

HEARING ON:

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

HELD AT:

BEDFORD HILLS CORRECTIONAL FAC  
BEDFORD HILLS, NEW YORK

SEPTEMBER 26, 1985  
10:30 A.M.

HEARING REPORTER:  
LINDA M. SCAROLA

ALL CITY REPORTING CO.  
STENOTYPE REPORTERS  
33 GOLD STREET — SUITE L-1, N.Y. 1003  
PHONE: 267-0823  
NIGHT PHONE: (201) 592-1708



## A P P E A R A N C E S:

P A N E L

RAMON RODRIGUEZ,  
CHAIRMAN, NEW YORK STATE  
DIVISION OF PAROLE

JEANNE EDNA THELWELL,  
MEMBER OF THE NEW YORK STATE  
COMMISSION OF CORRECTION

ELIZABETH MOORE,  
FIRST ASSISTANT COUNSEL  
TO THE GOVERNOR

THOMAS A. COUGHLIN, III, COMMISSIONER,  
NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

RICHARD CONDON,  
DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES

LEONARD G. DUNSTON,  
DIRECTOR OF THE NEW YORK STATE  
DIVISION FOR YOUTH

MARJORIE FIELDS,  
CO-CHAIR OF THE GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION  
ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

GAIL SHAFFER,  
SECRETARY OF STATE

SCOTT CHRISTIANSON,  
FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

KAREN BURSTEIN,  
CHAIR IN THE COMMISSION OF ?  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

JOSEPH SEMIDEI, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER,  
NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
SOCIAL SERVICES AND  
FAMILY OF CRIMINAL SERVICES DIVISION

A P P E A R A N C E S: (CONTINUANCE)

EDMOND B. WUTZER,  
DIRECTOR OF THE NEW YORK STATE  
DIVISION OF PROBATION AND  
CORRECTIONAL ALTERNATIVES.

STATE SENATOR SUSAN MOPHIMER,  
36 SENATE DISTRICT  
SOUTHERN WESTCHESTER

SENATOR OLGA MENDEZ

RONNIE ELDRIDGE,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
NEW YORK STATE DIVISION FOR WOMEN

LARRY CORLANDER,  
DIRECTOR OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

NUMBER ONE,  
INMATE

NUMBER TWO,  
INMATE

NUMBER THREE,  
INMATE

NUMBER FOUR,  
INMATE

NUMBER FIVE,  
INMATE

NUMBER SIX,  
INMATE

NUMBER SEVEN,  
INMATE

NUMBER EIGHT,  
INMATE

NUMBER NINE,  
INMATE

## A P P E A R A N C E S : (CONTINUANCE)

NUMBER ELEVEN,  
INMATE

NUMBER TWELVE,  
INMATE

\* \* \*

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

4

MS. ELDRIDGE: GOOD MORNING, EVERYBODY.

IF YOU WOULD ALL TAKE YOUR SEATS, WE WILL  
BEGIN THIS PROCEEDING.

GOOD MORNING. MY NAME IS RONNIE ELDRIDGE  
AND I AM THE DIRECTOR FOR THE DIVISION OF WOMEN.

WE ARE VERY PLEASED THAT YOU HAVE COME TO  
BEDFORD HILLS CORRECTIONAL FACILITY TO HEAR THE  
TESTIMONY OF WOMEN INITIATES CONCERNING THEIR  
EXPERIENCES WITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

IN THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS WE HAVE COME TO  
RECOGNIZE THERE ARE MANY WOMEN AND GIRLS THAT ARE  
VICTIMS, SUCH AS WIFE BEATINGS, SEXUAL ABUSE AND  
RAPE.

BUT, WE HAVE ONLY BEGUN THIS  
CONSCIOUSNESS AND AWARENESS THROUGH THE EXPERIENCES  
INCARCERATED WOMEN.

THE WOMEN IN THIS INSTITUTION ARE SEEKING A  
WAY TO HELP VICTIMS OF OTHER DOMESTIC VIOLENCE,  
INITIATED THE IDEA FOR THESE HEARINGS IN MEETING  
WITH THE NEW YORK STATE DIVISION FOR WOMEN;

THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND THE GOVERNOR'  
COMMISSION ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND IN CLOSE  
COOPERATION WITH SUPERINTENDENT ELAINE LORD, WE HAVE  
ARRANGED FOR THEM TO TESTIFY ABOUT THEIR EXPERIEN

1  
2 AND THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE WHICH LED TO THEIR  
3 INCARCERATION.

4 FIRST, I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE THE FORMAL  
5 HEARING PANEL.

6 IF WE COULD, WE WILL START WITH COMMISSIONER  
7 RODRIGUEZ. IF YOU WOULD INTRODUCE YOURSELF AND  
8 GIVE US YOUR AFFILIATION, I WOULD APPRECIATE THAT.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: RAMON RODRIGUEZ, CHAIRMAN  
10 OF THE NEW YORK STATE DIVISION OF PAROLE.

11 GOOD MORNING.

12 MS. THELWELL: JEANNE THELWELL, MEMBER OF THE  
13 NEW YORK STATE COMMISSION OF CORRECTIONS.

14 MS. MOORE: ELIZABETH MOORE, FIRST ASSISTANT  
15 COUNSEL TO THE GOVERNOR.

16 MR. COUGHLIN: THOMAS COUGHLIN, COMMISSIONER  
17 OF NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL  
18 SERVICES.

19 MR. CONDON: RICHARD CONDON, DIVISION OF  
20 CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICE.

21 MR. DUNSTON: LEONARD DUNSTON, DIRECTOR OF  
22 NEW YORK STATE DIVISION FOR YOUTH.

23 MS. FIELDS: MARJORIE FIELDS, CO-CHAIR  
24 OF THE GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

25 MS. SHAFFER: GAIL SHAFFER, SECRETARY OF

STATE.

MR. CHRISTIANSON: SCOTT CHRISTIANSON,  
FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE; WHO WILL BE HERE LATER  
TODAY.

MS. BURSTEIN: KAREN BURSTEIN, CHAIR  
IN THE COMMISSION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

MR. SEMIDEI: GOOD MORNING. THE MICROPHONES  
ARE AWFUL.

GOOD MORNING. MY NAME IS JOSEPH SEMIDEI.

I AM THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR THE NEW  
YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND  
FAMILY OF CRIMINAL SERVICES DIVISION.

MR. WUTZER: EDMOND WUTZER, DIRECTOR OF  
NEW YORK STATE DIVISION OF PROBATION AND CORRECTIONAL  
ALTERNATIVES.

MS. MOPHIMER: HELLO. STATE SENATOR  
SUSAN MOPHIMER, 36 SENATE DISTRICT, BASICALLY  
SOUTHERN WESTCHESTER, WHITE PLAINS, MT. VERNON,  
NEW ROCHELLE, THIS AREA.

MS. ELDRIDGE, SENATOR MOPHIMER WILL SIT UNTIL  
SENATOR OLGA MENDEZ ARRIVES.

MS. ELDRIDGE: I WOULD LIKE YOU TO KNOW  
THAT THERE ARE MANY DISTINGUISHED INVITED GUESTS  
REPRESENTING INTERESTED ORGANIZATIONS WHO ARE HER

AS OBSERVERS.

MY ORIGINAL PLAN WAS THAT EACH PERSON  
WOULD GIVE THEIR NAME AND AFFILIATION, BUT I AM  
AFRAID THAT YOUR VOICE MAY NOT BE HEARD.

SHOULD WE EVEN TRY IT?

LET'S TRY IT.

AUDIENCE: NO.

MS. ELDRIDGE: I THINK IT WOULD BE  
INTERESTING FOR EVERYBODY TO KNOW THE ORGANIZATIONS  
AND THE PEOPLE WHO ARE HERE AS OBSERVERS.

IS THERE NOBODY IN THAT GROUP THAT WANTS TO  
BE BRAVE ENOUGH AND LET US HEAR YOUR VOICE  
ONCE AND SEE IF IT WORKS?

MS. MURPHY: CAMIELLE MURPHY, WESTCHESTER  
COUNTY OFFICE FOR WOMEN.

MS. BATE: REPRESENTING SENATOR MARY  
GOODUE.

MS. VERNON: GRACE VERNON, A.C.P. PRISON.

MS BIDEO: IRMA BIDEO, NEW YORK STATE  
DIVISION FOR WOMEN.

MR. BONAIR: STATE ASSEMBLY, HENRY BONAIR,  
REPRESENTING THIS DISTRICT.

THANK YOU.

MS. WAGNER: BONNIE WAGNER, WITH THE

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

8

NEW YORK STATE COLLISION AGAINST DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE.

MS. ACROY: MILDRED ACROY, REPRESENTING  
SENATOR FLYNN.

MS. NOBLE: MAUREEN NOBLE, PROGRAM COORDINATOR  
FOR WOMEN IN CRISES.

MS. BURSTEIN: ANYBODY ELSE WANT TO GO?

MS. GOODMAN: MARILYN GOODMAN, OFFICE OF MENTAL  
HEALTH PARENT AND CHILD EDUCATION PROGRAM.

MS. WALLACE: PHYLLIS WALLACE, MEMBER OF THE  
COMMISSION, ALSO DIRECTOR OF "LIVE"; LET INCEST  
VICTIMS EMERGE, BUT I ALSO COUNSEL WOMEN HERE IN  
THE BEDFORD PRISON.

MS. THENBURDRESS: JONAH THENBURDRESS,  
NEW YORK STATE DEFENDERS ASSOCIATION.

MS. BUCHEN: LOUISE BUCHEN, WOMEN SELF HELP,  
ST. LOUIS, REPRESENTING WOMEN IN ST. LOUIS.

MR. RICHMOND: STEVE RICHMOND, NEW YORK STATE  
DIVISION OF THE BUDGET.

MS. BURGEN: NANCY BURGEN FOR PEOPLE AGAINST  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN PUTNAM COUNTY, AND I ALSO  
REPRESENT W.R.V.C., NEW YORK STATE CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE.

SISTER NURNEY: SISTER MARY NURNEY FROM

PROJECT GREEN HOPE.

MS. QUINN: MARY QUINN, REPRESENTING  
THE D.A.'S ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK.

MS. BIALEY: JOAN BIALEY, REPRESENTING  
MANUAL BERGER.

MS. ELDRIDGE: WE ARE VERY SORRY; THERE  
WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A PANEL MEMBER, AND AS YOU  
KNOW IS THE HEAD OF THE WOMEN'S TRAFFIC FORCE  
AND THE ASSEMBLY, SHILLIAN, COULD NOT BE  
HERE TODAY.

WE MISS HER A LOT TODAY.

WE WERE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN KNOWING  
ALL OF THE PEOPLE WHO WERE HERE, BECAUSE WE EXPECT  
AND HOPE THERE WILL NOT ONLY BE A REPORT ON THE  
INFORMATION THAT WE RECEIVE TODAY, BUT ALSO FOLLOW-  
UP DISCUSSIONS AND MEETINGS AMONG THOSE ATTENDING.

I WOULD LIKE, ALSO, TO THANK SOME OTHER PEOPLE

NEEDLESS TO SAY, WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF  
TOM COUGHLIN, THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONS;  
LAWRENCE CURLANDER, THE COORDINATOR OF CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE; KAREN BURSTEIN, WHO CO-CHAIRS THE COMMISSION  
ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, THIS HEARING WOULD NOT BE  
HAPPENING.

IN ADDITION, I PARTICULARLY WANT TO THANK TH

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

10

PEOPLE WHO INDIVIDUALLY HAVE DONE SO MUCH IN  
PREPARATION FOR TODAY.

SHARLA G. GIROLAMO, WHO IS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
FOR THE COMMISSION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HAS WORKED  
ABLY, PATIENTLY, AND SHE CONTINUES TO COORDINATE  
THIS EFFECT.

JODY GROSSMAN OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
WHO ASSISTED HER WITH THE SAME ABILITY AND  
COMMITMENT.

Linda <sup>Lafferty</sup> ~~LA TRADO~~ AND CARL <sup>LEFROUNT</sup> ~~LAPPORT~~ OF THE  
DIVISION OF WOMEN, MY DEDICATED, ~~ELATED~~  
AND DILIGENT COLLEAGUES.

RUTH <sup>Coswell</sup> ~~COSSELL~~ OF THE PRISONERS OF LEGAL  
SERVICES FOR HER COUNSEL TO THE WOMEN AND HER  
PASSIONATE PARTICIPATION.

BONNIE WAGNER DIRECTOR OF THE ~~COLLISION~~  
AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FOR HER ADVICE AND  
KNOWLEDGE AND SUPPORT.

ELAINE LORD; THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THIS  
FACILITY, WHOSE CALM, STRONG <sup>and lively</sup> LIP AND INTEREST  
MADE THIS EVENT POSSIBLE.

THE CORRECTION OFFICERS AND STAFF OF THIS  
FACILITY WHO HAVE GIVEN THEIR TIME, THEIR DAYS OFF  
AND THEIR EFFORTS AND THEIR ABILITIES, AND, FINAL

1  
2 THE WOMEN OF BEDFORD, THOSE WHO WORKED SO HARD TO  
3 CREATE THIS INCREDIBLE SETTING FOR THIS HEARING,  
4 INCLUDING THESE PLATFORMS.

5 AND THOSE WOMEN WHO RESPONDED TO THE SURVEY IN  
6 PREPARATION FOR THIS HEARING.

7 AND, FINALLY, THOSE WOMEN WHO HAVE DECIDED  
8 TO SHARE THEIR STORIES WITH US IN THEIR EFFORT TO  
9 HELP OTHERS.

10 THIS HAS TAKEN GREAT EFFORT AND COURAGE.

11 WE ASK YOU ALL TO RESPECT THOSE TESTIFYING  
12 WHO WISH TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS BY NOT REVEALING THEIR  
13 NAMES AND FACES.

14 I WOULD LIKE NOW TO TURN THE CHAIR OVER  
15 TO KAREN BURSTEIN, WHO IS THE CO-CHAIR OF THE  
16 DIVISION AND WILL CONTINUE WITH THE PROCEEDING.

17 MS. BURSTEIN: BEFORE I MAKE A VERY BRIEF  
18 STATEMENT ABOUT THE CONTEXT OF THIS HEARING,  
19 I JUST THOUGHT I MIGHT WANT TO ASK COMMISSIONER  
20 COUGHLIN TO SAY A FEW WORDS.

21 MR. COUGHLIN: THANK YOU, KAREN.

22 I WOULD JUST LIKE TO WELCOME YOU ALL TO  
23 BEDFORD HILLS AND TO GIVE A SPECIAL "THANKS" TO  
24 ELAINE LORD AND THE STAFF AND INMATES HERE WHO  
25 HAVE REALLY WORKED HARD TO MAKE THIS DAY A MEMORABLE

ONE.

THANK YOU.

MS. BURSTEIN: THANK YOU VERY MUCH, TOM.

"A WOMAN IS NOT LIKE A JUG, SHE WON'T  
CRACK IF YOU HIT HER A COUPLE OF TIMES."

THAT'S AN OLD RUSSIAN PROVERB, AND IT SEEMS  
TO ME, AND TO ALL OF US HERE, THE TONE WHICH HAS  
MARRED SOME OF THE DISCUSSION ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE,  
TO THE EXTENT THAT THERE WAS A DISCUSSION FOR MANY  
YEARS.

THIS IS AN ISSUE THAT HAS A LONG AND UGLY  
HISTORY.

AN ISSUE WHERE SUPPORT HAS BEEN FOR THE  
VICTIMIZER AND THE VICTIM HAS BEEN TWICE HARMED.

ONCE, BECAUSE SHE, AND USUALLY, MOST  
INVARIABLY, SHE WAS SPOKEN TO AND BECAUSE SHE WAS  
THEN BLAMED FOR THE BEATING.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS THE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES,  
VIOLENT ACTIVITIES OF OFFENSE FROM HARRASSMENT,  
TO STABBING, TO MURDER, THAT CAN OCCUR BETWEEN  
MEMBERS OF A FAMILY; BETWEEN SPOUSES, BETWEEN PEOPLE  
WHO LIVE TOGETHER AS SPOUSES, BETWEEN PARENTS AND  
CHILDREN, BOTH ELDERLY PARENTS AND SMALL CHILDREN  
IN THE PLACE WHICH IS SUPPOSED TO BE THE SAFEST OF

ALL, THE HOME.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WAS A SUBJECT CLOSETED  
FOR A VERY LONG TIME.

INDEED, ONE OF THE FIRST BOOKS EVERY  
WRITTEN ABOUT IT WAS ENTITLED "SCREAM QUIETLY  
OR THE NEIGHBORS WILL HEAR."

WE HAVE BEGUN IN NEW YORK STATE TO ALLOW  
PEOPLE TO TALK ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THEIR LIVES  
AND TO FIND SOLUTIONS, SO THAT THE VIOLENCE DOESN'T  
HAVE TO CONTINUE.

WE BEGAN FORMERLY IN THIS STATE A LITTLE MORE  
THAN TEN YEARS AGO, WHEN MARJORIE FIELDS, MY CO-  
CHAIRPERSON, AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF BROOKLYN LEGAL  
SERVICES, CAME TO THEN SENATOR CAROL BELAMY,  
AND ME TO ASK US IF THEY WOULD SPONSOR LEGISLATION  
THAT WOULD SHIFT THE TREATMENT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
FROM FAMILY COURT HANDLING, WHICH MADE IT AN OFFENSE  
OF A SOCIOLOGICAL PROPOSITION TO AN OFFENSE WHERE  
A VICTIM MIGHT SAY, "I WANT THE COUNSELLING THE  
FAMILY COURT MAKES AVAILABLE, " OR, "I WANT THIS  
HANDLED AS ANY CRIMINAL MATTER SHOULD BE, IN THE  
CRIMINAL COURTS."

IN THAT YEAR AFTER WE MOVED THIS  
LEGISLATION, WE WERE ALSO ABLE TO CREATE LEGISLATIO

1  
2 THAT MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR PARENTS AND THEIR  
3 CHILDREN TO BE IN A SHELTER TOGETHER.

4 SINCE THAT TIME, AS A RESULT OF THE COMMITMENT  
5 OF THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE AND GOVERNOR  
6 CAREY AND NOW GOVERNOR CUOMO, WE HAVE ADDRESSED  
7 THIS MATTER, OF ENORMOUS PROPORTION, IN A NUMBER  
8 OF PRODUCTIVE WAYS.

9 THE COMMISSION, WHICH HAS FORTY-FIVE  
10 MEMBERS, MANY OF WHOM ARE HERE TODAY, IS RESPONSIBLE  
11 FOR TRAINING MATERIALS IN HOSPITAL ROOMS AND  
12 HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOMS.

13 HELPING WITH EMPLOYEES' TRAINING.

14 IT IS RESPONSIBLE, WITH THE HEALTH DEPART-  
15 MENT OF PROTOCOL, TO IDENTIFY VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC  
16 VIOLENCE IN THE HOSPITAL SETTING FOR MATERIALS;

17 CURRICULUM MATERIALS IN THE SCHOOLS, AND  
18 FOR A RANGE OF LEGISLATIVE APPROACHES TO  
19 THE PROBLEM.

20 BUT, THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS THAT WE HAVE  
21 NOT GONE FAR ENOUGH.

22 WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

23 WE KNOW THAT THE INCIDENT IS ENORMOUS.

24 WE KNOW THAT ONE IN EVERY TWO FAMILIES  
25 EXPERIENCES SOME DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

1  
2 WE KNOW THAT ABOUT THIRTY PERCENT OF WOMEN  
3 IN FAMILIES IN AMERICA EXPERIENCE SERIOUS  
4 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

5 WE KNOW THAT SEVENTY PERCENT OF HOMICIDES  
6 NATIONWIDE OCCUR BETWEEN FAMILY MEMBERS.

7 WE ALSO KNOW THAT IT CROSSES EVERY CULTURAL  
8 AND CLASS AND RACIAL LINE.

9 ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS WE DID IN THE  
10 ASSEMBLY HEARINGS UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF STANLEY  
11 STIGGEN WAS HEAR TESTIMONY FROM PEOPLE WHO SAID,  
12 "MY HUSBAND, THE MINISTER, AND RABBI" --- "THE  
13 MINISTER OR RABBI," EXCUSE ME, "MY HUSBAND, THE  
14 POLICE OFFICER, DID THIS TO ME."

15 IT ISN'T A COMFORTABLE MYTH THAT WE HAVE TO  
16 DEAL WITH.

17 IT IS A COMPLICATED AND FRIGHTENING REALITY  
18 THAT IT IS ALL OVER AND THAT YOU CANNOT TURN YOUR  
19 HEAD FROM IT.

20 FINALLY, WE KNOW THAT IT IS A CYCLE.

21 WE KNOW THAT PEOPLE WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED  
22 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THEIR YOUNG LIVES MAY REPEAT  
23 IT EITHER TO BECOME BATTERED SPOUSES OR TO BECOME  
24 BATTERERS.

25 ONE OTHER THING YOU HAVE TO THINK ABOUT WHEN

THE WOMEN MAKE THEIR STATEMENTS.

WE KNOW THAT PEOPLE WHO ARE BATTERED, WOMEN WHO ARE BATTERED AND THERE IS NO ACCIDENT THAT IT IS MOSTLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN AND FRAIL, ELDERLY PEOPLE WHO ARE THE VICTIMS OF THIS OFFENSE.

WE KNOW THAT THEY TEND TO BE ISOLATED.

THAT THERE IS ENORMOUS ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE ON THE BATTERER. SO ESCAPE IS VERY HARD.

WE KNOW THAT AFTER A WHILE THEY CLOSE OFF FROM SHOWING FEELING BECAUSE FEELING IS SO DANGEROUS BECAUSE IF YOU SMILE YOU MAY GET HIT AND IF YOU FROWN YOU MAY GET HIT.

IF YOU DON'T MAKE THE EGGS RIGHT IN THE MORNING YOU MAY GET HIT AND IF YOU DON'T MAKE BREAKFAST AT ALL, YOU MAY GET HIT.

WHAT DO WE EXPECT AT THIS HEARING?

WE DON'T EXPECT MIRACLES AT THIS HEARING, BUT WE EXPECT CONSCIOUSNESS TO BE RAISED.

WE EXPECT PEOPLE WHO ARE LISTENING; PEOPLE IN THE POWER STRUCTURE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK; PEOPLE WHO MAKE POLICY IN THE PUBLIC WILL HEAR THIS THROUGH THE MEDIA; WE EXPECT THEM TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE LINE BETWEEN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND CRIMINAL VIOLENCE IS NONEXISTENT.

1  
2 US. THAT PURPOSE IS TO HEIGHTEN THE AWARENESS OF  
3 THE GREAT NUMBER OF FAMILIES IN WHICH THERE IS,  
4 OR HAS BEEN, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SO THAT WE MAY HELP  
5 PUT AN END TO THIS VIOLENCE. PEOPLE NEED TO BE  
6 EDUCATED TO THE FACT THAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DOES  
7 EXIST, AND THAT IT TRANSCENDS ALL RACE OR CLASS  
8 BARRIERS, AND THAT IT IS A PERVASIVE AND INVASIVE  
9 FORCE, THAT, IF NOT BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF  
10 THE PUBLIC, WILL GROW, AND WORSEN.

11 WOMEN WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
12 NEED TO KNOW THAT THEY ARE NOT ALONE. THEY NEED  
13 TO BE MADE AWARE THAT THEY SHOULD SEEK HELP, AND  
14 THEY NEED TO BE MADE AWARE OF WHAT AVENUES OF HELP  
15 ARE, INDEED, AVAILABLE TO THEM. THEY NEED TO KNOW,  
16 ABOVE ALL, THAT THERE ARE ALTERNATIVES TO STRIKING  
17 BACK; PEACEFUL ALTERNATIVES WITH CONSTRUCTIVE RESULTS.

