)



<https://www.regonline.com/wshh>

# Conference Location

## Auburn Hills Marriott

Room Rates

*\$65.00 for a double or a single!*

*If you don't have someone to share a room with, we are happy to assist!*

Please email Peaty with any questions: [Peatyh@cablespeed.com](mailto:Peatyh@cablespeed.com)



*You must make room reservations separately from your conference registration.  
Rooms at this rate are limited!*



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# CONFERENCE AGENDA

## Conference Day 1 Thursday, November 4, 2010

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast

8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. Housekeeping

8:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks: **The Honorable Judge Susan B. Carbon**, Director of the United States Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women (OVW).

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Keynote: Why Gender & Context Matter

**Speaker:** Ellen Pence

**Summary:** How did the early years of the battered women's movement frame our contemporary assumptions regarding women who use violence? Why do gender symmetry arguments continue to endure? How does women's use of force contextually differ from male battering behavior in terms of motivation, intent, and impact? Why do many advocates and practitioners allow criminal justice system language to redefine battered women who resort to force as offenders? Join us as we explore these questions with a founding mother of the battered women's movement.

*10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Break*

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. **Plenary: Research on Sex, Gender, & Violence: What Practitioners Should Know**

**Presenter:** Molly Dragiewicz

**Summary:** Media attention to research on violence and abuse seems to focus disproportionately on statistics about the prevalence of violence, and to especially highlight instances where women use violence. The focus on counting acts out of context often overshadows all that we do know about the dynamics of violence and abuse. Too often, the research on sex and gender differences in violence and abuse are presented in misleading ways. This talk will review key research findings on the contribution of gender and patriarchy to violence against women that can help practitioners understand what the research does and does not tell.

*12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. Lunch Provided*

1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. **Plenary: Why Gender & Context Matter: Perspectives from the Criminal Justice System (CJS)**

**Panelists:** Andrea Bible, Judge Susan B. Carbon, Brant Funkhouser, James Henderson, Judge Elizabeth Pollard Hines, Erin House, and Judge Jeffrey Kremers

**Moderator:** David Garvin

**Summary:** Criminal justice system representatives including an advocate, a prosecutor and defense counsel, judges, and probation will discuss the critical importance of context from their unique perspectives. Topics include: the delicate process of receiving and/or sharing critical information that shapes case understanding; how the legal system can re-victimize battered women; how advocates can effectively provide timely advocacy when victims of ongoing battering are arrested; and how culture and ethnicity may play a role in case understanding. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions of panel members.

*2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. BREAK*

### **BREAKOUT SESSIONS (5)**

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. **When Victims of Battering are Arrested: Defense-Based Advocacy Essentials**

**Presenter:** Andrea Bible and Laurie Cloutier-Lee

**Summary:** In this workshop, advocates will explore concrete individual advocacy strategies for working with survivors charged with crimes. As part of those strategies, we will discuss issues of confidentiality, the role of advocates as part of legal defense teams, collateral consequences of arrest and convictions on domestic violence survivors, and the complexity of safety planning when working with domestic violence victims who are also defendants in criminal cases.

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. **“You Want to Fight? We Gonna Fight!”: Black Women’s Retaliatory Responses to Intimate Partner Abuse**

**Presenter:** Hillary Potter

**Summary:** Using in-depth interviews with Black women abused by male intimate partners, this presentation addresses the women’s proclivity to physically retaliate against the abusers, including those thoughts and actions of lethal proportions. Black women, in general, endure considerable amounts of racism, sexism, classism, and additional biased behaviors by others, which affect all ages, socioeconomic statuses, and educational levels of Black women. Accordingly, the interviewees fought their abusers as another form of domination that they must resist on a regular basis. The women did not usually frame their abuse as “battering” or “victimization,” and this inability to view themselves as victims further aided in the women’s inclination to respond to the batterers’ violent acts with corresponding force.