18 TOO OFTEN, WOMEN HIDE, FROM THEMSELVES AND  
19 OTHERS, THE PROBLEM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, PRETENDING  
20 THAT IT DOES NOT EXIST FOR THEM. THEY DO THIS OUT  
21 OF FEAR OF RIDICULE FROM FAMILY AND FRIENDS, OUT  
22 OF SHAME AND EMBARRASSMENT, OR OUT OF IGNORANCE;  
23 AN ABUSED WOMAN MAY NOT KNOW WHERE TO TURN FOR  
24 HELP. ON THE OTHER HAND, SOME ABUSED WOMEN HAVE  
25 SOUGHT HELP, ONLY TO HAVE HAD THE SYSTEM FAIL THEM,

1  
2 AS IS THE CASE WITH SO MANY OF THE WOMEN HERE TODAY.  
3 AN ABUSED WOMAN OFTEN IS FRUSTRATED INTO FEELING  
4 THAT SHE HAS REACHED AN IMPASSE, AND THAT HER ONLY  
5 SOURCE OF HELP MUST COME FROM HERSELF. DEVASTATING  
6 CONSEQUENCES OFTEN OCCUR WHEN A WOMAN, AFTER REPEATED  
7 ATTACKS OF ABUSE, RETALIATES WITH VIOLENCE.

8 INCREASED SOURCES OF HELP FROM GOVERNMENT  
9 AGENCIES; EXPANDED KNOWLEDGE OF THESE SOURCES OF  
10 HELP AND THE METHODS OF SEEKING THEM; THE REMOVAL  
11 OF THE SHAME, THE EMBARRASSMENT, THE STIGMA ATTACHED  
12 TO BEING AN ABUSED WOMAN; ALL OF THESE THINGS MUST  
13 OCCUR, IF WE ARE TO BREAK THE SELF-PERPETUATING  
14 CYCLE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. YOU WILL HEAR, OVER  
15 AND OVER AGAIN, THAT THESE SAME FACTORS RECUR AS  
16 COMMON DEMONINATORS IN THE TESTIMONIES PRESENTED  
17 TODAY. THE STORIES ARE ALL UNIQUE, BUT THE SAME  
18 IMPEDIMENTS PREVENTED THESE WOMEN FROM GETTING THE  
19 HELP THAT THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GET.

20 THE WOMEN TESTIFYING HERE TODAY ARE DOING  
21 SO BECAUSE THEY WANT TO HELP BREAK THAT CYCLE OF  
22 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. THEY ARE THE VICTIMS OF  
23 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. IF SUCCESSFUL HELP HAD BEEN  
24 OBTAINED FOR THESE WOMEN, THEY WOULD NOT BE HERE  
25 TODAY.

IT IS THE SAME CONTINUUM.

WE EXPECT THEM TO UNDERSTAND AND TO BEGIN  
TO REALIZE THAT IT IS ENORMOUS AND COSTLY FOR US  
TO TURN OUR HEADS.

THAT EVERY TIME WE DO, WE HAVE GOT KIDS IN  
FOSTER CARE AND KIDS ACTING OUT ON THE STREET, AND  
MEN AND WOMEN IN PRISONS IN THIS STATE.

WE ALSO WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW THAT THERE ARE  
POINTS OF INTERVENTION, AND IF WE MAKE THAT INTER-  
VENTION EARLY ENOUGH, WE CAN STOP THE VIOLENCE AND  
REPAIR PEOPLES' LIVES.

GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO RESUME LIVES OF  
STRENGTH AND DIGNITY AND PURPOSE.

FINALLY, WE WANT ALL OF US, TO UNDERSTAND  
THAT IT WILL COST SOME MONEY NOW, TO PRODUCE THE  
SERVICES WE NEED FOR THE WOMEN.

WE WILL HEAR FROM AND FOR THE WOMEN WHO  
AREN'T HERE YET, OR HOPEFULLY WILL NEVER BE, AND FOR  
THEIR KIDS, SO THAT ONE DAY WE DON'T HAVE THE  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, WE DON'T HAVE THIS CRIME.

IT IS ONE THAT WE CAN PREVENT, IF WE WILL  
BE WILLING TO HEAR THOSE WHO HAVE SUFFERED FROM  
IT AND TO LEARN THE CRITICAL LESSONS OF THEIR  
TESTIMONY NOW.

WE WILL BE CALLING THE WITNESSES BY NUMBER.

I THINK YOU KNOW IN THE PRESS THE INTEREST  
OF EACH IN FOLLOW-UP.

ALSO, I WILL ASK MY COLLEAGUES ON THE PANEL  
WHO WISH TO ASK QUESTIONS AFTER THE TESTIMONY OF  
EACH OF THE WITNESSES SIMPLY TO RAISE THEIR HANDS,  
SIMPLY SO I CAN SEE.

NUMBER ONE?

NUMBER ONE: WHAT YOU ARE ABOUT TO HEAR  
TODAY IS THE CULMINATION OF MANY MONTHS OF PLANNING  
AND HARD WORK. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME A PUBLIC  
HEARING ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HAS EVER BEEN HELD  
INSIDE A PRISON FACILITY. REPRESENTATIVES FROM  
THE COMMISSION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, THE NEW YORK  
STATE DIVISION FOR WOMEN, THE DEPARTMENT OF  
CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, THE COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE, PRISONERS' LEGAL SERVICES, THE ADMINISTRATION  
HERE, AND, OF COURSE, THE WOMEN HERE AT BEDFORD  
HILLS CORRECTIONAL FACILITY, HAVE COLLABORATED WITH  
US, GUIDED US, SUPPORTED US, AND LIVED THROUGH SOME  
PRETTY HORRENDOUS MEMORIES WITH US, THROUGHOUT THE  
PREPARATION OF THE TESTIMONIES YOU ARE ABOUT TO  
HEAR.

THIS HARD WORK HAS A PURPOSE FOR EACH OF

1  
2 WHAT YOU ARE ABOUT TO HEAR ARE TRUE STORIES.  
3 THESE ARE NOT MERELY WORDS; THEY ARE A PART OF OUR  
4 LIVES. A LOT OF TIME, HARD WORK, AND HEART-WRENCHING  
5 EMOTIONS, HAVE BEEN POURED INTO THESE TESTIMONIES.  
6 WHAT YOU WILL HEAR MAY UPSET YOU. YOU MAY BE ABLE  
7 TO RELATE TO WHAT YOU WILL HEAR, YOU MAY NOT. YOU  
8 MAY EMPATHIZE WITH WHAT YOU WILL HEAR. YOU MAY  
9 BECOME SAD. YOU MAY BECOME ANGRY. WHATEVER EMOTIONS  
10 THESE TESTIMONIES AROUSE IN YOU, YOU WILL THINK;  
11 YOU WILL FEEL; YOU WILL LEARN. HOPEFULLY, YOU  
12 WILL ACT AND REACT.

13 WE NEED THE UNDERSTANDING, THE SUPPORT, AND  
14 THE EFFORTS OF YOU, THE PUBLIC, TO HELP US EFFECT  
15 CHANGES. MORE AND EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS ARE NEEDED  
16 TO HELP BATTERED WOMEN. WOMEN MUST BE EDUCATED,  
17 AT AN EARLY AGE, TO KNOW WHAT CONSTITUTES ABUSE,  
18 AND TO KNOW THAT THEY DO NOT HAVE TO ENDURE IT.  
19 WOMEN MUST BE MADE AWARE OF PROGRAMS THAT DO EXIST,  
20 AND HOW TO GET HELP FROM THEM. WOMEN MUST ALSO  
21 BE MADE AWARE THAT THEY ARE NOT ALONE AS VICTIMS  
22 OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, AND THAT ADMITTING TO BEING  
23 A VICTIM IS NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF. AFTER  
24 MUCH SOUL-SEARCHING, THE WOMEN TESTIFYING HERE TODAY  
25 HAVE COME TO REALIZE THIS. WE KNOW THAT THE

1  
2 COMMUNICATION OF THEIR EXPERIENCES, AS DESCRIBED  
3 IN THE TESTIMONIES YOU ARE ABOUT TO HEAR, WILL  
4 ENLIGHTEN EVERYONE WHO SHARES IN LISTENING TO THEM.

5 THANK YOU.

6 MS. BURSTEIN: THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

7 NUMBER TWO?

8 NUMBER TWO: YES.

9 MS. BURSTEIN: WE GET NERVOUS LOOKING  
10 AT YOU. WE THINK YOU MIGHT FALL OFF.

11 YOU HAVE ENOUGH ROOM THERE?

12 NUMBER TWO: YES.

13 ALL RIGHT. I WOULD FIRST LIKE TO SAY THANK  
14 YOU TO ALL OF THE WOMEN WHO WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR  
15 MAKING THIS HEARING.

16 MS. BURSTEIN: SPEAK A LITTLE MORE SLOWLY  
17 AND PERHAPS YOU CAN LIFT THE MIKE A BIT; BECAUSE  
18 IT'S REALLY CRITICAL THAT WE HEAR ALL OF THIS.

19 NUMBER TWO: ALL RIGHT.

20 I WOULD FIRST LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU TO ALL  
21 OF THE WOMEN WHO WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING THIS  
22 HEARING POSSIBLE.

23 I'M FORTY-TWO YEARS OLD. PRIOR TO THIS ARREST  
24 I HAD NEVER BEEN CONVICTED OR COMMITTED A CRIME  
25 IN MY LIFE. HAVING TAKEN A PLEA TO MANSLAUGHTER,

1  
2 I'M NOW SERVING A SENTENCE OF SIX TO EIGHTEEN  
3 YEARS FOR THE DEATH OF MY HUSBAND. WE WERE MARRIED  
4 FOR TWENTY-ONE YEARS.

5 I WAS A BATTERED WOMAN, BOTH PHYSICALLY  
6 AND MENTALLY. PHYSICALLY ABUSED TO THE POINT WHERE  
7 I HAD TO BE TAKEN TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM ON MORE  
8 THAN ONE OCCASION. MOST OF THE TIME I WOULD LIE  
9 ABOUT HOW THESE INJURIES OCCURRED. I LIED OUT OF  
10 SHAME. BELIEVING I WAS THE CAUSE FOR THESE BEATINGS.  
11 THE ONE TIME I DID TELL THE DOCTOR, "MY HUSBAND BEAT  
12 ME," I WAS TOLD BY THAT DOCTOR, "YOU SHOULD DO  
13 SOMETHING ABOUT THIS."

14 WHAT SHOULD I HAVE DONE?

15 I WASN'T EVEN AWARE THAT I NEEDED HELP.

16 DOES THE ALCOHOLIC KNOW HE/SHE NEEDS HELP?

17 THERE WASN'T EVEN A SOCIAL WORKER IN THE  
18 EMERGENCY ROOM TO TALK TO ME.

19 ONE NIGHT MY HUSBAND STARTED AN ARGUMENT  
20 WITH ME ON THE ROOF OF A FIVE-STORY BUILDING. HE  
21 GRABBED ME AROUND THE NECK AND FLUNG MY ENTIRE  
22 BODY OVER THE SIDE OF THE ROOF. NO WORDS COULD  
23 DESCRIBE THE TERROR THAT PASSED THROUGH MY MIND.  
24 I HAVE NO IDEA HOW LONG HE HELD ME THERE, OR WHAT  
25 WAS SAID. I DO KNOW I'LL REMEMBER THAT FEELING

FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.

WHAT CAUSED THESE BEATINGS? ANY OF THE  
BELOW COULD HAVE CAUSED A BEATING.

1. MY TWO-YEAR OLD SON FALLING OFF A CHAIR  
AND MY HUSBAND WANTING TO KNOW WHERE I WAS WHEN  
HE FELL.

2. GETTING HOME TEN MINUTES LATE.

3. MY BROTHER DRIVING ME HOME FROM MY MOTHER'  
HOUSE, AND MY HUSBAND WANTING TO KNOW WHY MY BROTHER  
HAD TO DRIVE ME HOME.

BUT EVERY BEATING REALLY STEMMED FROM A "SICK  
JEALOUSY." A JEALOUSY THAT WAS TOTALLY UNCALLED  
FOR. WHICH I MUST ADD, NO REASON JUSTIFIES PHYSICAL  
ABUSE.

AFTER THESE BEATINGS, MY HUSBAND WOULD BE  
VERY SORRY AND LOVING TOWARDS ME. HE WOULD ALWAYS  
SAY, "I'M SORRY." AND "WHY ARE YOU STILL MADE AT  
ME?"

HE COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY I WOULD TURN MY  
BACK TO HIM WHEN HE MADE SEXUAL ADVANCES TOWARDS  
ME. MY DOING THIS USUALLY CAUSED ANOTHER ARGUMENT.  
HE WOULD THEN ACCUSE ME OF HAVING A LOVER, AND I  
WOULD GET ANOTHER BEATING.

I WOULD ASK MYSELF MANY TIMES, "WHY DO I

1  
2 THE BATTERING OF WOMEN TENDS TO GO FROM ONE  
3 GENERATION TO THE NEXT. ONE WOULD ALMOST BELIEVE  
4 IT'S HEREDITARY. IT'S NOT. IN MOST CASES IT'S  
5 A "REINFORCED CONDITIONING."

6 AFTER A PARENT ABUSES A CHILD THEY SUFFER  
7 GUILT, AND TELL THE CHILD HOW SORRY THEY ARE AND  
8 HOW THEY LOVE THEM. THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF A  
9 "CONDITIONING" FOR THAT CHILD. THIS CONDITIONING  
10 GOES ON AND IT'S REINFORCED AGAIN WHEN THE LITTLE  
11 BOY AT SCHOOL PULLS YOUR DAUGHTER'S HAIR OR HITS  
12 HER. SHE'S TOLD, "OH, THE BOY LIKES YOU."

13 IF OUR DAUGHTERS GROW UP BELIEVING ABUSE  
14 IS A SIGN OF AFFECTION, THEY WILL BE OUR BATTERED  
15 WOMEN OF TOMORROW.

16 THANK YOU.

17 MS. BURSTEIN: THANK YOU, VERY MUCH.

18 ARE YOU OKAY?

19 CAN YOU TAKE A QUESTION?

20 NUMBER TWO: YES.

21 MR. SEMIDEI: OUT OF THE TWENTY-ONE YEARS  
22 OF MARRIAGE, WHEN DID THE PHYSICAL ABUSE START?

23 NUMBER TWO: IMMEDIATELY.

24 MR. SEMIDEI: WAS IT THERE BEFORE COURTSHIP,  
25 EVEN; ABUSE?

1  
2 NUMBER TWO: I MARRIED MY HUSBAND WHEN I  
3 WAS NINETEEN YEARS OLD.

4 HE WAS MY BOYFRIEND FROM WHEN I WAS THIRTEEN  
5 YEARS OLD, AND AS A CHILD OF THIRTEEN, YES, HE WAS  
6 ABUSING ME AND ENJOYING IT; LITTLE PUNCHES HERE,  
7 LITTLE SMACKS HERE. THAT'S A START OF ABUSE THAT  
8 I WASN'T EVEN AWARE OF.

9 SO, AFTER YOU'RE MARRIED, THE LITTLE SMACKS  
10 BECAME PUNCHES AND IT JUST CONTINUED AND GOES ON  
11 AND ON AND BECOMES BIGGER AND BIGGER.

12 MR. SEMIDEI: YOU ALSO STATED THAT THE PEOPLE  
13 AROUND YOU THOUGHT THAT THAT WAS NORMAL AT THE TIME?

14 NUMBER TWO: YES.

15 MR. SEMIDEI: HOW LONG DID IT TAKE YOU DURING  
16 THE LIFE OF THE MARRIAGE WHEN YOU FINALLY, AFTER  
17 BEING ABUSED DID YOU WAKE UP TO THE FACT THAT THIS  
18 WAS DESPERATELY WRONG AND THAT YOU HAD TO DO SOMETHING  
19 ABOUT IT?

20 NUMBER TWO: MY HUSBAND BEAT ME FOR EIGHT  
21 YEARS, PHYSICALLY, PHYSICAL BEATINGS FOR EIGHT YEARS.

22 AFTER THE EIGHT YEARS WAS OVER, THE NEXT  
23 TEN I WAS A VERY NICE LITTLE TRAINED PUPPY-DOG.

24 I KNEW EXACTLY HOW TO BEHAVE.

25 I KNEW EXACTLY WHAT TO DO AND HOW TO DO IT

1  
2 AND WHAT NOT TO DO AND WHAT TO SAY.

3 WE WERE JUST FINE.

4 HE SAID, "JUMP." I KNEW HOW HIGH.

5 AFTER THOSE -- THAT WAS TEN YEARS LIKE THAT.

6 AFTER THOSE TEN YEARS PASSED, THEN IT BECAME  
7 PHYSICAL -- REALLY LIKE A MENTAL -- THOSE LAST  
8 THREE YEARS WERE SO BAD THAT THE YEAR AND A HALF  
9 BEFORE I BECAME INCARCERATED I WAS SEEING A  
10 PSYCHOLOGIST, BECAUSE THE MENTAL ABUSE THAT GETS  
11 DONE, WE DON'T FALL APART.

12 YOU KNOW A PUNCH DOESN'T MAKE US FALL APART  
13 AND THOSE DIDN'T DO HALF THE DAMAGE THAT THE MENTAL  
14 ABUSE DID.

15 MR. SEMIDEI: HOW DID THE CONDITIONING THAT  
16 YOU SUFFERED, WHERE IN A SENSE YOU ALREADY ATTUNED  
17 TO SERVING HIM SO YOU WOULDN'T GET HIT, HOW DID  
18 THAT IMPACT ON YOUR MOTHERING OF CHILDREN?

19 NUMBER TWO: EXCUSE ME?

20 MR. SEMIDEI: IN OTHER WORDS, IF YOU WERE  
21 CONSTANTLY TERRIFIED BY THIS MAN, YOUR HUSBAND,  
22 IN A SENSE ALWAYS BEING ATTUEND TO ANYTHING THAT  
23 HE SAYS, SO YOU WOULDN'T GET HIM MAD HOW DID THAT  
24 IMPACT ON YOUR MOTHERING ROLE TOWARDS THE CHILDREN?

25 WHAT WAS THE EMOTIONAL ATMOSPHERE AS YOU

1  
2 WENT ABOUT YOUR MOTHERLY ROLE, TAKING CARE OF THE  
3 CHILDREN, IMPACT ON YOUR ABILITY TO TAKE CARE OF  
4 THE CHILDREN?

5 NUMBER TWO: IF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT MY  
6 CHILDREN, MY HUSBAND WAS VERY GOOD.

7 MY HUSBAND VERY SELDOM WOULD EVER -- HE  
8 NEVER BEAT ME IN FRONT OF MY CHILDREN.

9 HE WAS A PERFECT FATHER, FOR HIS -- HE WAS  
10 THE PERFECT FATHER.

11 HE BEAT ME ANY TIME THAT THEY WERE NOT AROUND.  
12 HE NEVER FORGOT SOMETHING THAT MADE HIM ANGRY, BECAUSE  
13 IT WOULD COME UP LATER.

14 OH, HE WAS GOOD AT IT.

15 HE WAS LIKED BY EVERYBODY.

16 HIS CHILDREN THOUGHT THAT HE WAS -- NO, IT  
17 DIDN'T AFFECT MY CHILDREN.

18 I HAVE FOUR GROWN CHILDREN. THREE ARE MARRIED  
19 AND THEY ARE FINE.

20 MR. SEMIDEI: THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

21 MS. BURSTEIN: EXCUSE ME. I AM SORRY.  
22 WE HAVE ONE MORE QUESTION.

23 MS. FIELDS: HOW OLD ARE YOUR CHILDREN  
24 NOW?

25 NUMBER TWO: TWENTY-SIX, TWENTY-FIVE, TWENTY

1  
2 TWO, AND TWENTY-ONE.

3 MS. FIELDS: SO THAT BY THE TIME YOU CAME  
4 HERE THEY WERE ALREADY OUT OF THE HOME?

5 NUMBER TWO: YES.

6 THREE WERE MARRIED. I WAS LEFT WITH  
7 MY YOUNGEST NINETEEN YEAR OLD.

8 MS. FIELDS: YOU BELIEVE YOUR CHILDREN WERE  
9 NOT AFFECTED AT ALL BY VIOLENCE?

10 NUMBER TWO: THAT IS HARD TO ANSWER BECAUSE  
11 UP UNTIL THIS HAPPENED, I DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING WRONG  
12 I THINK DEFINITELY NOW MY CHILDREN NEED HELP,  
13 DESPERATELY.

14 I HAVE ONE, MY YOUNGEST. HE IS TWENTY-ONE,  
15 HE NEEDS HELP BADLY AND I DON'T KNOW HOW TO REACH  
16 HIM.

17 MS. FIELDS: HOW WERE YOUR CHILDREN AFFECTED  
18 NOW THAT YOU LOOK BACK?

19 HOW DO YOU KNOW THEY WERE AFFECTED BY THE  
20 VIOLENCE THAT YOU SAY YOU DIDN'T KNOW EXISTED?

21 NUMBER TWO: I NEVER SEEN ANYTHING.

22 MY CHILDREN ALWAYS SEEMED FINE TO ME.  
23 THEY NEVER HAD -- I THINK I WOULD HAVE BEEN VERY  
24 AWARE IF THEY HAD ANY PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS.

25 I WAS VERY IN TUNE WITH IT BECAUSE OF MYSELF.

1  
2 I RAISED MY DAUGHTERS, PARTICULARLY, AND  
3 BOTH OF MY SONS TO BECOME VERY AWARE OF PERSONAL  
4 RESPECT FOR THEMSELVES AND DIGNITY AND PRIDE.

5 I MADE A VERY BIG ISSUE OF IT BECAUSE OF  
6 MYSELF.

7 I NEVER SEEN ANYTHING THAT I WOULD -- I WOULD  
8 HAVE BROUGHT THEM FOR HELP IF I THOUGHT IN ANY WAY  
9 THIS WAS AFFECTING THEM.

10 THEY DIDN'T SHOW ANY OF IT.

11 MS. FIELDS: THEY NEVER SAW BRUISES OR MARKS  
12 ON YOU?

13 NUMBER TWO: THAT, THEY DID.

14 THAT, THEY DID, YES.

15 MS. FIELDS: HOW DID YOU DEAL WITH THAT?

16 NUMBERTWO: IT IS A FUNNY THING, MOST PEOPLE  
17 DON'T QUESTION IT.

18 I THINK CHILDREN MOSTLY WOULD NEVER QUESTION  
19 THEIR MOTHER.

20 THEN, WITHOUT SAYING IT, OR -- I JUST THINK  
21 THAT THEY KNOW.

22 MY CHILDREN NEVER ASKED ME. IF THEY DID,  
23 I ANSWERED THEM LIKE I ANSWERED EVERYBODY ELSE;

24 "I FELL DOWN."

25 AFTER THEY HEAR IT THE FIRST TIME THEY USUALLY

DON'T ASK ANY MORE, IN MY CASE.

THEY NEVER ASKED ANY MORE. IT WAS LIKE A FORBIDDEN QUESTION, YOU DON'T WALK INTO MOMMY'S BEDROOM. THEY JUST KNOW THEY DON'T DO CERTAIN THINGS AND QUESTIONING ABOUT A BLACK EYE, BRUISES OR CUTS, THEY NEVER QUESTIONED IT NO MORE.

MS. FIELDS: ALL RIGHT.

THANK YOU.

MS. SHAFFER: I BELIEVE YOU MENTIONED YOU HAD BEEN HOSPITALIZED THREE TIMES IN THE EMERGENCY ROOM, AS A RESULT OF BEATINGS.

NUMBER TWO: I WAS TAKEN TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM. I WASN'T HOSPITALIZED.

MS. SHAFFER: THERE WAS NO ONE THERE IN THE EMERGENCY ROOM?

DID YOU, AFTER THOSE INCIDENTS, TRY TO APPROACH ANY AGENCIES OR COMMUNITY GROUPS THAT MIGHT HELP; AND WHAT KIND OF ATTITUDES DID YOU INCOUNT, IF YOU DID SO?

NUMBER TWO: I DIDN'T SEEK ANYBODY BECAUSE I JUST FELL.

AGAIN, AFTER ANY BEATINGS, I REALLY BELIEVED HIS "I'M SORRIES," AND I REALLY BELIEVED IT WOULDN'T HAPPEN AGAIN.

1  
2 MS. SHAFFER: ALL RIGHT.

3 THANK YOU.

4 MS. THELWELL: YOU MUST FORGIVE US,  
5 ALL OF US. ALL OF YOU, IF WE SOUND AS THOUGH WE  
6 ARE PRYING INTO YOUR LIVES, BUT WE DESPERATELY  
7 WANT TO UNDERSTAND.

8 WHAT KIND OF RELATIONSHIP DO YOU HAVE NOW  
9 WITH YOUR CHILDREN?

10 NUMBER TWO: I HAVE NEVER ONCE BEEN ASKED  
11 BY ANY OF MY CHILDREN WHAT HAPPENED; WHY, ANYTHING.  
12 NOTHING AT ALL.

13 THEY TELL ME THAT THEY LOVE ME.

14 MY YOUNGEST ONE. I'M HAVING A SERIOUS PROBLEM  
15 WITH. HE CHOSE JUST TO GO OFF TO FLORIDA.

16 IT IS HARD.

17 THE COMFORTABLENESS WITH THEM IS HARD.

18 I DON'T KNOW WHAT I CAN SAY. I DON'T KNOW  
19 WHAT I SHOULD SAY. IT IS JUST HARD.

20 MS. THELWELL: SO, THE PATTERN OF NOT SEEING  
21 IT AND NOT SPEAKING ABOUT IT PRIVATELY HAS  
22 CONTINUED.

23 NUMBER TWO: TALKING TO MY FAMILY ABOUT IT,  
24 MY SISTERS AND MY FAMILY HAVE SAID TO ME, BECAUSE  
25 I WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT THEM NEVER SAYING NOTHING

TO ME. THEY NEVER ASK ME. DON'T THEY WANT TO?  
DON'T THEY WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPEENED; WHY, AND  
I HAVE BEEN TOLD BY MANY PEOPLE, "DON'T YOU THINK  
THEY KNOW WHY?"

YOU, AS THEIR MOTHER.

I WOULD LIKE TO BELIEVE THAT I RAISED THEM  
PROTECTED FROM ALL OF THIS. THAT THIS WAS ALL  
HIDDEN FROM THEM.

SO, THIS -- YOU KNOW, I KEEP THINKING THAT  
THIS CAME AS A SHOCK TO THEM. I DON'T THINK THAT  
IT DID.

ALTHOUGH THEY DON'T SAY NOTHING, I JUST DON'T  
THINK THAT THEY DO.

MS. THELWELL: WHAT KIND OF SUPPORT -- NOT  
WHAT KIND OF SUPPORTS COULD YOU USE NOW IN YOUR  
SITUATION, THERE ARE A SERIES OF PROBLEMS HERE.

WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP WOMEN NOT LIVE THROUGH  
THE KIND OF LIFE THAT YOU HAD AND NOT COME TO THE  
KIND OF CONCLUSION THAT YOU DID.

BUT, WE ALSO HAVE THE RPROBLEM OF WHAT WE  
CAN DO FOR YOU, NOW.

WHAT KINDS OF THINGS COULD WE DO FOR YOU?

NUMBER TWO: I HAVE FOUND THIS HERE GROUP  
OF WOMEN THAT I HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH OVER THESE

1  
2 WEEKS, TALKING WITH ONE ANOTHER I HAVE FOUND  
3 THIS PARTICULAR GROUP TO BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL TO  
4 PROBLEMS THAT HAVE COME UP THAT I WASN'T EVEN AWARE  
5 OF.

6 I HEAR THEM SAYING THINGS THAT I FEEL EXACTLY  
7 THE SAME WAY.

8 I NEED TO BE MADE TO FEEL LIKE A WHOLE WOMAN  
9 AGAIN.

10 I NEED TO BE PUT BACK TOGETHER AGAIN AND  
11 NOBODY CAN DO THAT EXCEPT ANOTHER BATTERED WOMAN,  
12 WHO HAS BEEN LOWERED, WHO HAS LOST EVERYTHING, ALL  
13 OF HER SELF-ESTEEM AND EVERYTHING, I NEED TO BE  
14 MADE WHOLE.

15 I NEED TO BE MADE TO FEEL THAT I AM A WOMAN  
16 AND INEED TO BE PUT BACK TOGETHER AGAIN AND WE NEED  
17 IT HERE.

18 WE NEED IT HERE, A PROGRAM, TO MAKE ALL OF  
19 THE WOMEN WHO DON'T EVEN KNOW THAT THEY ARE BATTERED.

20 I HAD A GIRL TELL ME, "I'M NOT A BATTERED  
21 GIRL, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO GO TO HEAR THESE HEARINGS.  
22 MY BROTHER JUST SMACKED ME AROUND."

23 SHE DOESN'T KNOW THAT SHE IS A BATTERED GIRL.

24 SHE SAID TO ME, "I DON'T COME FROM A BATTERED  
25 FAMILY. MY BROTHER JUST SMACKED ME AROUND A LIT

1  
2 BIT.

3 SHE DOESN'T KNOW THAT SHE IS A BATTERED GIRL  
4 AND SHE IS GOING TO BE A BATTERED WOMAN.

5 I WOULD LIKE TO SEE OUR TEACHERS BE MADE  
6 AWARE, MORE.

7 "WHY ARE THEY OUT SO MUCH?

8 "WHY ARE THEY COMING IN WITH BRUISES AND CUTS  
9 ON THEM?

10 "WHAT IS GOING ON IN THEIR HOME?"

11 AT LEAST FOR THE TEACHER TO BE ABLE TO SAY  
12 TO SOMEBODY.

13 LET THERE BE SOMETHING IN THE SCHOOLS THAT  
14 THE TEACHER CAN GIVE A NAME AND SAY TO SOMEBODY,  
15 SOME ORGANIZATION, SOME KIND OF A SOCIAL WORKER;  
16 "THIS FAMILY NEEDS TO BE LOOKED AT.

17 "THIS CHILD IS HAVING A PROBLEM. "

18 BECAUSE, IT STARTS AT SUCH A YOUNG, YOUNG  
19 AGE. IT'S LIKE A CONDITIONING.

20 IF IT HAPPENS WHEN YOU'RE SO SMALL, I'M TALK-  
21 ING ABOUT WHEN I WAS THIRTEEN I STARTED GOING OUT  
22 WITH HIM. HE WAS MY BOYFRIEND. THAT FACT THAT  
23 HE WOULD SMACK ME OR PUNCH ME OR SOMETHING, EVERYBODY  
24 MADE A JOKE OF THIS, "OH, HE LIKES YOU."

25 HA!

1  
2 MS. THELWELL: WAS THERE ABUSE IN YOUR  
3 FAMILY, IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD BEFORE YOU STARTED SEEING  
4 YOUR BOYFRIEND?

5 NUMBER TWO: I'M GLAD THAT YOU ASKED THAT  
6 BECAUSE IT WAS ASKED TO ME A FEW TIMES RECENTLY,  
7 AND I SAID, "NO. I WAS NOT RAISED IN AN ABUSIVE  
8 HOME. MY FATHER SMACKED MY MOTHER SOMETIMES.

9 "AND I THOUGHT THAT WAS ALL RIGHT."

10 NOBODY HAS THE RIGHT TO SMACK NOBODY.

11 BUT, I SAID, "I DIDN'T COME FROM A BATTERED  
12 HOME. US CHILDREN, THERE WAS SEVEN OF US WAS EVER  
13 PHYSICALLY HIT, BUT THE FACT THAT MY FATHER SMACKED  
14 MY MOTHER ONCE IN A WHILE, WELL, THAT SEEMED TO  
15 BE ALL RIGHT.

16 HE WAS ALLOWED TO DO THAT.

17 HE WAS NOT ALLOWED TO DO THAT.

18 AND BECAUSE, MAYBE THAT'S WHY, BECAUSE HE  
19 WAS ALLOWED TO DO THAT.

20 I GREW UP THINKING THAT HE'S MY HUSBAND;  
21 MAYBE HE'S ALLOWED TO DO THIS.

22 MS. THELWELL: THANK YOU.

23 MS. BURSTEIN: NUMBER THREE?

24 NUMBER THREE: I WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN  
25 TESTIMONY BY SAYING I AM A FIRST TIME OFFENDER.

1  
2 I AM FORTY-ONE. THIS WAS MY COMMON-LAW HUSBAND  
3 OF NINE YEARS. I AM NOW SERVING AN EIGHT AND A  
4 THIRD TO TWENTY-FIVE-YEAR TERM FOR MANSLAUGHTER.

5 I LIVED THROUGH NINE YEARS OF PHYSICAL AND  
6 EMOTIONAL ABUSE.

7 MY ABUSE BEGAN WITH VERBAL THREATS, WHICH  
8 WEAKEN MY MENTAL ABILITIES, WHICH CAUSED MY MENTAL  
9 DEFENSES NOT TO RESPOND AS NORMAL.

10 IN TURN, I WENT THROUGH YEARS OF BEATINGS  
11 AND I MEAN "BEATINGS."

12 THE FIRST INCIDENT BEGAN WITH HIM BREAKING  
13 BOTH MY JAWS, AND LATER WAKING UP IN THE HOSPITAL  
14 WITH TUBES DOWN MY THROAT AND IN MY ARMS.

15 I DID NOT REALIZE WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO ME  
16 UNTIL I TRIED TO TALK.

17 I WAS COMPLETELY TERRIFIED. ALL I COULD  
18 THINK ABOUT WAS, "WHERE ARE MY CHILDREN?" FOR I  
19 HAD BEEN UNCONSCIOUS FOR OVER TWENTY-FOUR HOURS.

20 MY COMMON-LAW HUSBAND HAD TAKEN ME TO THE  
21 HOSPITAL. WHAT EXCUSE HE HAD GIVEN THE EMERGENCY  
22 ROOM STAFF I DO NOT KNOW.

23 AFTER THIS I RECEIVED NUMEROUS BEATINGS,  
24 SUCH AS BEING BEAT IN THE HEAD WITH MY OWN SHOE,  
25 RECEIVING SIX STITCHES IN MY HEAD.

1  
2 AS A RESULT, BY ME BEING ALLERGIC TO  
3 NOVOCAINE, THEY WERE SEWN IN MY HEAD WITH NO  
4 ANESTHESIA.

5 I REMAINED IN THE HOSPITAL FOR A WEEK WITH  
6 A SEVERE CONCUSSION; WHICH WAS ONE OF MANY, THAT  
7 CAUSES ME TO HAVE DIZZINESS NOW.

8 I SUFFERED FROM BROKEN ANKLES AND BROKEN  
9 FINGERS.

10 EVERYTHING THAT COULD BE BROKEN WAS; AS A  
11 RESULT OF HIS BRUTALITY.

12 THE EMBARRASSMENT OF CONSTANTLY GOING TO  
13 THE HOSPITAL GOT BEYOND MAKING EXCUSES.

14 FINALLY, I HAD TO TELL THE TRUTH ABOUT ALL  
15 THESE INJURIES. EVERY TIME AFTER THIS I REPORTED  
16 TO THE HOSPITAL, STILL NOTHING WAS DONE.

17 THE POLICE WOULD COME, AND HE WOULD TALK  
18 HIS WAY OUT OF BEING THE CAUSE OF MY INJURIES.

19 IF THEY DID TAKE HIM TO THE POLICE STATION  
20 HIS BOSS WOULD GET THE CHARGES DROPPED.

21 IF I TRIED TO PROTECT MYSELF, THE POLICE  
22 WOULD TRY TO ARREST ME, INJURIES AND ALL.

23 ANOTHER TIME HE BEAT ME SO SEVERELY THAT  
24 HE WAS AFRAID THAT IF HE TOOK ME TO THE HOSPITAL  
25 THE POLICE WOULD SURELY ARREST HIM; SEMI-CONSCIOUS

1 I COULD NOT TALK, NOR WALK. HE LOCKED ME IN MY  
2 BEDROOM SO THAT MY CHILDREN COULD NOT SEE ME.

3 ON THE THIRD DAY OF BEING LOCKED IN THAT  
4 ROOM, I LOOKED IN THE MIRROR AND MY FACE WAS SO  
5 DISTORTED THAT IT FRIGHTENED ME.

6 I TRIED LEAVING, BUT THAT DID NOT WORK, DUE  
7 TO THE FACT THIS WAS MY HOME. I OWNED THE HOUSE.  
8 HE WAS MY MAIN SOURCE OF SUPPORT; NO MONEY, NO FAMILY  
9 TO TURN TO SO I ACCEPTED HIS WEAK APOLOGY AND TOOK  
10 HIM BACK, IN ORDER TO SURVIVE.

11 NONE OF MY FRIENDS WOULD HELP ME BECAUSE  
12 THEY WERE AFRAID TO INTERFERE. HE WOULD SAY,  
13 AFTER BEATING ME, "IF YOU HAD FAMILY THAT CARED  
14 ABOUT YOU, I WOULD KILL YOU."

15 I DID NOT REALIZE UNTIL I WAS ARRESTED, AND  
16 IN JAIL FOR MONTHS, THAT THERE WERE GROUPS THAT  
17 COUNSELLED WOMEN WITH PROBLEMS LIKE MINE.

18 THEY WERE LOCATED IN REMOTE BUILDINGS WITH  
19 NO SIGNS. UNLIKE TODAY, THEY DIDN'T ADVERTISE THEI  
20 SERVICES.

21 CASUALLY, I HAD LEARNED OF A "BATTERED WOMEN  
22 SHELTER," LOCATED IN A SMALL TOWN; PREDOMINENTLY  
23 WHITE NEIGHBORHOOD; KNOWING THE GENDER OF THE  
24 COMMUNITY, THEY WERE NOT LIKELY TO ACCEPT BLACK  
25

1  
2 WOMEN. THEY WERE AFRAID THE SPOUSE WOULD COME  
3 AND CAUSE PROBLEMS. THEY ALSO DID NOT ADVERTISE  
4 AS A RESULT OF THIS.

5 AGAIN, I DID NOT HAVE ANYPLACE TO TURN TO  
6 WITH FOUR CHILDREN, AND FIVE YEARS OF ILLNESS, I  
7 FELT I HAD NO OTHER HELP, AND AS A RESULT I REMAINED  
8 WITH HIM.

9 AT THIS POINT HE WAS MY ONLY SOURCE OF INCOME;  
10 AND MY ONLY FRIEND AND MY ONLY FAMILY BESIDES  
11 MY CHILDREN

12 THE MENTAL ABUSE AND ANGUISH I EXPERIENCED WAS  
13 AS HORRIFYING AS THE PHYSICAL. I COULD NOT TALK  
14 TO PEOPLE. SOME OF MY FIRENDS OF WHOM I HAD KNOW  
15 FOR YEARS COULD NOT COMMUNICATE WITH ME EITHER BY  
16 TELEPHONE OR TO VISIT MY HOME. THEY FEARED THAT  
17 THIS WOULD CAUSE HIM TO BEAT ME.

18 IT DID NOT MATTER TO HIM THAT THEY WERE WOMEN.  
19 HE WAS VERY JEALOUS OF ANYONE THAT I SPENT TIME  
20 WITH.

21 LATER I ATTENDED COLLEGE, WHICH BECAME NEXT  
22 TO IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME. HE PUT ME THROUGH SO MANY  
23 CHANGES, SUCH AS COMING ON THE CAMPUS AND TAKING  
24 THE CAR AND LEAVING ME STRANDED, WITH NO WAY HOME  
25 AND FIFTY MILES AWAY FROM HOME.

1  
2 IF I ACCEPTED A RIDE WITH SOMEONE ELSE, IT  
3 WOULD CAUSE A FIGHT. AGAIN, MENTAL ABUSE SET IN.

4 AFTER TWO YEARS OF THIS, I STOPPED GOING  
5 TO COLLEGE. THERE WAS NO WAY I COULD CONTINUE UNDER  
6 SUCH PRESSURES, AND TO STUDY WITH BLACK EYES THAT  
7 I COULDN'T SEE CLEARLY WITH, WAS NOT EASY. THIS  
8 WAS A REAL TORTURE TO ME.

9 ONCE HE BROKE MY ANKLE AND I HAD TO BE WHEELED  
10 AROUND SCHOOL IN A WHEELCHAIR, DARK SHADES BECAME  
11 A PART OF MY DAILY ATTIRE.

12 THE EMBARRASEMENT GREW MORE AND MORE.

13 I BEGAN TO MAKE ALL KINDS OF EXCUSES FOR  
14 MY APPEARANCE. IF I TRIED TO WORK, HE WOULD COME  
15 ON MY JOB AND THREATEN ME.

16 MY KIDS AND I WOULD GO TO CHURCH IN THE CAR,  
17 AND HE WOULD COME AND TAKE IT, LEAVING US TO WALK  
18 HOME.

19 BY HAVING NO FAMILY IN THIS STATE AND MY  
20 FRIENDS NOT WANTING TO GET INVOLVED, I WAS VERY  
21 ALONE. IF I HAD KNOWN WHAT I KNOW NOW, I WOULD  
22 POSSIBLY HAVE AVOIDED A LOT OF THE ABUSE.

23 AFTER MANY YEARS OF ABUSE IT DECREASES YOUR  
24 MENTAL CAPABILITIES. I FELT SO HELPLESS ABOUT EVERY-  
25 THING.

MOST OF HIS ABUSE WAS TO BREAK ME DOWN.  
AND BY MAKING ME AFRAID. HE HATED THE IDEA THAT  
I WAS STRONG WILLED, AND INDEPENDENT. HE FELT THAT  
I WOULD NOT NEED HIM.

I NEVER KNEW WHEN THE ABUSE WOULD START.  
WE WOULD BE DRIVING ALONG IN THE CAR, AND  
ALL OF A SUDDEN, HE WOULD STRIKE ME IN MY FACE,  
OR WHEREVER HE COULD.

I CANNOT TRUTHFULLY SAY THAT DRINKING WAS  
THE CAUSE OF THIS ABUSE. MOST OF THE TIMES HE BEAT  
ME SOBER.

FINALLY, AFTER NINE YEARS WE SEPARATED.  
HE COULD NOT DEAL WITH THIS. HE WOULD FO  
ME AROUND. CALLING THE POLICE DID NOT HELP.

AFTER ALL THE PREVIOUS YEARS OF NO HELP FROM  
THEM, I DID NOT BOTHER TO CALL THEM.

HE TRIED IN VARIOUS WAYS, SUCH AS CHASING  
ME WITH HIS TRUCK AND TRYING TO RUN ME OFF THE ROAD.

ONE OF THE MOST DEVASTATING INCIDENTS OCCURRED,  
AND, WHICH, FINALLY CAUSED ME TO SEPARATE FROM HIM,  
MY OLDEST SON GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL AND JOINED  
THE ARMY.

HE RESENTED THE FACT THAT MY CHILDREN WERE  
SO CLOSE TO ME.

1  
2 SO HE, IN TURN, TRIED TO BREAK UP THIS CLOSENE.  
3 BY TELLING MY SON THAT I WANTED HIM TO LEAVE AND  
4 THAT I DIDN'T LOVE HIM. HE USED THIS CHANCE TO  
5 TRY AND TURN HIM AGAINST ME. ESPECIALLY AT TIMES  
6 WHEN I WOULD SAY, "NO," TO THINGS, HE WOULD ASK,  
7 LIKE MOST KIDS, HE FELT THAT BY SAYING, "NO," YOU  
8 ARE BEING MEAN.

9 AFTER MY SON LEFT FOR THE SERVICE, AND HE  
10 DIDN'T COME HOME FOR FURLOUGH, I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND  
11 WHY:

12 FINALLY, I ASKED THE RED CROSS TO FIND HIM.  
13 AND HE CAME HOME, ONLY TO TELL ONE OF MY FEMALE  
14 FRIENDS WHY HE STAYED AWAY.

15 THIS HURT ME MORE THAN ANY BEATINGS.

16 THIS IS WHEN I ASKED HIM TO LEAVE. THIS  
17 LED TO A VICIOUS FIGHT, WHICH CAUSED TERRIBLE DAMAGE  
18 TO MY EYES. HE LITERALLY PUNCHED HIS FINGERS IN  
19 MY EYE. THE DOCTOR SAID THAT HE HAD CAUSED INTENSE  
20 DAMAGE TO THE EYE MUSCLES.

21 THE DOCTOR REPORTED THIS, BUT NOTHING HAPPENED  
22 AGAIN. THIS TIME HE LEFT, BUT HE TOLD ME, "I AM  
23 GOING TO 'F'" AND I QUOTE, "YOU UP."

24 LITTLE DID I KNOW WHAT HE MEANT.

25 THIS IS WHEN HE RAPED AND THREATENED MY

1  
2 DAUGHTER AT THE AGE OF FOURTEEN, WITHOUT MY  
3 KNOWLEDGE.

4 HE HAD THREATENED TO KILL HER BROTHER. HE  
5 WOULD TAKE HER OFF THE SCHOOL GROUNDS, AND SEXUALLY  
6 ABUSE HER.

7 THE KNOWLEDGE OF THIS RESULTED IN ME BEING  
8 INCARCERATED AT BEDFORD HILLS NOW.

9 IN CONCLUSION, I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS THAT  
10 IF HELP WAS READILY AVAILABLE FOR ME, HAD THE CRIMINAL  
11 JUSTICE SYSTEM SENSITIZED TO THE PROBLEMS OF A  
12 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SITUATION, MY PROBLEMS WOULD NOT  
13 HAVE EXISTED FOR SO LONG.

14 IF SOCIETY WAS MADE AWARE OF THE LONELINESS  
15 AND HELPLESSNESS OF WOMEN IN MY SITUATION DO ENCOUNTER  
16 LIFE WOULDN'T BE AS TRAUMATIC, AND THE NEED TO  
17 REMAIN IN THIS TYPE OF RELATIONSHIP, WHETHER FINANCIAL  
18 OR PHYSICAL, WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY.

19 WORDS CANNOT TRULY EXPRESS ALL THE HORRIFYING,  
20 PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL ABUSE THAT HAPPENED TO ME.

21 LIKE THE AFTERMATH OF A NIGHTMARE, THE REMEM-  
22 BRANCE WILL ALWAYS BE THERE.

23 I FEEL THAT BATTERED, INCARCERATED WOMEN  
24 NEED A SUPPORT GROUP FROM WITHIN THE FACILITY, WHILE  
25 SERVING THEIR SENTENCE, AS WELL AS AFTER THEY

1  
2 LEAVE.

3 THANK YOU.

4 MS. BURSTEIN: RAMON?

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: GOOD MORNING.

6 I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT ON BEHALF OF EVERYONE.  
7 HERE ON THE PANEL, THAT I AM VERY TOUCHED BY WHAT  
8 YOU JUST SAID, AND WHAT THE PRIOR PANELISTS HAVE  
9 TESTIFIED ABOUT AND TALKED ABOUT.

10 I AM SURE WE HAVE A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS.  
11 I JUST WANT TO START WITH A FEW.

12 FIRST, YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT IT IS MY FEELING  
13 THAT YOU ARE A HERO.

14 THAT ALL OF THE WOMEN HERE, TESTIFYING  
15 HERE TODAY DO IT FOR THEMSELVES, BUT THEY DO IT  
16 FOR ALL OF THE OTHER WOMEN WHO COULDN'T DO IT WITH  
17 US AND YOU SHOULD BE CONGRADULATED.

18 YOU ARE SPECIAL AND YOU ARE IMPORTANT.

19 IN LISTENING TO YOU, ONE OF THE THINGS THAT  
20 YOU SAID AT THE BEGINNING, YOU TALKED THAT YOU,  
21 IN FACT, WERE ABLE TO MAKE COMPLAINTS.