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. **Creating Curriculum for Women Arrested for Using Force**

**Presenters:** Jeffrie Cape and Lisa Young Larance

**Summary:** Interactive workshop that will address the philosophical underpinnings of creating accountable curriculum for women arrested for using force. Specific tools and strategies will be shared. Designed for beginners and experienced facilitators.

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. **Incarcerated Women Convicted of Violent Offenses: Prevalence, Characteristics and Intervention**

**Presenter:** Sheryl Pimlott Kubiak

**Summary:** Although women are more likely to be the victim of a violent crime, rather than the perpetrator, of a violent crime, approximately 20% of incarcerated women are sentenced for assaultive offenses. The limited research to date suggests that the associated correlates of violent offending for women are substance use disorders and victimization histories, but there is little discussion or research on intervention. It is likely that pathways to and from aggressive behavior may differ for women and men, but rehabilitation within the institution is often based on a male model. This presentation provides an overview of the characteristics of women who are incarcerated for violent crimes; the types of violent crimes they commit; correlates of violence; and strategies for intervention.

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. **Women Who Are Violent: Victims or Perpetrators?**

**Presenter:** Terese Dick, Cindene Pezzell, and Janet Prater

**Summary:** This session addresses the defense attorney’s role in representing female clients, in criminal courts, who are charged with violent criminal offenses. A closer look will be taken at sources of information available to defense attorneys in representing female clients, including law enforcement, medical personnel, AODA, survivor support groups, and victim-witness advocates. The purpose of the session is to increase the skills of criminal justice system personnel, as well as those associated with the system, to identify, assist, and ultimately defend women who may be domestic violence victims and survivors of physical and sexual abuse. Further analysis of cases in which survivors are engaged in criminal activity in order to avoid further abuse from their battering partners.

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. **Both Sides of the Fence: Creative Resistance with Criminalized Women**

**Presenter:** Carol Jacobsen

**Summary:** For women whose crimes are linked to their abuse, including killing their batterers, unequal treatment by the law and gendered modes of punishment often lead to unfair convictions and long sentences. Drawing on her long-term relationships, writings and production of grassroots films with incarcerated women, as well as her role as Director of the Michigan Women’s Justice and Clemency Project, Jacobsen will present several clips from her films narrated by women prisoners and discuss how women in prison resist both the hopelessness of their situation and the inhuman conditions of their lives to find strategies of resistance and partnerships with feminists to become agents challenging norms of justice, the institution of the family, and the penal system’s practices of four point chaining, medical neglect, rapes, harassment and retaliation.

# Conference Day 2

## Friday, November 5, 2010

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast

**7:45 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. BISC-MI Annual Meeting**

8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. Housekeeping

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **Panel: Collateral Consequences of Battered Women's Arrest**

**Presenters:** Judge Susan B. Carbon, Melissa Dichter, LeTonia Jones, Charo Ledon, S. Kerene Moore, Hillary Potter, and Rebecca Shiemke

**Moderator:** Brant Funkhouser

**Summary:** Advocates, attorneys, researchers, and practitioners will discuss the multiple practical implications arrest often has on the lives of battered women who have been arrested for using force against their partners. The impact of arrest for women of diverse cultural, economic, and ethnic backgrounds will be discussed in terms of child custody rights, immigration status, and more. The discussion encourages a deeper understanding of the gendered implications criminal justice system involvement often has on the lives of these women.

**10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. BREAK**

10:45 p.m. – 12:15 p.m. **Practitioner Panel: Practical Complexities and Considerations of Providing Groups for Court-Ordered Women**

**Panelists:** Beth Beams, Center for Nonviolence; Jeffrie Cape, WEAVE; Donna Gardner Jacoby, Licensed Clinical Social Worker; Lisa Young Larence, RENEW; Debjani Roy, MANAVI; and Ellen Pence, Director, Praxis International.