22 THAT YOU WERE, IN FACT, ABLE TO TELL THE  
23 POLICE WHAT WAS GOING ON.

24 COULD YOU EXPAND UPON THAT A LITTLE BIT?

25 I GOT THIS SENSE THAT WHAT WAS HAPPENING

1  
2 WAS THE AGE-OLD THING THAT HAPPENS IN THE CRIMINAL  
3 COURT, THAT THEY WERE SAYING, THIS IS JUST A FAMILY  
4 PROBLEM.

5 IS THAT THE KIND OF THING THAT WAS HAPPENING  
6 TO YOU?

7 NUMBER THREE: YES.

8 THIS IS THE WAY THEY THOUGHT IT WAS.

9 WELL, YOU KNOW, HE'S YOUR MAN AND SO WHAT?

10 YOU KNOW. AND IF WE ARREST HIM, THEN HE  
11 WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO GO TO WORK TOMORROW.

12 THEY THOUGHT THAT IT WAS JUST A NORMAL THING  
13 AND ESPECIALLY IN THE AREA WHERE I LIVE, THERE WAS  
14 A LOT OF BLACK PEOPLE AND THEY JUST THOUGHT IT WAS  
15 THE NORMAL THING.

16 THEY TAKE HIM AROUND THE CORNER AND RIDE  
17 HIM AROUND OR HE TELLS THEM, "SHE IS CRAZY," OR  
18 "SHE DID THIS."

19 THEY WOULD LAUGH AND GO ON ABOUT THEIR WAY.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I GET THIS SENSE, ALSO,  
21 THAT WHAT YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT IS NOT ONLY A  
22 QUESTION OF THE FACT THAT YOU ARE A WOMAN WHO WAS  
23 BATTERED, BUT ALSO AS A BLACK PERSON THAT YOU FELT  
24 THAT THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM HAS NOT OR WAS  
25 NOT READY TO LISTEN TO YOUR CONCERNS?

1  
2 NUMBER THREE: WELL, NOT SO MUCH THAT I  
3 WAS BLACK. BUT, I COME FROM SUFFOLK COUNTY AND  
4 THEY ARE VERY HARD ON WOMEN, I FIND, ALTOGETHER.

5 IN THE AREA WHERE I LIVE, IT WAS A LITTLE  
6 SMALL TOWN AND THEY THOUGHT THAT THIS WAS A SENSATION.

7 THE WAY THAT -- AT THE TIME OF THE TRIAL  
8 THEY DIDN'T -- THEY DIDN'T CONSIDER THIS A BATTERED  
9 WOMAN THING.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I HAVE ABOUT A THOUSAND  
11 OTHER QUESTIONS. I WON'T TAKE THE TIME OF THE OTHER  
12 MEMBERS OF THE PANEL, JUST TO SAY, FINALLY, THAT  
13 YOU HAVE BEGUN BY YOUR TESTIMONY TODAY AND BY ALL  
14 OF THE OTHER THINGS, THE OTHER PEOPLE WILL SAY TODAY  
15 TO SENSITIZE PEOPLE, TO MAKE EVERYBODY RECOGNIZE  
16 THAT THIS IS A CRIME AND THAT WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING  
17 ABOUT IT, AND I THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

18 MR. DUNSTON: LEONARD DUNSTON; DIRECTOR  
19 FOR THE NEW YORK STATE DIVISION FOR YOUTH.

20 THE AGENCY THAT I HEAD HAS A RESPONSIBILITY  
21 TO PROVIDE PROGRAMS IN THE COMMUNITIES FOR YOUNG  
22 PEOPLE UNDER TWENTY-ONE.

23 IN ADDITION TO THAT, WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR  
24 HOUSING YOUNG PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN ADJUDICATED FROM  
25 THE COURTS AS DELINQUENTS, JUVENILE OFFENDERS, AND

APINS.

WE HAVE A TWO-FOLD RESPONSIBILITY.

I WANTED TO SAY EXACTLY THE SAME THING THAT  
RAMON DID EARLIER.

THIS IS TO CONGRADULATE YOU AND THE OTHERS  
WHO HAVE HAD THE GUTS TO COME AND APPEAR BEFORE THIS  
BODY TODAY.

I ALSO WANT TO REMIND YOU THAT WE ARE VERY  
COGNIZANT OF THE FACT THAT IT IS NOT EASY TO GIVE  
TESTIMONY IN A PUBLIC SETTING LIKE KTHIS, ESPECIALLY  
WHEN IT RELATES TO SOMETHING THAT HAS BEEN PERSONAL  
TO EACH OF YOU.

I HAVE A VERY CLOSE AFFINITY FOR THE  
DIFFICULTY WITH WHICH YOU PRESENT YOUR TESTIMONY  
THIS MORNING AND THIS AFTERNOON.

MY QUESTION IS THIS:

I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW FROM YOU AND FROM THOSE  
WHO WILL BE FOLLOWING YOU AS YOU COMPLETE YOUR TEST  
TESTIMONY, IF YOU COULD JUST MAYBE GIVE SOME SENSE  
OF WHAT KIND OF PROGRAM IDEAS YOU WOULD SUGGEST  
THAT THOSE OF US WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR PLANNING  
PROGRAMS OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN YOUR STATE SHOULD BEGIN  
TO DEVELOP OR THOSE WHO HAPPEN TO BE INCARCERATED,  
AT THIS POINT IN TIME, AS WELL AS THOSE YOUNG PE

WHO HAPPEN TO BE YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS WHO ARE BACK  
IN THE COMMUNITY.

I WAS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT KNOWING WHAT  
HAS HAPPENED AND IF THIS IS DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO  
RESPOND TO, DON'T.

I WAS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED  
TO YOUR FOURTEEN-YEAR OLD DAUGHTER; IF, IN FACT,  
SHE HAD SIMBLINGS THAT WERE YOUNGER THAN THE FOURTEEN  
YEAR OLD, AND HOW THEY ARE BEING CARED FOR AT THIS  
POINT?

NUMBER THREE: AT THE TIME OF MY ARREST, MY DAUGHTER  
WAS FIFTEEN. BECAUSE, WHEN I FOUND OUT, IT WAS  
A YEAR LATER. SHE WAS FOURTEEN WHEN HE RAPED  
HER. SO IT WAS LIKE A YEAR BETWEEN.

SHE WAS GOING THROUGH CHANGES, AND I DIDN'T  
KNOW WHY.

BUT, AS A RESULT OF ME BEING ARRESTED, MY  
WHOLE FAMILY WAS DESTROYED. MY TWO SONS, OLDER  
THAN HER, THEY WENT TO PRISON; ONE SERVING A FIFTEEN  
TO LIFE SENTENCE AS A RESULT.

THE OTHER ONE SERVED TWO YEARS.

MY DAUGHTER HAD TO GO TO MISSISSIPPI WITH  
MY FAMILY.

SHE HAD NO PSYCHO- --- PSYCHOTHERAPY, NO

COUNSELLING, WHATSOEVER AT FIFTEEN.

I WAS THE ONLY FAMILY SUPPORT SYSTEM SHE  
HAD.

MY SON CAME OUT OF PRISON. HE DIDN'T HAVE  
ANY PLACE TO LIVE AND DIFFICULT PEOPLE TOOK HIM  
IN, WHICH WAS VERY DIFFICULT FOR ME AND FOR HIM.

MY DAUGHTER IS NOW NINETEEN AND SHE HAS NOBODY  
TO TURN TO.

YOU KNOW. IF THERE WAS NO HELP --  
THERE IS NO HELP AVAILABLE FOR HER BECAUSE I WAS  
THE ONLY PERSON THAT SHE FELT CLOSE TO. IT IS VERY  
HARD FOR HER NOW BECAUSE OF THE PROBLEM THAT SHE  
HAD WENT THROUGH. BECAUSE OF WHAT HAPPENED TO  
HER.

SHE CANNOT TALK TO ANYBODY.

SHE CANNOT TALK TO ME, REALLY, ABOUT IT.

I KNOW HOW SHE FELT ABOUT THINGS AND I TRY  
TO TALK TO HER. BUT, I KNOW SHE NEEDS HELP.

BUT, SHE HAS NO HELP. THERE IS NOBODY THERE.  
THERE IS NOBODY THERE, NOT EVEN MY FAMILY IS REALLY  
SENSITIVE TO WHAT HAPPENED TO HER AND THERE IS JUST  
NO HELP.

ONE THING THAT I WOULD LIKE TO SAY IS THAT  
AT THIS TIME -- ONE THING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SY

1  
2 TO THE POLICE, THE ABUSE, TO THE DOCTORS, HOW  
3 FAR INTO THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROCESS DID YOU  
4 EVER GET?

5 WAS IT JUST THAT HE NEVER GOT ARRESTED OR HE  
6 GOT ARRESTED AND IT GOT TO COURT AND IT NEVER GOT  
7 ANY FURTHER THAN THAT?

8 HOW FAR DID YOU EVER GET IN BEING ABLE TO  
9 OBTAIN SOME CRIMINAL REDRESS?

10 NUMBER THREE: ONCE WE GOT TO THE "LITTLE  
11 TOWN COURTROOM SETTING." BUT, IN THE MEANTIME,  
12 IT IS NOT HOW FAR YOU GET IN THERE.

13 IN THE MEANTIME, YOU GOT HIS FAMILY, HIS  
14 BOSS, AND HIM, TELLING YOU, YOU KNOW, "WELL, I AM  
15 NOT GOING TO DO IT ANY MORE," AND I HAVE BEEN SICK  
16 FOR FIVE YEARS, AND, I NEEDED HIM, YOU KNOW,  
17 FINANCIALLY, AND HE KNEW THIS.

18 SO, BY THE TIME THAT YOU GET TO COURT, THEY  
19 ARREST YOU, THE NIGHT THAT YOU ARE ARRESTED --  
20 I MEAN ARREST HIM AND THEY LET HIM GO. THEY DIDN'T  
21 KEEP HIM IN THE PRECINCT.

22 HE WAITED TILL EARLY IN THE MORNING AND HE  
23 CAME AND HE SLEPT IN THE CAR, IN MY DRIVEWAY.

24 THEY DIDN'T KEEP HIM OVERNIGHT AND HE LEFT  
25 THE NEXT MORNING.

1  
2 SO, BY THE TIME THAT YOU GET TO THE JUDGE  
3 YOU HAVE NO BRUISES. YOU ARE NOT HURT ANY MORE  
4 AND TO YOU THAT'S NOT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING AT  
5 THE TIME, BECAUSE DURING THIS TIME YOU WERE  
6 HEARING, "YOU NEEDED GROCERIES"; YOU NEEDED THIS,  
7 YOU NEEDED A CAR TO GO EVERYWHERE SO I COULD TAKE  
8 THE KIDS BACK AND FORTH TO WHATEVER THEY WERE DOING.

9 THE TIME, THE TIME LAG BETWEEN CAUSES YOU  
10 TO LOSE -- YOU LOSE THE IMPORTANCE OF IT.

11 EVEN THOUGH IT IS IMPORTANT, YOU LOSE THE  
12 IMPORTANCE, UNTIL THE NEXT TIME THAT IT HAPPENS.

13 MS. THELWELL: THANK YOU.

14 MS. MOORE: YOU MENTIONED THAT HAD YOU  
15 KNOWN THEN WHAT YOU KNOW NOW THINGS MIGHT HAVE BEEN  
16 DIFFERENT.

17 HOW COULD THE INFORMATION THAT YOU KNOW NOW  
18 HAVE BEEN GOTTEN TO YOU THEN?

19 DID ANYBODY IN ANY OF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT  
20 EFFORTS OFFER METHODS TO YOU FOR GETTING COUNSELLING  
21 OR ASSISTANCE OR ADVICE?

22 HOW COULD YOU HAVE GOTTEN THIS INFORMATION?

23 HOW COULD THAT INFORMATION HAVE BEEN GOTTEN  
24 TO YOU?

25 NUMBER THREE: WELL, IF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT

1  
2 COULD DO IS WHEN WE WOMEN THAT GO BEFORE A  
3 JUDGE OR POLICE, THAT THEY SEPARATE US FROM JUST  
4 BEING A MURDER SUSPECT OR A MANSLAUGHTER PERSON --  
5 THAT YOU FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED; WHAT IS THE  
6 CAUSE? SEPARATION--FROM JUST A COMMON PERSON THAT  
7 WANTS TO COME OUT THERE AND WANTS TO KILL SOMEBODY  
8 OFF.

9 A WOMAN AFTER NINE YEARS OF ABUSE AND FINDING  
10 OUT THAT THIS HAPPENED TO YOUR CHILD --

11 I WAS KNOWN TO PROTECT MY FAMILY.

12 I WAS RAISED THAT WAY. I DID EVERYTHING TO  
13 PROPERLY PROTECT THEM AND I THINK THEY NEED TO TAKE  
14 THESE THINGS INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN WE COME TO  
15 TRIAL OR WHEN THEY INTERVIEW OUR CASE.

16 THEY DON'T DO THESE THINGS.

17 THERE WAS NOBODY THERE FOR MY DAUGHTER.  
18 THERE WAS NO SOCIAL SERVICE FOR HER AND IF THEY HAD  
19 CAME, THEY WOULD HAVE THROWN HER INTO A HOME SOMEWHERE  
20 AS A YOUTHFUL OFFENDER. SOMETHING.

21 THERE WAS JUST NO SERVICES AND THERE STILL  
22 ARE NO SERVICES, AND IF THERE ARE PEOPLE LIKE US  
23 WE DON'T KNOW.

24 THE THINGS THAT I KNOW NOW I FOUND OUT WHEN  
25 I CAME TO PRISON. WHICH IS BAD.

1  
2 I HAD WENT THROUGH NINE YEARS OF ABUSE.  
3 THEN I WAS IN PRISON FOR TWO YEARS BEFORE I REALIZED  
4 THAT THESE -- THAT THERE WAS HELP FOR ANYBODY AND  
5 IF THERE WAS YOU COULDN'T WALK UP.

6 PEOPLE TREAT YOU SO COLD.

7 WE KNOW IT'S OKAY -- AND THAT'S IT.

8 SO WE NEED SOMEONE TO REACH OUT TO US, THE  
9 WOMEN IN PRISON. WE NEED AN ADVOCATE TO COME IN  
10 HERE AND TALK WITH US AND FIND OUT PROBLEMS, TO  
11 TRY AND FIND THEM OUT TO WORK WITH THEM, AND TO  
12 TRY TO WORK WITH US.

13 WE NEED TO KNOW THAT WE ARE SOMEBODY.

14 WE NEED TO KNOW THAT YOU ARE NOT A BAD PERSON  
15 WHICH THE MAN CAUSES US TO FEEL. THAT IT IS YOUR  
16 FAULT, NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO. HE FEELS THAT IT  
17 IS YOUR FAULT.

18 YOU BEGIN TO FEEL THAT IT IS YOUR FAULT.

19 SO WE NEED SUPPORT.

20 WE REALLY NEED SUPPORT BY THIS GROUP COMING  
21 TOGETHER TO DO THIS.

22 WE HAVE GAINED SUPPORT AND WE WOULD LIKE  
23 TO KEEP THE GROUP TOGETHER, SO WE CAN KEEP THE  
24 SUPPORT, AND HELP OTHER WOMEN.

25 MS. THELWELL: IN THE CASE WHERE YOU REPORT

1  
2 OFFICERS HAD TOLD ME THESE THINGS, YOU KNOW, BUT THEY  
3 DIDN'T TELL ME.

4 THEY WOULD TELL ME, WELL, "LEAVE HIM," OR  
5 "PUT HIM OUT. IT IS YOUR HOUSE, SO PUT HIM OUT."

6 "WELL, I NEED HIM FINANCIALLY."

7 "WELL, GO TO WELFARE," WAS THEIR RESPONSE,  
8 OR "KILL HIM."

9 ONE OF THE POLICEMEN TOLD ME, "SO, KILL HIM."  
10 YOU KNOW.

11 MS. MOORE: THANK YOU.

12 MS. BURSTEIN: THANK YOU.

13 NUMBER FOUR: HELLO. I AM A FIRST-TIME  
14 OFFENDER SERVING A FIVE TO FIFTEEN-YEAR SENTENCE  
15 FOR MANSLAUGHTER, AND I WOULD LIKE YOU TO KNOW OF  
16 THE SHAME AND HORROR OF BEING A SEXUALLY AND  
17 PHYSICALLY ABUSED WOMAN.

18 FOR FIVE YEARS I WAS A VICTIM OF PHYSICAL  
19 AND SEXUAL ABUSE OF MY BABY'S FATHER. WE WERE  
20 TOGETHER FOR SEVEN YEARS, BUT FOR THE FIRST TWO  
21 YEARS EVERYTHING WAS WONDERFUL.

22 THE TROUBLE STARTED IN THE THIRD YEAR. IT  
23 SEEMED THAT THE VIOLENCE STARTED AFTER I DISCOVERED  
24 HE WAS USING DRUGS -- ALL KINDS OF DRUGS -- AND  
25 BEGAN TO GET UPSET ABOUT HIM USING DRUGS.

HE BEGAN TO BEAT ME BECAUSE I REFUSED  
GIVE HIM MONEY TO BUY DRUGS. I USED TO HAVE TO  
HIDE MONEY TO PAY BILLS, BUT HE ALWAYS FOUND IT,  
THEN I WOULD GET BEAT WHEN I'D BE UPSET BECAUSE  
HE SPENT THE MONEY SAVED FOR FOOD AND BILLS, FOR  
DRUGS.

SOMETIMES I WOULD EVEN HAVE TO GO ASK MY  
MOTHER FOR MONEY FOR FOOD.

ONE NIGHT, I BORROWED MONEY FROM MY MOTHER.  
HE SNATCHED IT FROM MY HANDS TO BUY DRUGS. I SPENT  
THAT NIGHT AT HOME, HUNGRY.

HE WOULD BEAT ME WITH A PIPE, BITE ME AND  
THROW THINGS AT ME.

WHEN I WAS TWO MONTHS PREGNANT, HE THREW  
A TWELVE-INCH TELEVISION AT ME. THEY THOUGHT I  
MIGHT LOSE THE BABY.

WHEN I WAS THREE MONTHS PREGNANT, HE BEAT  
ME WITH A PIPE ON MY BACK AND HIT ME ON MY HEAD.

WHEN I WAS FIVE MONTHS PREGNANT HE WAS HIGH  
ON DRUGS AND BEAT ME UNTIL MY ENTIRE BODY WAS BRUISED  
AND BIT ALL OVER, UNTIL I BLED THROUGH MY MATERNITY  
CLOTHES.

THE DOCTORS TOLD ME ONE MORE BEATING WOULD  
CAUSE ME TO LOSE MY BABY

1  
2 THE VIOLENCE SEEMED TO GET WORSE DURING MY  
3 PREGNANCY. I THINK HE KNEW THEN THAT I COULDN'T  
4 LEAVE OR DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT, BECAUSE HE REALIZED,  
5 THEN, THAT I WOULD -- I LOVED HIM AND I BELIEVED  
6 THAT THE BABY WOULD CAUSE HIM TO CHANGE.

7 I TOOK MOST OF THE BEATINGS ON MY BACK,  
8 THEN, BECAUSE I WANTED TO PROTECT THE BABY.

9 HE WAS ALSO VIOLENT WITH ME SEXUALLY.  
10 ONCE, WHEN HE WANTED TO MAKE LOVE AND I DIDN'T,  
11 HE JUMPED ME FROM BEHIND. HE BEAT ME AND THEN TIED  
12 MY LEGS TO THE BEDPOST. HE FORCED HIMSELF ON  
13 ME AND TOLD ME HE WAS GOING TO TEACH ME NOT TO SAY  
14 NO TO HIM WHEN HE WANTED TO MAKE LOVE.

15 THOSE FIVE YEARS WERE LIKE LIVING IN HELL.  
16 MY WHOLE WORLD HAD BEEN TURNED UPSIDE DOWN.  
17 I REPORTED HIM TO THE POLICE A LOT OF TIMES.  
18 MANY TIMES- THEY WOULDN'T EVEN COME. OTHER  
19 TIMES THEY'D TALK TO HIM.

20 I ACTUALLY HAD HIM ARRESTED TWICE.

21 SOMETIMES THIS STOPPED THE BEATINGS, BUT  
22 THEY ALWAYS STARTED AGAIN.

23 SOCIAL SERVICE TOLD ME THEY'D HELP ME, BUT  
24 THEY NEVER DID FOLLOW THROUGH WITH HELPING ME.  
25 THEY DID HELP ME GET A JOB ONCE, BUT I SOON HAD

1  
2 TO QUIT BECAUSE THE BEATINGS KEPT ME FROM GOING  
3 TO WORK. THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO FIND ME SHELTER,  
4 BUT I NEVER HEARD FROM THEM.

5 I WOULDN'T CONFIDE IN MY FAMILY, SO, THEY  
6 COULDN'T REALLY HELP ME BECAUSE EVERY TIME THEY  
7 ASKED HOW DID I GET A BRUISE ON ME OR SEEN A CUT,  
8 I WOULD MAKE UP AN EXCUSE AND TELL THEM I FELL OR  
9 SOMETHING TO THAT NATURE. THEY COULDN'T DO THAT  
10 MUCH TO HELP BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T KNOW.

11 I WAS TOO SCARED TO TELL ANYONE BECAUSE I  
12 WAS ASHAMED OF WHAT PEOPLE WOULD THINK OF ME. I  
13 ALSO FELT IT WAS MY RESPONSIBILITY TO DEAL WITH  
14 MY OWN PROBLEMS. WHEN I DID GET THE STRENGTH TO  
15 HELP MYSELF THERE WASN'T ANYONE TO TURN TO.

16 NO AVAILABLE PROGRAMS THAT I COULD GO TO  
17 AND NO PROGRAMS THAT I KNEW OF IN ALBANY COUNTY.

18 THE LAST NIGHT I WAS EVER ABUSED WAS THE  
19 WORST OF ALL. IT WAS CHRISTMAS MORNING, AND HE  
20 CAME HOME HIGH ON DRUGS.

21 WE OPENED OUR CHRISTMAS PRESENTS AND MY BABY  
22 AND I TRIED TO LAY DOWN WITH HIM ON THE BED. FOR  
23 SOME REASON, HE WENT OFF. BY THE END OF THIS DAY  
24 HE HAD HIT MY BABY SISTER, BROKEN UP MY HOUSE, AND  
25 BEAT ME ON MY HANDS AND FEET SO THAT I WAS BLEEDING

1  
2 THEY TOOK ME TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM AFTER  
3 HE HAD DIED AND TOOK PICTURES OF WHERE HE HAD BEAT  
4 ME, AND TOOK AN IMPRINT OF HIS TEETH MARKS ON THE  
5 BACK OF MY NECK.

6 MY DAUGHTER IS FOUR YEARS OLD NOW. MY PARENTS  
7 ARE TAKING CARE OF HER.

8 I THINK THEY SHOULD HAVE AVAILABLE INFORMATION  
9 FOR WOMEN IN BOOKLETS LETTING THEM KNOW OF SERVICES  
10 THEY CAN GO TO THAT WILL REALLY HELP THEM WITH THEIR  
11 PROBLEMS.

12 SECONDLY, THEY SHOULD HAVE A TWENTY-FOUR  
13 HOUR HOT LINE THAT THEY CAN CALL AND GET IMMEDIATE  
14 HELP.

15 SOMEONE WHO WILL CALL SOMEONE IN THE WOMAN'S  
16 AREA AND GET THEM IMMEDIATE PROTECTION.

17 FINALLY, THEY SHOULD HAVE A SPECIAL POLICE  
18 FORCE TRAINED IN "BATTERED WOMAN SYNDROME" WHO CAN  
19 DETECT THE SIGNS OF A WOMAN BEING ABUSED, AND THEN  
20 GET THE WOMAN IMMEDIATE HELP AND INFORMATION TO  
21 PROTECT HERSELF AND HER CHILDREN.

22 IF NECESSARY, THE SPECIAL FORCE SHOULD SEEK  
23 OUT HELPFUL SERVICES AND KNOW THE SERVICES TO REFER  
24 TO THE ABUSED WOMAN AND HER CHILDREN.

25 I THINK PROFESSIONAL COUNSELLING IN DOMESTIC

VIOLENCE WOULD HELP THE FAMILY. HELP THAT WILL  
THE FAMILY TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THE VICTIM IS FEELING  
AND GOING THROUGH. COUNSELLING THAT WILL EXPLAIN  
TO THE FAMILY WHY IT IS SO HARD FOR THE VICTIM TO  
TURN TO THE FAMILY.

HERE AT BEDFORD HILLS, I WENT TO THE "DOWN  
ON VIOLENCE COUNSELLING GROUP."

IT'S A GROUP OF WOMEN THAT HELP YOU GET YOUR  
ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION OUT OF YOU. IT ALSO HELPS  
YOU TO REALIZE WHERE YOU WENT WRONG AND HELPS YOU  
USE POSITIVE WAYS OF THINKING AND LEARNING FROM  
YOUR MISTAKES.

I BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL -- BECAUSE  
IN OUR COMMUNITIES AND WITHIN THESE PRISONS -- FOR  
THERE TO BE MORE IN-DEPTH COUNSELLING WITH SOMEONE  
WHO HAS BEEN IN OUR TYPE OF SITUATIONS.

SOMEONE WHO REALLY UNDERSTANDS AND FEELS WHAT  
WE'RE GOING THROUGH AND WHY WE DID WHAT WE DID.

SOMEONE TRAINED TO HELP US FIND CONSTRUCTIVE  
WAYS TO DEAL WITH BEING IN PRISON AND WHY, AND SHOW  
US THERE ARE MORE POSITIVE WAYS TO LIVE THAN REACTING  
FIRST AND THINKING LATER WHEN IT IS TOO LATE AND  
THE DAMAGE HAS BEEN DONE.

MS. THELWELL: EXCUSE ME.

1  
2 CAN YOU TELL ME HOW OLD YOU ARE?

3 NUMBER FOUR: TWENTY-SIX.

4 MS. THELWELL: I AM SORRY. THIS IS VERY  
5 DIFFICULT BECAUSE IT IS VERY HARD BEING BROUGHT  
6 FACE TO FACE WITH TRULY MASSIVE FAILURE ON OUR PART.  
7 NOT JUST WE PEOPLE WHO RUN AGENCIES AND DO THINGS,  
8 BUT WE IN GENERAL WHO RAISE WOMEN TO LIVE THROUGH  
9 SITUATIONS LIKE THIS AND BE AFRAID TO EVEN ASK FOR  
10 HELP.

11 YOU SAID THAT YOU HAD HIM ARRESTED ONCE.

12 HOW FAR IN THE SYSTEM WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO  
13 GO?

14 DID PEOPLE TALK TO YOU ABOUT "ORDERS OF  
15 PROTECTION," AND THAT KIND OF THING?

16 DID ANYONE DISCUSS THAT WITH YOU?

17 NUMBER FOUR: I WENT AS FAR AS THE COURTROOM  
18 BUT, AS FAR AS PROTECTING, THEY SAID THAT THEY  
19 WOULD HELP ME GET AN ORDER OF PROTECTION, BUT I  
20 NEVER GOT IT.

21 WHEN I DID GO TO THE COURTROOM, I BACKED  
22 OUT BECAUSE I WAS SCARED AND BECAUSE I LOVED HIM  
23 AND I DIDN'T WANT TO SEE HIM GO TO JAIL, BECAUSE  
24 I FELT THAT HE COULDN'T DEAL WITH IT.

25 SO, I WOULD DROP THE CHARGES.

MS. THELWELL: DID YOU EXPERIENCE PHYSICAL ABUSE IN YOUR HOMELIFE BEFORE YOU WENT TO LIVE WITH THIS MAN?

NUMBER FOUR: REPEAT THAT, PLEASE.

MS. THELWELL: HAD YOU BEEN ABUSED PHYSICALLY OR HAD ANYONE IN YOUR FAMILY BEEN ABUSED IN YOUR HOME, WHEN YOU WERE GROWING UP, BEFORE YOU WERE LIVING WITH THIS MAN?

NUMBER FOUR: NO COMMENT.

MS. THELWELL: ALL RIGHT.

THANK YOU.

MS. BURSTEIN: THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

NUMBER FIVE:

NUMBER FIVE: WHAT YOU ARE ABOUT TO HEAR TODAY IS AN ACCOUNT OF MY LIFE IN A VIOLENT COUPLED HOUSEHOLD. DUE TO THIS TYPE OF HEARING, COUPLED WITH ITS PSYCHOLOGICAL RAMIFICATIONS, WILL PROVE TO BE THE PRECIPITATING FACTOR, BEHIND THE CRIME OF WHICH I WAS CONVICTED FOR.

IT IS NOT EASY TO DISCERN JUST WHEN MY HELLISH LIFE BEGAN BECAUSE AFTER LIVING IT FOR SO LONG, THE POINT OF ORIGIN SOMEHOW LOSES ITS IMPORTANCE.

BY AGE FOUR, MY MOMA HAD BEEN DIVORCED ONCE

1  
2 LIFE WAS GOOD. MAYBE A LITTLE TOO GOOD.  
3 I HAD THE TYPE OF FAMILY KIDS DREAM OF. A LOVING  
4 STEPFATHER WHO NEVER ENTERED THE HOUSE WITHOUT A  
5 PRESENT FOR HIS DAUGHTER. HE MADE SURE MY FAVORITE  
6 MEALS WERE PREPARED; THAT I WAS NEAT, WELL DRESSED  
7 AND WENT TO THE FINEST NURSERY SCHOOL IN SUBURBAN  
8 CHICAGO.

9 HE DOTED ON MY MOMA, AND ALL THAT WAS  
10 EXPECTED OF HER WAS TO MAKE HIM PROUD OF HIS FAMILY.  
11 ENTERING THE SECOND YEAR OF THE MARRIAGE,  
12 SOMETHING WENT WRONG, DREADFULLY WRONG.

13 AS FRIDAY NIGHT WOULD ARRIVE, HE WOULD BECOME  
14 VIOLENT. NOT JUST THE ABUSIVE TYPE OF VIOLENCE,  
15 HE WAS OUT TO INFLICT SERIOUS DAMAGE ON A PERSON.

16 I CAN STILL REMEMBER BEING ROSTED OUT OF  
17 A WARM BED IN THE WEE HOURS OF THE MORNING TO RUN  
18 TO THE SAFETY OF A MOTEL.

19 THERE, MY MOMA AND I WOULD WAIT FOR THE WEEK  
20 END TO PASS. HE WOULD ALWAYS APOLOGIZE AND BEND  
21 OVER BACKWARD TO MAKE IT UP TO US, BUT THE SAME  
22 VIOLENT SCENES WOULD RE-OCCUR.

23 THE HITTING AND THE SCREAMING WOULD FILTER  
24 INTO MY UPSTAIRS BEDROOM. I WOULD LAY THERE FROZE  
25 IN TERROR LISTENING TO THE HORROR. NO ONE EVER

1  
2 CAME TO AID MY MOMA. IT WAS A BATTLE SHE FOUGHT  
3 ALONE.

4 SUNGLASSES AND HEAVY MAKEUP BECAME STANDARD  
5 ATTIRE FOR MY MOMA.

6 SHE USED THEM TO HIDE NUMEROUS BLACK EYES  
7 AND OTHER FACIAL BRUISES. HER BRUISES HEALED ONLY  
8 TO BE REPLACED BY MORE.

9 AFTER SIX MONTHS MY MOMA WITNESSED THE EFFECTS  
10 HER LIFE WAS HAVING ON ME.

11 NIGHTMARES WERE COMMON. I DEVELOPED  
12 A COMPLETE PASSIVIST ATTITUDE.

13 MOMA WAS NOTIFIED OF AN INCIDENT AT SCHOOL,  
14 WHERE I ALLOWED A KID TO BEAT ME UP WITHOUT DOING  
15 ANYTHING TO DEFEND MYSELF.

16 PHYSICALLY, I SUFFERED FROM VICIOUS ASTHMA  
17 ATTACKS; INABILITY TO EAT AT HOME WITHOUT VOMITING  
18 AND I WAS COMPLETELY BALD.

19 I WAS TAKEN TO VARIOUS MEDICAL DOCTORS WHO  
20 DECIDED I WAS HEALTHY.

21 IN DESPERATION, MOMA TOOK ME TO A PSYCHOLOGIST  
22 AFTER A FEW VISITS, MOMA WAS INFORMED I NEEDED A  
23 PLACE OF SAFETY TO LIVE. LIVING UNDER MY PRESENT  
24 SURROUNDING WOULD ONLY WORSEN MY CONDITION.

25 SO I WAS SENT TO TENNESSEE TO LIVE WITH MY

GRANDPARENTS.

A YEAR PASSES, HUSBAND NUMBER TWO WAS A BAD MEMORY, BUT A NEW NIGHTMARE CAME TO TAKE ITS PLACE.

MY GRANDFATHER ABUSED ME SEXUALLY, THROUGH THE FONDLING OF MY GENITALS. IN MY EARLY YEARS HE NEVER WENT PAST FONDLING. BUT AS I REPEATEDLY WAS SENT TO MY GRANDPARENTS TO LIVE, EXPERIENCES WITH MY GRANDFATHER GOT PROGRESSIVELY WORSE, TO WHERE BY AGE ELEVEN I WAS RAPED BY HIM.

TELLING MY GRANDMOTHER ONLY CAUSED ME MORE PROBLEMS. SHE TOLD ME THAT I ASKED FOR IT.

SO I LEARNED TO KEEP QUIET ABOUT SUCH THINGS AND WOULD NEVER BE IN A ROOM ALONE.

AFTER A RELATIVELY QUIET PERIOD IN MY LIFE OF FOUR YEARS, MOMA MARRIES HUSBAND NUMBER THREE.

HUSBAND NUMBER THREE HAD A VIOLENT PAST. HE WAS ON PAROLE FOR MURDERING HIS GIRLFRIEND WHEN HE MARRIED MY MOMA.

IN THE ONE AND A HALF YEARS THEY HAD TWO FIGHTS WHERE MOMA RECEIVED A BLACK EYE AND BRUISES ON HER BODY.

THESE WERE ONLY WARNINGS OF WHAT WAS TO COME.

I WASN'T THERE WHEN HE USED A CLAW HAMMER TO LITERALLY BEAT BY MOMA'S BRAINS OUT, BUT MY

NEIGHBORS TOLD ME WHAT HAD HAPPENED.

A FRIEND OF MY FAMILY DROVE ME TO THE HOSPITAL, SO I COULD BE THERE WITH MOMA. JUST AS WE PULLED AROUND TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM ENTRANCE, I SAW THEM RELOADING MOMA BACK INTO THE AMBULANCE.

WE WERE TOLD HER HEAD INJURIES WERE TOO MASSIVE FOR THEM TO HANDLE.

THE DOCTOR TOLD THE AMBULANCE DRIVER TO DRIVE TO VANDERBILT HOSPITAL IN NASHVILLE.

I GOT INTO THE BACK OF THE AMBULANCE AND CRADLED MY MOMA'S HEAD IN MY LAP. I ROCKED HER, CRIED AND TRIED TO SAY ALL THE PRAYERS THAT CATHOLIC SCHOOL TAUGHT ME.

AT VANDERBILT, MY MOTHER WAS WISKED IMMEDIATELY INTO SURGERY. I WAS LEFT ALONE, COVERED WITH DRIED BLOOD, SWOLLEN EYES AND TERRIFIED THAT MY MOTHER WAS GOING TO DIE.

I WANTED TO SCREAM AT SOMEBODY, "YOU GOT ANOTHER VICTIM HERE. HELP ME."

BUT AT ELEVEN YEARS OLD, THIS WAS MORE THAN I COULD BEAR ON MY OWN. BUT I HAD TO BECAUSE THERE WAS NO ONE TO PATCH ME UP EXCEPT ME.

MY GRANDPARENTS ARRIVED, AND I HAD TO GO HOME WITH THEM. I NEVER GOT TO SEE MY MOMA AFTER

1  
2 SURGERY.

3 I WASN'T OLD ENOUGH TO GO INTO I.C.U., BUT  
4 LITTLE DID THEY REALIZE I AGED TWENTY YEARS ON THAT  
5 DAY.

6 THERE WOULD BE NO SHRINKS FOR ME TO TALK  
7 TO THIS TIME. MY GRANDPARENTS DIDN'T BELIEVE IN  
8 SUCH THINGS. THEY DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH  
9 WHAT I EXPERIENCED. ALL THEY KNEW WAS THAT, "TIME  
10 WOULD HEAL MY WOUNDS."

11 TWO MONTHS LATER, MY MOTHER CAME HOME. I  
12 SAW HER AND COLD CHILLS WENT THROUGH MY BODY. HER  
13 HEAD WOUNDS WERE STILL VISABLE AND JUST SEEING HER  
14 AGGRAVATED MY OWN HEALING PROCESS.

15 A YEAR LATER MOTHER MARRIED HUSBAND NUMBER  
16 FOUR. THEY REMAINED MARRIED FOR SEVENTEEN YEARS.  
17 THEY DIVORCED LAST YEAR AFTER HE BROKE A CAST  
18 IRON FRYING PAN OVER MY MOTHER'S HEAD BECAUSE HIS  
19 CHICKEN WASN'T COOKED PROPERLY.

20 ALL OF THEIR MARRIED LIFE THEY FOUGHT.  
21 I RECEIVED MY FIRST COOKING LESSON BECAUSE MY MOTHER'S  
22 HANDS WERE BROKEN DURING A BEATING BY HUSBAND NUMBER  
23 FOUR.

24 WHEN THEY WOULD START FIGHTING, I WOULD GRAB  
25 MY SISTER AND GO EITHER TO MY STEP-GRANDPARENT OR

OUT INTO THE WOODS, AND JUST WAIT UNTIL THE FIGHTING STOPPED. I NEVER VEERED FROM THIS PATTERN.

LEAVING THE SCENE WAS MY COPING MECHANISM. WHEN I LEARNED HOW TO DRIVE, IT BECAME EASIER TO CACAMOUFLAGE MY REASONS FOR LEAVING. MY SISTER AND I WOULD GO TO THE MOVIES OR SOMEWHERE AND WAIT FOR THE FIGHT TO END.

AT AGE NINETEEN, JUST AFTER ONE OF MY PARENTS MAJOR BATTLES, I RECEIVED A MARRIAGE PROPOSAL FROM A G.I. I WAS SEEING. NATURALLY, I JUMPED AT IT. THIS WAS MY TICKET TO SANITY.

I DIDN'T STAY MARRIED VERY LONG; FOUR YEARS OF NORMALCY WAS ALL I COULD STAND.

I WASN'T BEING PHYSICALLY ABUSED. THIS MAN INSPIRED NO FEAR INSIDE OF ME. HE TREATED ME LIKE I HAD A WORTH.

A PERFECT HOME, BUT IT WASN'T FOR ME BECAUSE OF MY EXPERIENCE LIVING IN A VIOLENT HOUSEHOLD ALL OF MY LIFE.

AFTER MY DIVORCE, I WAS REMARRIED IN LESS THAN A YEAR. MY SECOND MARRIAGE PRODUCED THE ENVIRONMENT I WAS ALL TOO ACCUSTOMED TO.

I WAS BEATEN AND SO WAS MY DAUGHTER. I WAS ISOLATED IN AN UNSAVORY PART OF BROOKLYN;

1  
2 KEPT FROM PEOPLE, AND HAD NO FRIENDS.

3 PHONE CALLS AND MAIL WAS CENSORED BY MY SECOND  
4 HUSBAND. NOTHING I OR MY DAUGHTER DID WAS CORRECT.  
5 THE BOTH OF US WERE BEATEN AS A RESULT OF OUR  
6 BEHAVIORS.

7 THROUGH THIS MANIPULATION OF MY LIFE, BY  
8 HIS SICK GAMES, I WITHDREW FROM THE VIOLENT REALITY  
9 I WAS IN. MY OLD COPING MECHANISM OF LEAVING THE  
10 SCENE DIDN'T WORK FOR ME. I WAS LOST IN THIS AREA  
11 AND SCARED OF WHERE I WAS.

12 SO I ESCAPED MENTALLY FROM THE VIOLENCE.  
13 MY SPIRIT WAS BROKEN AND I WAS NO LONGER THINKING  
14 RATIONALLY OR OTHERWISE.

15 MY DAUGHTER DIED DURING MY SECOND HUSBANDS  
16 REIGN OF TERROR.

17 I RETREATED FURTHER INTO MY SHELL. MY HUSBAND  
18 HAD RENDERED ME HELPLESS.

19 MY VIOLENT PAST HAS LEFT VERY VISIBLE SCARES.  
20 I GET UPSET IF ANYONE RAISES THEIR VOICE TO ME.  
21 IF I HEAR PEOPLE ARGUING ON MY UNIT, I PUT ON MY  
22 WALKMAN AND DROWN THEM OUT.

23 I AM A PASSIVIST AND WON'T FIGHT, EVEN IF  
24 ITS ONLY DONE IN PLAYING. I TEND TO GRAVITATE  
25 TOWARDS VIOLENT PEOPLE BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT I AM

1  
2 USED TO.

3 BUT HOW DOES THE CYCLE GET STOPPED?

4 I DON'T WANT TO LIVE WITH A VIOLENT PERSON  
5 ALL MY LIFE. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE  
6 I HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO SEE THAT I AM A VICTIM OF  
7 A LEGACY OF VIOLENCE.

8 THIS ONLY CAME ABOUT THROUGH THE PREPARATION  
9 FOR THIS HEARING.

10 WE NEED COUNSELLING AND SPECIFIC EDUCATIONAL  
11 PROGRAMS DEALING WITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. IT'S ONLY  
12 THROUGH EDUCATION THAT WE ARE GIVEN ALTERNATIVES  
13 SO THAT WE WON'T BE IN THIS TYPE OF SITUATION  
14 AGAIN.

15 I HOPE THESE HEARINGS WILL PROVIDE SUCH  
16 PROGRAMS FOR US IN ORDER FOR US TO REBUILD A BETTER  
17 LIFE.

18 MS. BURSTEIN: NUMBER SIX, PLEASE.

19 NUMBER SIX: GOOD AFTERNOON.

20 IN JULY 1985, A SURVEY WAS TAKEN AT BEDFORD  
21 HILLS CORRECTIONAL FACILITY TO TRY TO ESTABLISH  
22 A REALISTIC SET OF DATA CONCERNING WOMEN WHO ARE  
23 INCARCERATED FOR CRIMES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, AND  
24 OTHER UNRELATED CRIMES BY WOMEN WHOSE BACKGROUND  
25 INDICATED A HISTORY OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

1  
2 THE RESPONSE RECEIVED FROM THIS PARTICULAR  
3 SURVEY POINTS OUT SOME IMPORTANT INFORMATION WHICH  
4 CONTRIBUTES TO OUR UNDERSTANDING OF WOMEN WHO HAVE  
5 COMMITTED CRIMES AS A DIRECT RESULT OF DOMESTIC  
6 VIOLENCE AND HOPEFULLY WILL ERADICATE MANY OF THE  
7 PERPETUATED MYTHS ABOUT THE VIOLENT OFFENDER.

8 THE SURVEY WAS DISTRIBUTED TO THE ENTIRE  
9 POPULATION BY REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS OF THE POPULATIO  
10 RESPONDNETS WERE FROM A LARGE CROSS-SECTION OF  
11 NYC BOROUGHES AND UPSTATE COUNTIES, WHO FORM PART  
12 OF THE POPULATION, INCARCERATED IN THE ONLY WOMEN'S  
13 MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON IN NEW YORK STATE.

14 THE WOMEN WERE INFORMED ABOUT THE VALUE OF  
15 THE RESPONSES, THE PURPOSE OF THE SURVEY, AND THEIR  
16 INDIVIDUAL ANONYMITY, IN EXCHANGE FOR HONEST RESPONSE

17 THE RESPONSES WERE RETURNED IN SEALED ENVELOPE  
18 TO MS. ELAINE LORD, SUPERINTENDENT OF BEDFORD HILLS  
19 CORRECTIONAL FACILITY.

20 THE INFORMATION WAS THEN TAKEN TO ALBANY,  
21 ENTERED ONTO COMPUTERS, AND COLLATED.

22 IN PREPARING THE SURVEY, THERE WAS A SERIES  
23 OF GROUP MEETINGS AMONG MEMBERS OF PARTICIPATING  
24 AGENCIES IN TODAY'S HEARING, ALONG WITH MEMBERS  
25 OF SEVERAL INMATE ORGANIZATIONS AT THIS FACILITY.

FROM THESE MEETINGS, THE QUESTIONS FOR THE SURVEY WERE FORMED, BASING INPUT ON RELEVANT INFORMATION, WHICH NORMALLY IS OVERLOOKED IN SYSTEMATIC SURVEYS, AND WHICH WAS AGREED UPON BY ALL PERSONS INVOLVED AS HAVING SOME DEFINITE BEARING, IN MOST CASES, ON THE OUTCOME OF INCARCERATION.

FROM A POPULATION COUNT OF 540 INMATES, 320 WOMEN RESPONDED TO THE SURVEY. THAT IS SIXTY PERCENT OF THE POPULATION.

OF THE RESPONSES, SIXTY-ONE PERCENT INDICATED THEY WERE INCARCERATED FOR CRIMES OF MURDER, MANSLAUGHTER, ASSAULT AND ROBBERY.

THIRTY-NINE PERCENT OF THE RESPONSES STATED THEY WERE INCARCERATED FOR DRUGS, BURGLARY, AND OTHER UNRELATED CRIMES.

THE CORRELLATION OF THIS DATA PRODUCED EVIDENCE THAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS A LARGE CONTRIBUTING FACTOR IN THE LIVES OF WOMEN CHARGED WITH PERPETRATING MANY OF THE CRIMES WHICH EXIST IN OUR COMMUNITIES TODAY.

OF THOSE WHO RESPONDED THAT THEY WERE INCARCERATED FOR A VIOLENT OFFENSE, SEVENTY-ONE PERCENT -- ALMOST THREE-QUARTERS OF THE WOMEN, INDICATED THAT THEY WERE HERE AS "FIRST OFFENDERS."

A FACT WHICH NEEDS TO BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION, IF WE ARE TO DISCUSS CHANGES AND ALTERNATIVES WITHIN THE PRESENT SYSTEM.

SEVENTY-FOUR PERCENT OF THE WOMEN INDICATED THAT THEY WERE MOTHERS.

ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-ONE SHOWED THAT THEIR CHILDREN WERE WITH THEIR FAMILIES.

NINETEEN WOMEN INDICATED THAT THEIR CHILDREN WERE IN FOSTER CARE.

FIFTY-TWO WOMEN INDICATED THAT THEIR CHILDREN WERE DISPERSED AMONG FAMILY, FRIENDS, FOSTER CARE, OR ON THEIR OWN.

INTERESTINGLY, SIXTEEN PERCENT OF THE WOMEN WHO RESPONDED STATED THAT THEY HAD BEEN, IN THEIR OWN CHILDHOOD, SUBJECTS OF FOSTER CARE.

IN SEEKING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DATA, QUESTIONS WERE POSED TO DETERMINE:

IF THE RESPONDENTS HAD A HISTORY OF ABUSE, EITHER TOWARDS THEMSELVES OR THEIR CHILDREN:

"WHO HAD BEEN THE VICTIM OF THEIR CRIME?"  
IF THE RESPONDENTS HAD RECEIVED THE BENEFIT OF SERVICES PRIOR TO THEIR INCARCERATION.

DESPITE THE AVAILABLE SERVICES WITHIN OUR COMMUNITIES, THE NUMBER OF POSITIVE RESPONSES TO

THE LAST QUESTION WAS SURPRISINGLY LOW.