**Moderator:** Holly Rosen

**Summary:** Practitioners from around the country will share their micro-and macro-systems experiences providing intervention and support to women who have used force. The discussion will provide an overview of the inherent challenges and professional dilemmas involved in meeting the complex needs of women arrested and court-ordered to intervention since they are often survivors of domestic violence.

**12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. Lunch Provided**

### **BREAKOUT SESSIONS (5)**

1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. **Should There Be State Standards for Women Who Use Force?**

**Panelists:** Jeffrie Cape, Poco Kernsmith, Jennifer Welch, and Kathy Hagenian

**Moderator:** Erin House

**Summary:** Quality assurance and consistency of care can benefit from state standards. However, intervention programs for men provide us with thoughts to consider as the field of working with women evolves. The panelists will discuss some of the pros and cons of setting state standards for serving women who have used force in their relationships. Standards may contribute to ease of monitoring but also pose challenges to programmatic flexibility.

1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. **Beyond Curriculum: Bringing Race, Culture, Class and Ethnicity into Programming**

**Presenter:** Oliver Williams and Beth Richie

**Summary:** This workshop will examine the myriad issues of race, culture, class and ethnicity with regard to women who use force. By providing an overview of several national projects this workshop Dr. Williams will demonstrate why service providers should consider expanding their work to address the intersectionality of race, culture, class and ethnicity with regard to women who use force.

1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. **Groups with Women Who Use Violence In Intimate Relationships**

**Presenters:** Ellen Pence and Thea Dubow

**Summary:** This workshop is designed to assist facilitators in addressing the needs of women who have used violence by drawing on their strengths, providing education and support, and helping them to envision a future that is free of violence. Topics include: the theoretical framework for working with women who have been arrested for using violence and contextual issues for women's use of violence; how to conduct groups with women who have used violence; and tools, role-plays, and exercises for use in a group setting.

1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. **Finding Out What's Going On: How to Assess Motives, Impacts, Danger Levels, and Violence Typologies in Cases of Intimate Partner Violence**

**Presenter:** Daniel Saunders

**Summary:** This workshop will describe measures that can be used by frontline workers to assess several dimensions of intimate partner violence--in particular motives, physical and psychological impacts, and the risk of severe violence. These dimensions will be linked to research on typologies of men's and women's use of force. The strengths and limitations of these typologies will be presented. Important distinctions will be made within "controlling-coercive," "violent resistant," and "situational" forms of violence. The application of the assessment measures will be used to demonstrate how a gendered understanding of intimate partner violence is necessary for effective interventions.

1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. **At a Crossroads: Developing Duluth's Prosecution Response to Battered Women Who Fight Back**

**Presenter:** Mary Asmus

**Summary:** Putting theory into practice. In this session we will discuss how prosecutors in Duluth, Minnesota pulled together battered women's advocates and system practitioners to develop a prosecution policy to address cases in which battered women use illegal violence against their abusers. We will review the major issues that we faced in drafting the policy, creating the criteria, implementing the policy, and considering the cases. Lessons learned from our inter-agency approach will be shared and suggestions will be offered to other practitioners and advocates seeking to create systemic change in how their communities respond to battered women who fight back.

2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. *Break*

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. **Think. Re-think: Survivors Resist Abuse**

**Presenter:** Connie Burk

**Summary:** "Surviving" is everything a person does to resist abuse and to preserve or to take back legitimate power in one's own life. Some things people do to survive seem noble and heroic. Many things people do to survive seem scary, shameful and confusing to both survivors and outside observers. In this plenary, Connie Burk will share a framework that reconciles the fact of survivors' use of violence, the gendered nature of domestic violence and a positive vision for advocacy and action.

4:00 p.m.– 4:30 p.m. **Conference wrap up and door prizes**



<https://www.regonline.com/wshh>

**Thanks once again for joining us for the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual BISC-MI Fall Conference!**

**We hope to see you next year!**

**Dates for the 2011  
16<sup>th</sup> Annual BISC-MI Conference**

**April 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> 2011**