WHY?

PUBLIC UNAWARENESS OF AVAILABLE SERVICES;  
INADEQUATE PROVISIONS FROM AGENCIES;  
LACK OF CONCERN FROM PUBLIC FIGURES;  
POOR ATTITUDES ON THE EXISTENCE OF THE PROBLEM  
ITSELF.

THESE, JUST TO NAME A FEW OF THE POSSIBLE  
REASONS FOR SUCH A LOW RESPONSE.

A LARGE NUMBER, ONE HUNDRED SIX, WOMEN  
INDICATED THAT THEY HAD BEEN VICTIMS OF PHYSICAL  
ABUSE.

NINETY-SEVEN WOMEN INDICATED THAT THEY HAD  
BEEN VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE.

ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-EIGHT WOMEN INDICATED  
THEY HAD BEEN VICTIMS OF EMOTIONAL ABUSE.

IN RESPONDING TO THE QUESTION OF THEIR  
RELATIONSHIPS TO THEIR ABUSERS, FORTY-ONE WOMEN  
RESPONDED THAT THEIR ABUSER HAD BEEN THEIR HUSBAND,  
OR THEIR COMMON-LAW HUSBAND.

ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-NINE WOMEN STATED THAT  
THEY HAD BEEN ABUSED BY MALE FRIENDS, STRANGERS,  
RELATIVES, AND/OR ACQUAINTANCES.

ALL IN ALL, SIXTY PERCENT OF THE WOMEN RESPONDED

1  
2 THAT THEY HAD BEEN ABUSED.

3 THE SURVEY ALSO ASKED IF THEIR CHILDREN HAD  
4 BEEN ABUSED, TO WHICH:

5 TWENTY-THREE RESPONDED THAT THEIR CHILDREN  
6 HAD BEEN VICTIMS OF PHYSICAL ABUSE.

7 TWELVE RESPONDED THAT THEIR CHILDREN HAD  
8 BEEN VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE.

9 FIFTY-ONE RESPONDED THAT THE CHILDREN HAD  
10 BEEN VICTIMS OF EMOTIONAL ABUSE.

11 OF THOSE THAT RESPONDED, TWENTY-FOUR INDICATED  
12 THE CHILDREN'S FATHER WAS THE ABUSER.

13 TWENTY-FIVE INDICATED THAT THEIR CHILDREN'S  
14 ABUSER WAS A MALE FRIEND, RELATIVE, STRANGER, AND/OR  
15 ACQUAINTANCE.

16 ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-THREE WOMEN INDICATED  
17 THAT MALES HAD BEEN THE VICTIMS IN THEIR CRIMES.

18 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE - WHAT PEOPLE WHO KNOW  
19 EACH OTHER, WHO OFTEN PROFESS TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER,  
20 DO TO EACH OTHER, IS A FRIGHTENING REALM ONLY  
21 BEGINNING TO BE FORTHRIGHTLY IDENTIFIED AND WORKED  
22 UPON.

23 THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE OF WOMEN INCARCERATED  
24 IN PRISON.

25 THE PARTICULAR HORROR OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

1  
2 STEMS FROM IT'S VIOLATION OF THE TRUST UPON WHICH  
3 ALL INTIMATE HUMAN RELATIONS DEPEND.

4 "HOME" IS MEANT TO BE, IN LIFE, A WARM,  
5 SAFE, POSITIVE NURTURING PLACE.

6 "VIOLENCE" COMMITTED THERE, ESPECIALLY BY  
7 SOMEONE UNDERSTOOD TO BE A "GUARDIAN"; HUSBAND,  
8 FATHER, UNCLE, BROTHER, OR MOTHER, IS A DAMAGING  
9 BETRAYAL.

10 ONCE VIOLENCE BECOMES ROUTINE IN A HOUSEHOLD,  
11 OR PRIMAL TABOOS ARE SHATTERED, THERE IS OFTEN NO  
12 STOPPING THE SPREAD OF VICIOUSNESS, OR THE IMPAIRMENT  
13 OF INDIVIDUAL JUDGMENT.

14 POLICY-MAKERS CANNOT AFFORD TO REMAIN IN-  
15 DIFFERENT. VERY FEW VICTIMS ARE GETTING HELP,  
16 INTERVENTION, OR SUPPORT WITHIN SOCIETY.

17 OF THE THREE HUNDRED TWENTY RESPONDENTS:  
18 ONLY THIRTEEN INDICATED THEY HAD RECEIVED  
19 FAMILY COURT INTERVENTION.

20 TWENTY-ONE INDICATED THEY HAD RECEIVED COURT  
21 ORDER OF PROTECTION.

22 EIGHTEEN INDICATED THEY HAD BEEN IN WOMEN'S  
23 SHELTERS.

24 A MERE FOUR INDICATED THEY HAD RECEIVED  
25 ADVOCACY FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGENCIES.

SEVENTY-TWO WOMEN STATED THEY HAD BEEN HOSPITALIZED OR RECEIVED MEDICAL TREATMENT DUE TO ABUSE.

THE SURVEY ALSO ASKED IF WOMEN HAD ATTEMPTED SUICIDE.

IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT ONE HUNDRED NINE WOMEN RESPONDED THAT THEY HAD ATTEMPTED SUICIDE AT SOME POINT IN THEIR LIVES.

ONE HALF OF THOSE WOMEN BEING EMOTIONALLY, PHYSICALLY OR SEXUALLY ABUSED, TRIED TO COMMIT SUICIDE.

THESE FINDINGS STRESS THAT NOT ONLY WERE THE APPLICATION OF SERVICES TO ABUSED WOMEN LIMITED THE TOLL OF ABUSE INCLUDED TWO, AND IN SOME CASES, THREE GENERATIONS OF PEOPLE.

IT IS ALSO STRIKING TO NOTE, THAT EIGHTY-TWO PERCENT OF THE RESPONDENTS INDICATED THAT THEY HAD NOT APPLIED FOR, NOR BEEN RECIPIENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES, SUGGESTING THAT POVERTY WAS NOT THE RELEVANT FACTOR IN THE OFFENSE.

IN ADDITION, IT SHOWS THAT SOCIAL SERVICES BECOMES PROMINENT IN THE WOMEN'S LIVES, ONLY UPON THE INCARCERATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL, IN EFFECT, TO PROVIDE FOR THE CHILDREN LEFT BEHIND.

MOST HOMICIDE OCCURRENCES COME OUT OF A

STANDING VOLATILE SITUATION. WOMEN'S  
INVOLVEMENTS IN VIOLENT CRIMES TYPICALLY ARISE OUT  
OF FRUSTRATION IN DEALING WITH A SITUATION THEY  
FEEL IS HUMANLY AND MORALLY WRONG, AND THE TYPICALLY  
SERVILE ROLES THAT HAVE CHARACTERIZED THE  
ADDITIONAL FEMALE.

WHERE DOES THE DECREE OF INTENTIONAL  
KILLING VALIDATE A REACTIVE SITUATION OR AN ACT  
OF DESPERATION?

THE TESTIMONY HERE TODAY IS GIVEN IN HOPE  
OF PROVIDING SOME BACKGROUND TO THOSE OF YOU PRESENT  
WHO CAN PROVIDE THE MECHANISMS AND THE INCENTIVE  
FOR CHANGES IN PUBLIC POLICY.

WE CAN WORK WITH INDIVIDUALS AND ELIMINATE  
VIOLENT CONDITIONING FAIRLY RAPIDLY THROUGH  
PROVIDING THERAPEUTIC TREATMENT PROGRAMS, IN BOTH  
ENGLISH AND SPANISH, WITHIN OUR COMMUNITIES AND  
PRISON FACILITIES.

IT'S THE OTHER THINGS, THE CONTRIBUTING FACTORS  
LIKE TAXES YOU IN THE SOCIAL AGENCIES, STATE LEGISLA-  
TION, CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM, DEPARTMENT OF  
PROSECUTIONS, DEPARTMENT OF PAROLE, AND OTHER  
COMMUNITY GROUPS, TO INVESTIGATE THIS VERY

1  
2 INVESTIGATE THIS VERY PROMINENT SOCIAL PROBLEM AND  
3 PROVIDE THE AVENUES OF RELIEF SO SORELY NEGLECTED  
4 AT THE PRESENT TIME.

5 SOCIETY LOOKS TO YOU FOR YOUR RESPONSE AND  
6 GUIDANCE IN HELPING RECTIFY THE INJUSTICES OF THIS  
7 GROWING PROBLEM.

8 BY IGNORING THE EXISTING SITUATIONS OF  
9 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, WE MAKE ALL PARTIES CONCERNED  
10 VICTIMS.

11 WE MUST PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING AND DEFINITE  
12 LEGISLATION TO DEAL WITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

13 IT TAKES COMMUNITY AND JUDICIAL MONITORING,  
14 THERAPY, A NETWORKING EFFORT, AND OUTREACH TO AID  
15 IN MINIMIZING THE PROBLEM.

16 LIFE IS SACRED.

17 LET US NOT WAIT FOR IT TO BE ENDED, BEFORE  
18 WE CONSIDER IT SO.

19 THANK YOU.

20 MS. FIELDS: I JUST WANT TO INTRODUCE ARTHUR  
21 ABE DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY  
22 AND, IN FACT, HIS WIFE, CONSTANCE, WHO IS THE  
23 CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
24 INDIGNITY.

25 DID YOU FIND, IN YOUR SURVEY, THAT A

MAJOR FACTOR CONTRIBUTING TO BOTH THE PROBLEMS THE  
WOMEN WERE IN, BEFORE THEY BECAME INCARCERATED,  
AND CONTRIBUTING TO THEIR CRIME, WAS SOCIETY'S  
EXPECTATION OF THE APPROPRIATE ROLE OF WOMEN?

NUMBER SIX: THE EXPECTATION THAT SOCIETY  
PLACES ON WOMEN?

MS. FIELDS: TO BE IN THEIR PLACE.

NUMBER SIX: YES. TO BE SUBSERVIENT,  
TO BE ACCEPTING; TO DEAL WITH WHAT IS AT HAND AND  
NOT -- AND ACCEPTING. IT IS A NORM. IT IS A GIVEN.  
YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO BE A GOOD WIFE AND MOTHER.

MS. FIELD: WOULD THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT  
BE WHAT WE EXPECT OF MEN; THAT IT IS OKAY FOR THEM  
TO BE VIOLENT?

NUMBER SIX: TO RESPECT AND OBEY.

MS. FIELDS: BUT, IT IS OKAY FOR THE MEN  
TO BE VIOLENT?

NUMBER SIX: AND IT IS OKAY FOR THEM TO BE  
VIOLENT, BECAUSE THEY DON'T REALLY MEAN IT;

BECAUSE THEY'RE DOING IT OUT OF SOMETHING  
THAT IS FRUSTRATING THEM.

IF YOU ARE GOOD TO HIM, IF YOU ARE PATIENT,  
HE WILL OUTGROW IT, OVERCOME IT.

IT IS NOT TRUE.

1  
2 MS. FIELDS: WAS THERE ANYTHING IN YOUR  
3 SURVEY RESULTS WHICH WOULD LEAD YOU TO PROPOSE SOME  
4 SUGGESTIONS THAT DON'T HAVE TO DO WITH LAWS, BUT  
5 HAVE TO DO WITH THE WAY SOCIETY IS ORGANIZED?

6 THE WAY PEOPLE LIVE TOGETHER?

7 NUMBER SIX: I HAVE VARIOUS SUGGESTIONS.

8 MS. FIELDS: TELL US.

9 NUMBER SIX: AS FAR AS FAMILY INTERVENTION,  
10 I FEEL THAT WHEN -- I THINK THAT POLICE LAW ENFORCE-  
11 MENT HAS TO BE EDUCATED THAT THIS IS NOT SOMETHING  
12 TO OVERLOOK.

13 THAT THIS IS SOMETHING THAT IS NOT DAMAGING  
14 TO JUST ONE PERSON, BUT IT IS DAMAGING A GENERATION.

15 THEY HAVE TO BE EDUCATED ON HOW TO DEAL WITH  
16 THIS SITUATION.

17 THEY HAVE TO HAVE OUTLETS, IF THEY PICK UP  
18 A MAN FOR ABUSING HIS WIFE AND HIS CHILDREN, AND  
19 THEY TAKE HIM INTO THE LOCAL PRECINCT, IT SHOULDN'T  
20 JUST BE A MATTER OF THEM CONFERRING WITH HIM FOR  
21 AN HOUR AND SENDING HIM BACK HOME.

22 THEY SHOULD HAVE SOME OPTIONS TO DEAL WITH  
23 THAT. THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO HOLD HIM OVERNIGHT.

24 HE SHOULD BE ABLE TO APPEAR BEFORE A JUDGE.

25 A JUDGE SHOULD BE INFORMED OF WHATEVER

BACKGROUND HISTORY MIGHT BE INVOLVED WITH THIS FAMILY.

AND OPTIONS SHOULD BE GIVEN:

EITHER YOU DO SENTENCED TIME IN THE LOCAL  
COUNTY JAIL, OR

YOU BECOME PART OF A THERAPEUTIC PROGRAM  
TO RID YOURSELF OF THIS TYPE OF CONDITION.

THIS SHOULD BE AVAILABLE NOT ONLY TO THE  
MEN, BUT TO THE FAMILY INVOLVED.

I THINK THAT IN OUR SCHOOLS CHILDREN NEED  
TO BE MADE AWARE THAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS NOT  
ALL RIGHT.

IT IS NOT ALL RIGHT FOR DADDY AND MOMMY TO  
BEAT UP EACH OTHER AND IT IS NOT ALL RIGHT FOR THEM  
TO BEAT UP ON YOU AND SAY THEY ARE SORRY AFTERWARDS.

NO, IT IS NOT A SIGN OF LOVE.

THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG.

CHILDREN HAVE TO LEARN TO IDENTIFY THAT IT  
IS WRONG. THEY CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO INGRAIN IT  
AS AN ACCEPTANCE IN THEIR PERSONALITY.

I THINK IT TAKES WORK. IT TAKES PEOPLE  
REACHING OUT AND GOING INTO THOSE SCHOOLS AND EDUCAT-  
ING THESE CHILDREN; JUST LIKE THEY HAVE SEX EDUCATION  
CLASSES AND DRUG ABUSE CLASSES, THEY SHOULD ALSO  
HAVE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TYPE OF CLASSES FOR CHILDREN.

1  
2 WHEN A CHILD IS REFERRED TO A COUNSELOR BECAU  
3 HE HAS BITE MARKS OR LASHES OR WHATEVER, IT SHOULDN'T  
4 JUST BE A MATTER OF THE COUNSELOR SITTING DOWN AND  
5 TALKING TO THE CHILD AND SENDING THEM BACK HOME.

6 THIS COUNSELOR SHOULD BECOME INVOLVED. THEY  
7 SHOULD GO FURTHER. THEY SHOULD QUESTION THE FAMILY.  
8 THEY SHOULD FIND MEASURES TO DEAL WITH ELIMINATING  
9 THE PROBLEM.

10 MS. FIELDS: THANK YOU.

11 MS. BURSTEIN: I WANT TO SAY THAT, FOR  
12 THE RECORD, THANK YOU, MARJORIE.

13 MR. SEMIDEI: THERE'S A COUPLE OF PAGES  
14 DEVOTED TO THE ABUSED CHILDREN, NOT JUST THE MOTHER  
15 BUT THE CHILDREN THEMSELVES AND VERY BRAVE ATTEMPTS  
16 BY THE MOTHERS TO PROTECT THEIR CHILDREN FROM  
17 VIOLENCE, BUT IN TERMS OF THE STATUTES, IN TERMS  
18 OF THE SERVICES OUT THERE AND THE SERVICES THAT  
19 THEY RECEIVED, THEY WERE VERY SMALL AND MAYBE NON-  
20 EXISTENCE.

21 ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I WANTED TO EXPLORE  
22 WITH YOU: THERE IS AN ASSUMPTION IN SOME OF THE  
23 TESTIMONY THAT YOU HAVE TO GET ARRESTED TO GET  
24 SERVICES.

25 I HAVE TWO QUESTIONS:

WHY IS THAT SO?

AND, TWO:

IF THE SERVICES, EVEN WHEN YOU GET ARRESTED --  
FROM THE PROCESS OF ACTUAL ARREST, WHAT STEPS ARE  
BEING DONE TO HELP THE MOTHER RETAIN HER PARENTAL  
RESPONSIBILITIES FROM THE MINUTE OF ARREST TO WHEN  
SHE IS IN THE FACILITY?

IN OTHER WORDS, HOW DO THESE STATISTICS  
IMPACT ON PARENTAL DETERMINATION OR RIGHTS?

IN OTHER WORDS, SOMEONE VICTIMIZED BY A PARTNER  
MAY BE VICTIMIZED BY CERTAIN LAWS, BUT ARE YOU ALSO  
VICTIMIZED EVEN AS YOU DO TIME IN TERMS OF YOUR  
CHILDREN BEING TAKEN AWAY FROM YOU?

MS. ELDRIDGE: YOU MAY NOT HAVE THE DATA  
ON THIS IN A FORMAL WAY.

BUT, I THINK THE INTEREST IS WHAT HAPPENS  
TO A MOTHER WHEN SHE GETS ARRESTED?

WHAT HAPPENS TO HER CONNECTIONS WITH THE  
CHILDREN?

WHAT SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE  
TO CONTINUE THE RELATIONSHIP?

NUMBER SIX: WHEN A WOMAN IS ARRESTED,  
THEY ARE IMMEDIATELY SEVERED FROM THEIR CHILDREN.

THEY ARE TAKEN THROUGH THE PROCESS OF

1  
2 PRINTING AND THE PHOTOGRAPHS AND HOPEFULLY A FRIEND  
3 WILL PICK UP THAT CHILD AND DELIVER IT TO THEIR  
4 FAMILY.

5 HOPEFULLY SOMEBODY WILL BE AROUND.

6 HOPEFULLY AN OFFICER WILL BE KIND ENOUGH  
7 TO GO TO THAT APARTMENT AND TAKE THOSE CHILDREN  
8 AND DELIVER THEM SOMEWHERE WHERE THEY WILL BE SAFE.

9 MR. SEMIDEI: TO YOUR KNOWLEDGE, THERE'S  
10 NO FORMAL PROCEDURE DURING THE ARREST WHEN THE  
11 CONNECTION IS SEVERED BETWEEN THE PARENT AND THE  
12 CHILD IF THAT PARENT IS THE SOLE PERSON RESPONSIBLE  
13 FOR THE CHILD TO ALERT THE SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
14 THAT THERE IS A NEED FOR SUPERVISING THAT CHILD  
15 AND TO PROVIDE FOR THAT CHILD AND TO START THE PROCESS  
16 OF UNIFICATION OF THE MOTHER AND THE CHILD, RIGHT?

17 NUMBER SIX: IN MANY INSTANCES, THOUGH,  
18 EVEN THOUGH THAT PROCEDURE IS THAT, IT IS OVERLOOKED.

19 MR. CONDON: DID YOUR SURVEY INDICATE  
20 WHETHER MOST OF THE WOMEN HERE SERVING TIME HERE  
21 FOR HAVING MURDERED THE ABUSING SPOUSE, WERE THEY  
22 ACTUALLY TRIED FOR THIS CRIME OR WHETHER THEY PLEADED  
23 "GUILTY" TO A LESSER OFFENSE OR --

24 NUMBER SIX: THEY SIMPLY ASKED -- THEY  
25 WERE ASKED IF THEY WERE FIRST-OFFENDERS, AND THEY

WERE ASKED WHAT SENTENCE TIME THEY WERE DOING FOR...  
THEIR OFFENSE. THERE WAS NO SEPARATION WHETHER  
IT WAS A TRIAL OR A PLEA.

MR. CONDON: IT OCCURS TO ME IN LISTENING  
TO SOME OF THE PRIOR PEOPLE WHO TESTIFIED HERE THAT  
IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR A JURY TO CONVICT  
THEM HAVING HEARD WHAT WE HAVE HEARD HERE THIS MORN-  
ING.

I AM JUST WONDERING ABOUT THE LEVEL OF DEFENSE  
REPRESENTATION THAT THESE PEOPLE GOT.

DID THEY ACTUALLY GET A CHANCE TO TELL THEIR  
STORY?

SO, "WE WILL WORK OUT A DEAL"; AND THEY PLEAD  
GUILTY TO A LESSER OFFENSE AND THAT WORKS OUT THE  
WHOLE SITUATION?

NUMBER SIX: FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE AND  
FROM PEOPLE THAT I HAVE DEALT WITH, THE HISTORY  
AND THE SITUATION AND THE CIRCUMSTANCES, INSTEAD,  
OF HAVING BEEN USED AS A DEFENSE FOR THE PERSON,  
WAS USED BY THE PROSECUTION AGAINST THEM.

MR. CONDON: THANK YOU..

MS. MOORE: I KNOW THAT YOUR SURVEY DEALT  
WITH THE CURRENT POPULATION.

WAS THERE ANY INDICATION OF REPEAT INSTANCES?

OR:

I THINK THAT WE HAD ONE BIT OF TESTIMONY  
HERE TODAY WHERE A WOMAN WAS INVOLVED WITH SEVERAL  
RECURRING INSTANCES WITH SEVERAL DIFFERENT  
INDIVIDUALS; ARE THERE ANY REPEAT OFFENDERS OR IS  
THERE ANY INDICATIONS OF REPEATED HISTORY?

DOES THE PRISON EXPERIENCE CHANGE PEOPLE?

IS THERE ANY INDICATION OF THAT?

I KNOW THAT IS A HARD QUESTION. JUST A SENSE  
IF YOU HAVE ONE.

NUMBER SIX: IT IS A HARD QUESTION BECAUSE  
THEN IT NO LONGER BECOMES A SURVEY.

WHAT WE WERE TRYING TO REACH FOR WERE ACTUAL  
FACTS THAT NORMALLY ARE MISSED.

THAT COMES FROM THE TESTIMONY FROM HEARING  
THE WOMEN SAY WHAT THEY WENT THROUGH OR WHAT THEY  
MISSED OUT ON; OR, HOW IT HAS AFFECTED THEM OR HOW  
THEY HAVE TRIED TO HELP THEMSELVES OR WHAT SERVICES  
WERE NOT AVAILABLE TO THEM.

I HAVE DEALT WITH WOMEN IN HERE THAT HAD  
AN AGENCY TWO BLOCKS FROM WHERE THEY LIVED THAT  
COULD HAVE HELPED THEM AND THEY DIDN'T HAVE THE  
COURAGE, DIDN'T HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE, FIRST OF ALL,  
THAT THAT AGENCY WAS ABLE TO HELP THEM IN THAT

ASPECT OF THEIR LIFE AND THEY DIDN'T HAVE,  
SECOND OF ALL, THE COURAGE TO DEAL WITH THE  
BUREAUCRACIES INVOLVED.

MS. MOORE: DOES THAT REQUIRE SOMEBODY  
THAT THE WOMAN KNOWS TO SORT OF DRAG THEM TO THAT  
AGENCY?

HOW CAN SOCIETY MAKE A WOMAN GO TO GET  
COUNSELLING?

I KNOW IN MANY CASES THERE ARE COUNSELLING  
AGENCIES AVAILABLE, BUT FOR WHATEVER REASON, THE  
COUNSELLING AGENCIES NEVER CONNECT WITH THE  
INDIVIDUALS.

HOW CAN A WOMAN -- DOES A WOMAN HAVE TO  
CHOOSE TO GO OR IS THERE SOMETHING THAT CAN BE DONE  
TO MAKE THEM GO?

NUMBER SIX: A WOMAN MUST CHOOSE TO GO, BUT  
IF SHE DOESN'T REALIZE THAT SHE HAS A PROBLEM, SHE  
DOESN'T KNOW THAT THERE ARE OPTIONS.

SHE WON'T SEEK OPTIONS IF SHE HAS ACCEPTED  
THAT, "HE LOVES ME BECAUSE HE BEATS ME, AND HE  
TELLS ME, 'I AM SORRY' AFTERWARDS, AND GOES AND  
BUYS ME A NEW BLOUSE," AND THAT CLEARED UP THE AIR,  
AND THE PROBLEM HAS BEEN RESOLVED.

SHE HAS THE CHOICE BUT THERE IS NO OPTIONS

1  
2 IF THEY DON'T RECOGNIZE IT.

3 I DON'T THINK THAT THERE IS ENOUGH PUBLICIZING

4 I DON'T THINK THERE IS ENOUGH ADVERTISING  
5 FOR WOMEN THAT KNOW THIS IS NOT NORMAL OR HEALTHY  
6 FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE.

7 I HAVE APPROACHED CLERGY TO ASSIST ME WITH  
8 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SITUATIONS AND THEY TOLD ME TO  
9 PRAY AND PRAY TO GOD AND HOPE THAT HE WILL HELP  
10 ME THROUGH IT, AND THAT WAS THE END OF THAT.

11 NOBODY WAS ABLE TO DIRECT.

12 MS. MOORE: ALSO, THE SOCIETAL ACCEPTANCE  
13 THAT THIS IS NOT ABNORMAL; THAT WOMEN ARE SORT OF  
14 TAUGHT TO ACCEPT IT, AND SHE DOES?

15 NUMBER SIX: THIS IS WHY WE ARE HERE TODAY  
16 BECAUSE WE WANT PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND THAT, NO, IT  
17 IS NOT AN ACCEPTED FORM OF LIFE.

18 MS. MOORE: YOU HAVE SUCCEEDED.

19 NUMBER SIX: THANK YOU.

20 (AT THIS TIME NUMBER FIVE HAS BEEN ASKED  
21 TO RETURN TO ANSWER SOME QUESTIONS)

22 MS. BURSTEIN: BEFORE I ASK YOU THE QUESTION  
23 IF I MAY, I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE SENATOR OLGA  
24 MENDEZ, WHO HAS BEEN A LONG-TIME MEMBER OF THE  
25 NEW YORK STATE COMMISSION ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN

1  
2 ADDITION TO BEING A DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF HER  
3 HOUSE.

4 YOU RECITED A HISTORY OF A BRUTALLY ABUSED  
5 MOTHER, AND, IN ADDITION, SEXUAL ABUSE VISITED ON  
6 YOU.

7 WHEN YOU, FOR EXAMPLE, WERE IN THE HOSPITAL  
8 WITH YOUR MOTHER HAVING BEEN CLAW-HAMMERED, NOBODY--  
9 WHEN YOU WERE IN THE HOSPITAL SITTING THERE AS A  
10 YOUNG CHILD WAITING FOR YOUR MOTHER OR HOPING YOU  
11 WOULD SEE YOUR MOTHER IN THE EMERGENCY ROOM, DID  
12 NOBODY, DID NO SOCIAL WORKER, NO EMERGENCY ROOM  
13 NURSE COME OVER?

14 WAS THERE NO FOLLOW-UP AFTERWARDS WHEN YOU  
15 LEFT THE HOSPITAL?

16 NUMBER FIVE: NO, THERE WASN'T.

17 THERE WASN'T ANYBODY.

18 THE DOCTORS GRABBED MY MOTHER ON THE GURNEY,  
19 THEY TOOK HER INTO THE OPERATING ROOM.

20 THERE WAS NO NURSE; NO INTURN; NO SOCIAL  
21 WORKER.

22 I SAT THERE FOR A GOOD FIVE HOURS WAITING  
23 FOR MY GRANDPARENTS TO COME UP, AND CRIED.

24 THERE WASN'T EVEN A PRIEST.

25 MS. ELDRIDGE: YOU SAID BEFORE YOU SAT

1  
2 THERE; YOU WERE SILENT; YOU WERE A LITTLE KID.

3 YOU DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING.

4 COULD YOU SEE SOMEBODY?

5 YOU JUST SAT THERE, WAITING FOR SOMEONE TO  
6 COME?

7 NUMBER FIVE: YES.

8 MS. ELDRIDGE: NO ONE CAME?

9 NUMBER FIVE: NO.

10 MS. ELDRIDGE: WHEN YOU WERE IN SCHOOL,  
11 DID YOU EVER SEEK ANY ASSISTANCE OR DID ANYBODY  
12 EVER COME AND SAY, WHEN YOU PASSIBLY LET YOURSELF  
13 GET BEAT UP, DID ANYBODY SUGGEST COUNSELLING?

14 NUMBER FIVE: AT THAT TIME, WHEN MY MOTHER  
15 WAS NOTIFIED OF THE INCIDENT AT SCHOOK, SHE THOUGHT  
16 THAT SOMETHING WAS WRONG, BUT SHE WASN'T EXACTLY  
17 SURE OF WHAT WAS WRONG.

18 I WAS TAKEN TO A PSYCHOLOGIST WHO FELT THAT  
19 MY UPBRINGING, AT THIS TIME, WAS THE CAUSATION FOR  
20 THIS ATTITUDE THAT I HAD.

21 MS. ELDRIDGE: THAT'S WHY THEY SENT YOU  
22 TO YOUR GRANDPARENTS; IS THAT RIGHT?

23 NUMBER FIVE: YES.

24 MS. BURSTEIN: WHAT DID YOUR MOTHER SAY  
25 TO YOU ABOUT ALL OF THE VIOLENCE THAT YOU SAW ALL

1  
2 OF YOUR LIFE?

3 NUMBER FIVE: WE NEVER TALKED ABOUT IT.  
4 WE NEVER DID. IT WAS A DEAD ISSUE.

5 MS. BURSTEIN: NOBODY IN THE FAMILY WANTED  
6 TO ACKNOWLEDGE IT?

7 IT'S SIMILAR TO THE SECOND WITNESS WHO SAID  
8 THAT IT WAS NEVER DISCUSSED.

9 NUMBER FIVE: IT WASN'T.

10 MS. ELDRIDGE: YOU TALKED A LITTLE BIT  
11 ABOUT YOUR UPBRINGING; WHEN YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT  
12 PRAYERS.

13 DID YOU HAVE A CONNECTION WITH THE CHURCH  
14 AS A CHILD?

15 NUMBER FIVE: I WENT TO CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
16 AND I WENT TO MASS.

17 THAT WAS IT.

18 THAT'S MY RELIGIOUS UPBRINGING.

19 MS. ELDRIDGE: DID YOU EVER TALK TO A PRIEST  
20 OR A NUN OR ONE OF YOUR TEACHERS ABOUT YOUR GRANDFATHER  
21 OR WHAT HAPPENED IN YOUR FAMILY?

22 NUMBER FIVE: NO. IT WAS SOMETHING THAT  
23 I WAS ASHAMED OF.

24 MS. ELDRIDGE: NEVER TOLD A FRIEND?

25 NUMBER FIVE: NEVER.

1  
2 MR. DUNSTON: I WOULD LIKE TO GET YOUR  
3 REACTIONS TO THE STATISTICS THAT WE JUST HEARD A  
4 SECOND AGO.

5 SPECIFICALLY, WE TOOK AN INFORMAL SURVEY  
6 ABOUT FOUR MONTHS AGO AT TWO OF OUR TWENTY-BED  
7 FACILITIES.

8 WE FOUND THAT AROUND NINETY PERCENT OF THOSE  
9 FEMALES HAD BEEN SEXUALLY ABUSED AS YOUNG PEOPLE.

10 WHEN I HEARD THE STATISTICS GIVEN A SECOND  
11 AGO, IT INDICATED THAT NINETY-SEVEN OF THREE HUNDRED  
12 AND TWENTY RESPONDENTS INDICATED THAT THEY HAD BEEN  
13 SEXUALLY ABUSED AS CHILDREN.

14 YOU INDICATED A SECOND AGO THAT IN RESPONDING  
15 TO A QUESTION FROM COMMISSIONER BURSTEIN, THAT  
16 GENERALLY WHEN THE ISSUE WAS RAISED ABOUT WHY YOU  
17 DIDN'T RESPOND, YOU SAID IT WAS NEVER TALKED ABOUT.

18 MY QUESTION IS:

19 DO YOU THINK THAT THE FIGURES THAT WERE GIVEN  
20 ARE ACCURATE IN TERMS OF ONLY NINETY-SEVEN PERCENT  
21 OF THREE HUNDRED TWENTY PEOPLE RESPONDING, HAVING  
22 BEEN SEXUALLY ABUSED AND IF THAT IS SO, OR NOT SO,  
23 DO YOU THINK THAT ONE OF THE FACTORS MIGHT BE THAT  
24 IT IS JUST SOMETHING THAT IS NEVER TALKED ABOUT  
25 OR IS IT POSSIBLY THAT THESE FIGURES ARE INACCURATE

DOES MY QUESTION MAKE SENSE TO YOU?

NUMBER FIVE: YES, IT DOES.

MR. DUNSTON: ALL RIGHT.

NUMBER FIVE: I'M NOT A STATISTIC.

I HEARD THE FIGURES THAT WERE READ.

DUE TO MY OWN EXPERIENCE AND THE WAY THAT  
I REACTED TOWARDS IT, I REALLY QUESTION WHETHER  
THOSE STATISTICS ARE COMPLETELY ACCURATE.

BECAUSE, I KNOW THAT THIS IS SOMETHING THAT  
MOST WOMEN ARE ASHAMED OF.

I AM ASHAMED OF IT. VERY ASHAMED OF IT.  
AND IT IS SOMETHING THAT IS NOT TALKED ABOUT, UNLESS  
YOU WERE SURE THAT YOU WERE GOING TO GET HOME.  
BECAUSE IF YOU SPEAK ABOUT IT, NOT ONLY WERE YOU  
VICTIMIZED BY SOMEONE THAT YOU TRUSTED AND THAT  
YOU LOVED AND THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE TAKING CARE  
OF YOU, BUT THEN YOU WERE ALSO VICTIMIZED BY THAT  
PERSON'S SPOUSE WHO MAKES YOU THE SCAPEGOAT AND  
IT IS LIKE BEING SLAPPED TWICE FOR THE SAME CRIME.

SO, YOU LEARN TO BE QUIET.

MR. DUNSTON: THANK YOU.

MS. FIELDS: WITH THE AMOUNT OF INSIGHT  
THAT YOU HAVE NOW, WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE LIKED  
NOW, THAT YOU LOOK BACK, WHAT WOULD YOU WANT

1  
2 TO USE TO HELP-- WHAT KIND OF HELP WOULD YOU LIKE  
3 TO HAVE THAT WASN'T AVAILABLE TO YOU?

4 HOW WOULD YOU DESIGN HELP FOR SOMEBODY  
5 ELSE?

6 NUMBER FIVE: FIRST OF ALL, I AM NOT REALLY  
7 SURE HOW MANY CHILDREN ACCOMPANY THEIR MOTHERS TO  
8 THE HOSPITAL WHEN THEY ARE BEING TREATED.

9 I REALLY FEEL LIKE IN EMERGENCY ROOMS THERE  
10 SHOULD BE SOCIAL WORKERS, PSYCHOLOGISTS, SOMEBODY  
11 THAT IS KNOWLEDGEABLE IN BATTERED WOMEN'S SYNDROME,  
12 AND THE EFFORTS THAT IT HAS UPON CHILDREN.

13 BECAUSE, IF YOU LET SOMETHING LIKE THIS GO  
14 UNTREATED, AS IN MY CASE, YOU WILL GRAVITATE TOWARD  
15 A VIOLENT PERSON AND MOST LIKELY WIND UP IN A PLACE  
16 LIKE THIS AND I WOULD REALLY LIKE TO SEE THAT STOPPED  
17 IF THERE IS ANY WAY POSSIBLE.

18 MS. FIELDS: THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

19 MS. BURSTEIN: WE ARE GOING TO BREAK FOR  
20 ABOUT FIFTEEN MINUTES SO WE CAN DEVOTE MAXIMUM TIME  
21 TO HEARING THE WOMEN.

22 (PAUSE)

23 (LUNCHEON RECESS TAKEN)

24 (TIME NOTED: 12:50 P.M.)

25 (AFTER LUNCHEON RECESS, TIME NOTED: 1:50 P.M)

MS. BURSTEIN: ALL RIGHT, I THINK THE NEXT PERSON TO TESTIFY IS NUMBER SEVEN.

MAY WE HAVE NUMBER SEVEN, PLEASE.

NUMBER SEVEN: THERE WAS VIOLENCE IN MY HOME ON A WEEKLY BASIS, WHICH WAS PHYSICAL, SEXUAL, AND EMOTIONAL. IT OCCURRED BETWEEN MY HUSBAND AND MYSELF, AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO MY OFFENSE.

THERE WERE NO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES OR PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO ME. I DID NOT EVEN KNOW THAT THERE WERE SUCH PLACES.

I FEEL THAT PAMPHLETS SHOULD BE PASSED, AND THAT THE PUBLIC SHOULD BE MADE AWARE OF THESE PROGRAMS THROUGH MAGAZINES, P.T.A., CHURCHES, ET CETERA, TO ALERT THE WOMEN OF AMERICA THAT IT IS NOT OKAY TO BE BEATEN BY THEIR HUSBANDS OR BOYFRIENDS.

THE PROBLEM WON'T GO AWAY BY ITSELF, AND IT'S OKAY TO COME FORTH AND LET SOMEONE KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE HOME.

MOST OF US WERE RAISED TO BELIEVE THAT WHATEVER GOES ON IN THE HOME SHOULD STAY IN THE HOME.

HAD I NOT BEEN CONDITIONED AS A CHILD TO BELIEVE THIS, I MIGHT NOT BE HERE TODAY.

A COUPLE OF TIMES THE POLICE ENTERED MY HOME

1  
2 BECAUSE OF A "DOMESTIC SQUABBLE." THEY WOULD TAKE  
3 MY HUSBAND TO THE NEAREST MOTEL, TO "COOL OFF."

4 I ASKED THAT THEY MAKE HIM LEAVE HIS HOUSE  
5 KEY, AND WAS TOLD, "WE CAN'T DO THAT."

6 I FELT TOTALLY UNPROTECTED BY THE POLICE  
7 DEPARTMENT.

8 I FELT THAT THEY WERE GIVING MY HUSBAND  
9 CONSENT TO COME BACK AND BEAT ME SOME MORE AFTER  
10 THEY LEFT, AND HE DID.

11 MY HUSBAND DID NOT NEED A WEAPON TO BEAT  
12 ME. HE WAS A BLACK BELT. HE USED HIS HANDS AND  
13 FEET MOST OF THE TIME. STILL, I HAVE BEEN SHOT AT,  
14 HIT IN THE HEAD WITH A PIECE OF LUMBER, AND HAD  
15 MY HEAD SHAVED TO BE STITCHED UP.

16 WHEN THE AMBULANCE CAME TO TAKE ME TO THE  
17 HOSPITAL, I WAS THREATENED BY MY HUSBAND THAT HE'D  
18 KILL ME IF I TALKED.

19 I DID TELL THE DOCTOR WHO TREATED ME, HOWEVER,  
20 THAT MY HUSBAND WAS THE CAUSE OF THE GASH IN MY  
21 HEAD.

22 ONCE I WAS BITTEN ON MY THUMB DURING A FIGHT  
23 WE HAD BECAUSE I DID NOT SUBMIT MYSELF SEXUALLY  
24 TO HIM AFTER A FIGHT.

25 I WENT TO MY DOCTOR; HE DID SURGERY, WHICH

1 INCLUDED DRAINING AND REMOVING MY NAIL. MY DOCTOR  
2 SAID I COULD HAVE LOST PART OF THE FINGER IF I HAD  
3 WAITED LONGER.  
4

5 WHEN I EXPLAINED WHAT HAPPENED, THE DOCTOR  
6 THOUGHT IT WAS FUNNY AND ASKED IF I BIT MY HUSBAND  
7 BACK.

8 THE REASON I STAYED WITH MY HUSBAND IS BECAUSE  
9 I LOVED HIM AND BELIEVED THINGS WOULD CHANGE BETWEEN  
10 US.

11 I STUCK BY MY HUSBAND THROUGH THICK AND THIN.  
12 I HELPED MY HUSBAND BUILD A BUSINESS, OF WHICH I  
13 WAS SECRETARY, AND HELPED HIM GET HIS CITIZENSHIP.

14 WHILE MY HUSBAND AND I WERE LIVING TOGETHER,  
15 I SOUGHT TREATMENT FOR ALCOHOLISM IN AN INPATIENT  
16 PROGRAM.

17 WHEN I WAS RELEASED, MY HUSBAND RESENTED  
18 MY MEETINGS IN A.A., AND THE OUTPATIENT AFTER-CARE  
19 PROGRAM THAT I ATTENDED.

20 HE RESENTED MY SOBRIETY, AND THREATENED IT  
21 NIGHTLY WITH HIS DRUNKEN RAGES.

22 ONCE HE THREW ALCOHOL ON ME AS I WAS LEAVING  
23 FOR MY MEETING.

24 HE ASKED ME WHO THE HELL DID I THINK I WAS;  
25 THAT I WAS HIS WIFE AND MY PLACE WAS HERE WITH HIM,

NOT AT SOME GROUP WITH A BUNCH OF EX-DRUNKS.

I WAS CONTEMPLATING NOT GOING, BUT THOUGHT, WHAT THE HELL, IF I STAY WE'LL FIGHT, AND IF I GO WE'LL FIGHT, SO I MAY AS WELL GO. MAYBE HE'LL BE ASLEEP WHEN I RETURN.

SOMETIMES HE WAS.

FOR TWO MONTHS, I FELT LIKE I WAS WALKING ON EGG SHELLS, AND MANY TIMES I FOUND OTHER PLACES TO GO AFTER A MEETING, RATHER THAN HOME.

A WEEK BEFORE HIS DEATH, MY HUSBAND PUT ME AND THE CHILDREN OUT OF THE HOUSE.

I WENT TO STAY WITH HIS AUNT AND UNCLE. MY FAMILY IS IN CALIFORNIA; BECAUSE I HAD NO PLACE ELSE TO GO, AND NO MONEY TO GET FURTHER AWAY FROM HIM.

THE KIDS AND I STAYED AWAY FROM HOME FOR A WEEK. DURING THAT WEEK, MY HUSBAND CALLED SEVERAL TIMES A DAY, AND EVEN BROUGHT MONEY.

HE PLEADED AND BEGGED ME TO COME HOME.

HE SAID HE MISSED HIS FAMILY.

HE SWORE THINGS WOULD BE DIFFERENT, AND IF I CAME BACK, HE WOULD BE MORE ATTENTIVE, STOP HITTING ME, AND SEEK HELP FOR HIS DRINKING PROBLEM.

I BELIEVED WHAT HE WAS TELLING ME, BECAUSE, FOR THE FIRST TIME, HE WAS ADMITTING THAT HE HAD

A DRINKING PROBLEM.

I WENT HOME, JUST FOR THE WEEKEND, SO WE  
COULD TALK AND TRY TO START REPAIRING OUR MARRIAGE.

THE FIRST DAY WENT SMOOTHLY.

THE SECOND DAY, HE BEAT ME.

THAT NIGHT, HE DIED.

MS. ELDRIDGE: I HAVE GOT A QUESTION, OR  
RATHER TWO QUESTIONS, EXCUSE ME.

FIRST OF ALL, WAS THERE ABUSE IN YOUR FAMILY  
BEFORE YOUR HOME, BETWEEN YOUR PARENTS OR WITH THE  
KIDS AND YOUR PARENTS?

NUMBER SEVEN: YES, THERE WAS.

MS. ELDRIDGE: THERE WAS?

NUMBER SEVEN: YES.

MS. ELDRIDGE: SECOND OF ALL, YOU HAD KIDS?

NUMBER SEVEN: YES.

MS. ELDRIDGE: WAS THERE ANY -- WHAT WAS  
THE SITUATION WITH THE KIDS, AS FAR AS YOUR HUSBAND'S  
VIOLENCE WAS CONCERNED?

NUMBER SEVEN: WELL, THE BABY HE DIDN'T,  
YOU KNOW, HE WASN'T VIOLENT TOWARD HER. THAT WAS  
THE APPLE OF HIS EYE.

BUT I HAD A SON FROM A PREVIOUS MARRIAGE  
THAT HE DID ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS ABUSE ALSO.

1  
2 MS. ELDRIDGE: DID YOU HAVE BOTH OF THE  
3 CHILDREN WITH YOU, THE BOY AND THE GIRL?

4 NUMBER SEVEN: YES.

5 MS. ELDRIDGE: ABOUT THE DRINKING, WERE  
6 YOU DRINKING WHEN YOU MARRIED HIM OR DID YOU BEGIN  
7 TO DRINK WITH HIM?

8 NUMBER SEVEN: I WAS DRINKING WHEN I MARRIED  
9 HIM.

10 MS. ELDRIDGE: WAS HE DRINKING THEN, TOO?

11 NUMBER SEVEN: YES.

12 MS. ELDRIDGE: WAS THERE VIOLENCE WHEN  
13 HE WAS SOBER?

14 NUMBER SEVEN: YES.

15 MS. ELDRIDGE: AND WHEN HE WAS DRINKING?

16 NUMBER SEVEN: YES.

17 MS. BURSTEIN: YOUR FAMILY WAS AN ABUSED  
18 HOUSEHOLD?

19 THERE WAS ABUSE GOING ON IN YOUR FAMILY BEFORE  
20 YOU WERE MARRIED?

21 HAVE YOU TALKED ABOUT THAT NOW WITH YOUR  
22 CHILDREN?

23 DID THEY EVER TALK TO YOU ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED?

24 NUMBER SEVEN: I HAVE NO CONTACT WITH MY  
25 CHILDREN.

1  
2 MS. BURSTEIN: AT THE TIME, THOUGH, WHEN  
3 YOU WERE BEING BATTERED, WERE THEY OLD ENOUGH TO  
4 NOTICE IT?

5 NUMBER SEVEN: THEY JUST KIND OF PUSHED  
6 IT, I GUESS; OUT OF THEIR MIND; OR, YOU KNOW, IT  
7 WAS SOMETHING THAT WE DIDN'T DISCUSS.

8 MS. BURSTEIN: DID YOU EVER TALK TO YOUR  
9 MOTHER ABOUT IT?

10 NUMBER SEVEN: NO.

11 MS. THELWELL: HOW OLD ARE YOUR CHILDREN  
12 NOW?

13 NUMBER SEVEN: TWELVE AND SIX.

14 MS. THELWELL: YOU HAVE NO CONTACT WITH  
15 THEM. ARE THEY LIVING IN CALIFORNIA WITH YOUR  
16 FAMILY OR ARE THEY HERE?

17 NUMBER SEVEN: NO COMMENT.

18 MS. BURSTEIN: ARTIE?

19 MR. ABE: YOUNG LADY, CAN YOU DESCRIBE  
20 THE ABUSE YOUR FAMILY DID TO YOU?

21 YOU SAID IN YOUR FAMILY YOU WERE ABUSED,  
22 YOUR PARENTS; AM I CORRECT?

23 NUMBER SEVEN: WELL, IT WAS A LOT OF VERBAL  
24 ABUSE IN MY FAMILY.

25 MR. ABE: VERBAL ABUSE.

1  
2 NUMBER SEVEN: YES.

3 MR. ABE: DO YOU FEEL THAT THEY MAY  
4 HAVE CONTRIBUTED IN SOME WAY NEGATIVE TO YOU OR  
5 NOT?

6 NUMBER SEVEN: YES.

7 BECAUSE ABUSE IS ABUSE WHETHER IT IS VERBAL  
8 OR PHYSICAL OR MENTAL.

9 ABUSE IS ABUSE IS ABUSE, AND IT DOES DAMAGE.

10 MS. ELDRIDGE: MY OTHER QUESTION:

11 WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR  
12 CHILDREN SINCE YOU HAVE BEEN HERE?

13 DOES THIS PROGRAM, HERE, AFFORD YOU ANY  
14 OPPORTUNITY TO INTERACT OR ANYTHING WITH THEM SO  
15 THAT THE RELATIONSHIPS THAT YOU HAVE HAD --

16 NUMBER SEVEN: I HAVE NO CONTACT WITH MY  
17 CHILDREN.

18 MS. ELDRIDGE: VISITS?

19 NUMBER SEVEN: NO CONTACT WITH MY CHILDREN.

20 MS. ELDRIDGE: I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO ASK,  
21 REGULARLY, OF ALL, BY SOMEBODY WHO IS AN OBSERVER,  
22 OF ALL OF THE TESTIFIERS FROM YOU ON, WHETHER YOU  
23 HAD -- AND I DON'T KNOW IF YOU CAN ANSWER THAT --  
24 WHETHER YOU HAVE HAD PRIVATE COUNSEL, ATTORNEY,  
25 DURING THE CASE OR ASSIGNED COUNSEL; WHETHER YOU

1  
2 HAD A COUNSEL THAT YOU HIRED YOURSELF OR WERE YOU  
3 GIVEN ONE?

4 NUMBER SEVEN: 18-B. HE WAS ASSIGNED.

5 MS. ELDRIDGE: ALL RIGHT. THANK YOU.

6 MS. BURSTEIN: MARJORIE?

7 MS. FIELDS: DID THE POLICE EVER ARREST  
8 YOUR HUSBAND?

9 NUMBER SEVEN: NO.

10 MS. FIELDS: DID YOU EVER ASK THEM TO ARREST  
11 HIM?

12 NUMBER SEVEN: NO.

13 MS. FIELDS: DID YOU EVER CALL THEM?

14 NUMBER SEVEN: YES.

15 MS. FIELDS: WHAT DID YOU SAY TO THEM WHEN  
16 THEY CAME?

17 NUMBER SEVEN: THAT HE WAS BEATING ME, I  
18 WAS BLOODY.

19 MS. FIELDS: THEY SAW YOU WERE BLOODY?

20 NUMBER SEVEN: YES.

21 MS. FIELDS: THEY DIDN'T ARREST HIM?

22 NUMBER SEVEN: NO.

23 MS. FIELDS: DID YOU ASK THEM SPECIFICALLY  
24 NOT TO ARREST HIM?

25 DID YOU SAY SOMETHING LIKE, "PLEASE DON'T

1  
2 ARREST HIM"?

3 NUMBER SEVEN: NO.

4 MS. FIELDS: SO THEY DID NOTHING?

5 NUMBER SEVEN: NOTHING WAS DONE.

6 MS. FIELDS: SO, YOU NEVER GOT TO COURT WITH  
7 HIM AT ALL WHEN HE WAS CHARGED?

8 NUMBER SEVEN: NO.

9 MS. FIELDS: HOW MANY TIMES, IF YOU CAN  
10 RECALL, DID THE POLICE COME IN RESPONSE TO YOUR  
11 CALLS?

12 NUMBER SEVEN: EVER TIME THAT I CALLED  
13 THEY CAME.

14 MS. FIELDS: HOW FAST?

15 NUMBER SEVEN: MAYBE FORTY MINUTES.

16 MS. FIELDS: WHAT DID YOU SAY WHEN YOU  
17 CALLED?

18 DID YOU CALL "911"?

19 WAS THERE A 911?

20 NUMBER SEVEN: I DIDN'T CALL. MY SON CALLED

21 MS. FIELDS: YOUR SON CALLED?

22 NUMBER SEVEN: YES.

23 MS. FIELDS: SO YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT HE  
24 SAID?

25 NUMBER SEVEN: NO.

1  
2 MS. FIELDS: THEY NEVER OFFERED TO ARREST  
3 HIM?

4 THEY NEVER ARRESTED HIM AND THEY NEVER ASKED  
5 YOU ONE WAY OR THE OTHER?

6 NUMBER SEVEN: NO.

7 MS. FIELDS: WHEN THEY LEFT, AFTER NOT ARREST-  
8 ING HIM, WERE THINGS WORSE?

9 NUMBER SEVEN: YES. MUCH WORSE BECAUSE  
10 ONE TIME THAT I ASKED THEM TO TAKE HIM, YOU KNOW,  
11 THAT I WAS AFRAID, THEY JUST TOOK HIM TO A MOTEL  
12 AND THEY LET HIM KEEP HIS KEY.

13 MS. FIELDS: HE CAME BACK?

14 NUMBER SEVEN: HE CAME BACK.

15 HE WAS NOT ONLY ANGRY BECAUSE OF WHAT WE  
16 WERE ARGUING ABOUT, BUT IT WAS COMPOUNDED NOW BECAUSE  
17 I HAD CALLED THE POLICE ON HIM AND HE WAS ESCORTED  
18 FROM HIS HOME.

19 MS. FIELDS: DO YOU THINK, CONSIDERING  
20 WHAT HAPPENED WITH THE POLICE, THAT YOU WOULD HAVE  
21 BEEN BETTER OFF IF THEY NEVER CAME AT ALL?

22 NUMBER SEVEN: I REALLY CAN'T ANSWER THAT  
23 QUESTION.

24 MS. FIELDS: BUT, THEY DIDN'T MAKE ANY  
25 DIFFERENCE?

1  
2 NUMBER SEVEN: NO.

3 MS. FIELDS: THANK YOU.

4 MS. BURSTEIN: SENATOR OLGA MENDEZ?

5 SENATOR MENDEZ: HELLO.

6 DID YOU SAY BEFORE THAT YOU HAD LEGAL COUNSEL  
7 ASSIGNED TO YOU?

8 NUMBER SEVEN: YES.

9 SENATOR MENDEZ: DID YOU PLEA-BARGAIN?

10 NUMBER SEVEN: YES.

11 SENATOR MENDEZ: YOU DIDN'T GO TO TRIAL?

12 NUMBER SEVEN: NO.

13 SENATOR MENDEZ: NOW, WE ARE VERY MUCH  
14 AWARE OF THE FACT THAT VIOLENCE BRINGS VIOLENCE.

15 I WANT TO ASK MY COLLEAGUES, MEMBERS OF THESE  
16 TASK FORCES THAT WE SHOULD ALSO INQUIRE AS TO WHAT  
17 EXTENT OUR INSTITUTION, THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM,  
18 IN FACT, DOES VIOLENCE TO THAT PERSON THAT HAS BEEN  
19 VICTIMIZED BY NOT HAVING AN EQUAL KIND OF LEGAL  
20 DEFENSE, WOULD THAT PERSON HAVE HAD MONEY TO PAY  
21 FOR A GOOD, EXCELLENT LAWYER.

22 IN YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH OTHER INMATES HERE,  
23 WOULD YOU SAY THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE WOMEN HERE  
24 HAVE GONE TO TRIAL WITH REPRESENTATION FROM LEGAL  
25 AID, AND IF SO, DID MOST OF THEM PLEA-BARGAIN WITH

HAVING THEIR DAY IN COURT?

NUMBER SEVEN: YES, I BELIEVE.

MONEY TALKS.

IF YOU DON'T HAVE IT, YOU ARE NOT GOING TO  
GET A FAIR HEARING. YOU ARE NOT.

SENATOR MENDEZ: IF I MAY, YOU KNOW, I  
TELL YOU THE STATISTICS HERE SHOW THAT SEVENTY-  
TWO PERCENT OF THE WOMEN SERVING TIME HERE ARE FIRST-  
OFFENDERS, AND THE KINDS OF SENTENCES THAT THEY  
HAVE, THEY ARE SO BIG, THAT MAKES ME WONDER.

MS. BURSTEIN: THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

NUMBER EIGHT, PLEASE.

NUMBER EIGHT: BEFORE I START READING MY  
TESTIMONY, I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THIS IS VERY PAINFUL  
FOR ME AND NOT ONLY FOR ME, BUT MY FAMILY, AS WELL.

MS. ELDRIDGE: WE ARE HAVING A LITTLE  
DIFFICULTY BACK HERE. JUST START AGAIN.

NUMBER SEVEN: WHAT I'M GETTING READY TO  
SAY, IT IS VERY PAINFUL FOR ME, NOT ONLY FOR ME,  
BUT MY FAMILY, AS WELL.

I'M A TWENTY-SEVEN-YEAR OLD; A MOTHER OF  
ONE CHILD.

PRIOR TO THIS ARREST I HAD NEVER COMMITTED  
ANY CRIMES -- WAIT A SECOND.

1  
2 LET ME START AGAIN.

3 I AM TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS OF AGE; A MOTHER  
4 OF ONE.

5 PRIOR TO THIS CONVICTION, I HAD NEVER BEEN  
6 ARRESTED, NOR COMMITTED ANY CRIMES.

7 I WORKED FOR NEW YORK CITY PERSONNEL.

8 WHEN I WAS THIRTEEN YEARS OLD, I WAS RAPED.

9 I WAS THREATENED NOT TO TELL OR MY FATHER  
10 WOULD BE KILLED.

11 FEAR KEPT ME SILENT. I LIVED WITH THAT  
12 NIGHTMARE FOR YEARS.

13 AT THE AGE OF NINETEEN, I GAVE BIRTH TO A  
14 BABY GIRL. SHE WEIGHED IN AT TWO-ELEVEN.  
15 SHE SURVIVED THAT.

16 I WAS LIVING WITH A COMMON-LAW HUSBAND WHEN  
17 THIS INCIDENT OCCURRED.

18 NOVEMBER 28TH, 1977, I WOKE UP TO START MY  
19 NORMAL DAY ABOUT 7:30 A.M.

20 I WENT INTO THE BATHROOM AND WHEN I RETURNED,  
21 MY CHILD WAS IN HER CRIB. I HEARD HER MAKING FUNNY  
22 SOUNDS AND I TOOK IT AS SHE WAS TALKING OR JUST  
23 MUMBLING BABY WORDS.

24 WHEN I REALIZED SHE DIDN'T RESPOND TO ME,  
25 I WENT TO HER CRIB AND I PICKED HER UP.

HER HEAD FELL BACK INTO MY ARMS AND HER EYES BEGAN  
TO ROLL INTO THE BACK OF HER HEAD.

ALL I CAN REMEMBER IS SCREAMING FOR HELP,  
AND MY DOWNSTAIRS NEIGHBOR CAME UP TO MY AID.

THE COPS WAS CALLED AND THE BABY WAS TAKEN  
TO THE HOSPITAL.

I WAS TOLD MY BABY WAS HAVING SEIZURES,  
WHEN WE ARRIVED AT THE HOSPITAL WITH HER.

TWO DAYS LATER, MY DAUGHTER DIED OF A  
FRACTURED SKULL.

THROUGHOUT THE DAY OF HER FUNERAL, MY COMMON-  
LAW HUSBAND COMFORTED ME.

THREE WEEKS LATER, I LEARNED HE WAS RESPON-  
SIBLE FOR MY CHILD DENYING.

HE WAS SENTENCED TO TEN YEARS AND DID THREE.

NEARLY FIVE YEARS LATER I MET ANOTHER MAN.

I BELIEVED THAT MY DREAMS HAD FULLY CAME TRUE.  
THAT I HAD FOUND THE MAN OF MY LIFE, THE MAN THAT  
I WOULD MARRY AND THE MAN I WOULD SPEND THE REST  
OF MY LIFE WITH.

ACTUALLY, IT DID NOT TURN OUT THAT WAY AT  
ALL.

HE BECAME MY SECOND COMMON-LAW HUSBAND.  
BY THE END OF OUR SECOND YEAR TOGETHER, THINGS

1  
2 BEGAN TO GO SOUR BETWEEN US.

3 HE BEGAN TO GET VERY VIOLENT. HE BECAME  
4 CRUEL AND DEMANDING WITH EVERYTHING THAT I SAID  
5 OR DID.

6 THE MAN, THE MALE, A MALE ABUSER. HE BEGAN  
7 TO BEAT ME REPEATEDLY FOR EVERYTHING AND ANYTHING.

8 HE BEGAN TO SELL DRUGS AND USE THEM, AS WELL.

9 THIS IS WHEN ALL OF THE ABUSE INCREASED.

10 I DID NOT WANT TO LIVE A LIFE LIKE THAT.

11 WHEN I SAID ANYTHING TO HIM ABOUT IT OR COM-  
12 PLAINED TO HIM ABOUT SELLING DRUGS, I WOULD GET  
13 BEAT.

14 HE WOULD TELL ME HOW SORRY HE WAS AFTER ALL  
15 OF THE BEATINGS.

16 THINGS WOULD BE ALL RIGHT FOR A WHILE.

17 LATER ON, WE WERE SUPPOSED TO MOVE INTO A  
18 LARGER APARTMENT. INSTEAD, I WAS TOLD I WASN'T  
19 GOING, AFTER I STOPPED PAYING THE RENT IN OUR OTHER  
20 APARTMENT.

21 THIS CAUSED AN ARGUMENT BETWEEN US.

22 HE COMMENCED TO BEATING ME AND I RAN OUT  
23 OF THE HOUSE.

24 I CALLED THE COPS.

25 THE OFFICERS CAME AND ASKED HIM TO LEAVE TH

1  
2 APARTMENT.

3 HE LEFT, BUT RETURNED TO THE HOUSE A HALF  
4 AN HOUR LATER. THEN IT BECAME A NEW ARGUMENT, AND  
5 ALSO NEW BEATINGS.

6 HE LEFT OUT OF THE HOUSE FOR THE REST OF  
7 THE NIGHT.

8 THE FOLLOWING DAY HE RETURNED TO TELL ME  
9 HOW SORRY HE WAS FOR BEATING ME.

10 HE ASKED ME IF I WOULD FORGIVE HIM.

11 I FORGAVE HIM JUST SO HE COULD LEAVE THE  
12 HOUSE.

13 TWO DAYS LATER I WAS GOING TO A GROCERY STORE  
14 IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

15 HE CAME UP TO ME, SAYING HE WANTED TO TALK.

16 THE TALKING BECAME AN ARGUMENT.

17 HE TOLD ME THAT HE WAS GOING TO KILL ME.  
18 HE PULLED OUT A KNIFE AND SLAPPED IT ON MY FACE.

19 I TRIED TO RUN AWAY, BUT HE CAUGHT ME.

20 HE BEAT ME WITH A WOODEN BOARD. HE BEGAN  
21 TO BEAT ME ALL OVER MY BODY.

22 AS HE SCREAMED AT ME, "BITCH, I AM GOING  
23 TO KILL YOU THIS TIME," ALTHOUGH I FELT FAINT, I  
24 WOULD NOT LET MYSELF FALL TO THE GROUND. I WAS  
25 HYSTERICAL AND FIGHTING.

1  
2 I SENSED THAT IF I LET MYSELF FALL TO THE  
3 GROUND THAT MY LIFE WOULD BE ALL OVER.

4 HE CONTINUED TO ATTACK ME.

5 I PROTECTED MY FACE BY THROWING MY ARM  
6 ACROSS IT.

7 HE PULLED OUT HIS KNIFE AGAIN AND I WAS CUT  
8 ON MY ARM.

9 I STUMBLED ONTO A MAIN STREET AND I CALLED  
10 THE POLICE.

11 THEY DROVE AROUND IN A CAR FOR A WHILE LOOKING  
12 FOR HIM.

13 I ASKED THE OFFICER TO PLEASE TAKE ME HOME  
14 SO THAT I CAN GET SOME MONEY.

15 WHEN I WALKED INTO MY HOUSE, I SAW HOW UPSET  
16 MY FIVE-YEAR OLD DAUGHTER BECAME, BECAUSE OF MY BLOOD  
17 APPEARANCE.

18 I CALMED HER BY TELLING HER I WAS GOING TO  
19 THE HOSPITAL AND THAT I WOULD BE ALL RIGHT.

20 YET, ALTHOUGH I CALMED MY FIVE-YEAR OLD  
21 DOWN, OUTWARDS, HOW COULD I POSSIBLY ERASE THOSE  
22 UGLY MATCHES OUT OF HER MIND?

23 AT THE HOSPITAL AN X-RAY WAS TAKEN OF MY  
24 ENTIRE BODY. MY ARM WAS STITCHED AND A SPLINT WAS  
25 PUT ON IT.

1  
2 I WAS TOLD THAT MY HAND WAS BROKEN AND ALSO  
3 MY WRIST. THE DOCTOR ASKED ME, "HOW DID THIS  
4 HAPPEN?"

5 I TOLD HIM, "MY HUSBAND DID IT."

6 THE DOCTOR INSISTED THAT I NEEDED SOMEONE  
7 TO KEEP AN EYE ON ME. HE ASKED FOR MY HUSBAND'S  
8 PHONE NUMBER. WHEN THE DOCTOR CALLED, HE DID NOT  
9 GET AN ANSWER.

10 I FELT SAFE ENOUGH TO ASK HIM TO RELEASE  
11 ME, BECAUSE I HAD TO GO HOME TO MY DAUGHTER.

12 THE NEXT DAY I CALLED MY JOB TO EXPLAIN TO  
13 MY BOSS WHAT HAD HAPPENED.

14 SHE TOLD ME TO TAKE AS MUCH TIME AS I NEEDED  
15 TO GET MYSELF TOGETHER.

16 I ALSO CALLED MY DAUGHTER'S SCHOOL TEACHER  
17 AND EXPLAINED TO HER WHAT HAD HAPPENED.

18 SHE CAME OVER TO MY APARTMENT AND PACKED  
19 UP MY DAUGHTER'S CLOTHES TO KEEP HER FOR A WEEK  
20 FOR ME BECAUSE I WAS UNABLE TO CARE FOR HER.

21 THAT EVENING MY HUSBAND RETURNED TO THE  
22 APARTMENT JUST TO SEE HOW MUCH DAMAGED HE HAD DONE.  
23 AGAIN, HE BEGAN TO TELL ME HOW SORRY HE WAS.

24 I REMEMBER THE HURT AND THE PAIN AND THE  
25 FRUSTRATION THAT OVERCAME ME.

I REMEMBER THE TEARS SLIDING DOWN THE SIDE OF MY FACE, AND THE PAIN AND THE HURT I WAS FEELING.

HE LEFT THE HOUSE AGAIN AND I WAS LEFT TO PICK UP THE PIECES OF MY LIFE ON MY OWN.

I NOTICED A BIG CHANGE IN MY BEHAVIOR AFTER THAT LAST BEATING.

I BECAME VERY DEPRESSED ALL OF THE TIME.

I BECAME VERY UNORGANIZED.

I COULD NOT SLEEP; WOULD NOT EAT; ALWAYS AFRAID OF BEING ALONE IN THE APARTMENT; OF GOING TO WORK AND HAVING TO COME HOME ALONE IN THE EVENING.

I DID NOT KNOW WHO TO GO TO OR WHERE TO GO TO. MY EMOTIONAL ANXIETY WAS SO INTENSE THAT I WOULD BREAK DOWN AND CRY ALL OF THE TIME; ON THE JOB, IN THE SUBWAYS, AND ON THE STREETS.

I AM VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE WAY IN WHICH CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ARE IGNORED.

I KNOW THE DAMAGE AND THE PAIN THAT AFFECTS ALL MEMBERS OF HOUSEHOLDS WHERE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS FREQUENT.

I PRAY THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO WILL WORK TO ESTABLISH SOME FORM OF ONGOING HOPE FOR FAMILIES THAT ARE SUBJECT TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE A SYSTEM DEVELOPED WHEN

1  
2 THERE IS HELP AVAILABLE, CONCERNED ALTERNATIVES,  
3 TO PEOPLE AS MYSELF, WHO ARE CAUGHT UP IN THIS VICIOUS-  
4 NESS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

5 NOT ONLY AFTER THE FACT OF COMMITTING A CRIME,  
6 BUT PRIOR TO IT.

7 I DON'T WANT MY CHILDREN, NOR ANYONE ELSE'S  
8 CHILDREN TO LEARN THE UGLY, UGLINESS OF VIOLENCE  
9 AND ACCEPT IT AS A WAY OF LIVE, BECAUSE THE SYSTEM  
10 REMAINS INDIFFERENT.

11 ALSO, THERE ARE WOMEN, WOMEN BATTLEMENT,  
12 IS AN AGE-OLD PHENOMENA. IT'S A WAY OF WOMEN ESCAPING  
13 A VIOLENT ENVIRONMENT. THIS IS SACRAMENTO,  
14 CALIFORNIA; FRONT RUNNERS AND FIRST ORGANIZORS  
15 PROVIDE A SHELTER FOR ABUSED WOMEN, STATE THEY RECEIVE  
16 AN AVERAGE OF SIX HUNDRED CALLS A MONTH.

17 ON THE EVEN BOARD OF SCALES, THERE IS A WOMAN  
18 BEING BATTERED EVERY EIGHTEEN SECONDS.

19 MS. BURSTEIN: ARTIE?

20 MR ABE: CAN I ASK YOU WHETHER OR  
21 NOT THERE WAS A FACILITY THAT WOULD HAVE HOUSED  
22 YOU AND YOUR DAUGHTER, WHETHER OR NOT YOU WOULD  
23 HAVE MOVED OUT UPON THE FIRST CONFRONTATION, IF  
24 THERE WAS A PLACE TO SUFFICIENTLY HOUSE YOU AND  
25 SORT OF PROVIDE THE SECURITY THAT YOU NEEDED FROM

1  
2 YOUR HUSBAND?

3 NUMBER EIGHT: AT THE TIME I WASN'T AWARE  
4 OF IT. I HAD JUST GOT OUT OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE  
5 BECAUSE I WENT TO THE MAYOR OF NEW YORK TO ASK HIM  
6 FOR HELP SO THAT I CAN GET A JOB TO BETTER MY LIFE,  
7 AND BETTER MY CHILDREN'S LIFE.

8 DEEP DOWN INSIDE THAT WAS A HOME THAT I  
9 STRUGGLED FOR, A HOME FOR ME AND MY CHILD AND IF  
10 ANYONE HAD TO LEAVE IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN HIM, NOT  
11 ME.

12 MR. ARE: I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU  
13 THE SAME QUESTION I PUT BEFORE.

14 WAS YOUR ATTORNEY ASSIGNED COUNSEL OR WAS  
15 IT PRIVATE COUNSEL?

16 NUMBER EIGHT: HE WAS ASSIGNED. I COULDN'T  
17 AFFORD ANOTHER COUNSELOR.

18 MS. BURSTEIN: MARJORIE FIELDS.

19 MS. FIELDS: WHAT IS YOUR SENTENCE?

20 NUMBER EIGHT: I AM TWENTY-SEVEN.

21 MS. FIELDS: WHAT IS YOUR SENTENCE?

22 NUMBER EIGHT: SIX TO EIGHTEEN.

23 MS. FIELDS: WHERE IS YOUR CHILD?

24 NUMBER EIGHT: WHERE IS MY CHILD?

25 I WAS ONE OF THE LUCKY ONES, MY BROTHER AND

1  
2 MY SISTER-IN-LAW IS CARING FOR HER.

3 MS. FIELDS: THANK YOU.

4 MS. BURSTEIN: JEAN THELWELL.

5 MS. THELWELL: THIS ALMOST ISN'T A QUESTION  
6 FOR YOU.

7 I JUST WANTED TO SAY TO YOU, TO ALL OF YOU,  
8 AND NOT JUST THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE TESTIFYING, BUT  
9 THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE SITTING AND LISTENING,  
10 RESPONDING VERY STRONGLY TO WHAT YOU ARE HEARING,  
11 THAT I STAND IN AWE OF YOUR STRENGTH, THAT YOU  
12 COULD HAVE LIVED THROUGH THE EXPERIENCES THAT YOU  
13 RECOUNT TO US AND REMAIN COHERENT HUMAN BEINGS.

14 IT IS EXTRAORDINARY.

15 NO MATTER HOW BROKEN OR HOW DEVASTATED YOU  
16 FEEL, YOU SHOULD, ALL OF YOU, REALIZE THAT YOU ARE  
17 INCREDIBLY STRONG AND THAT YOU WILL SURVIVE AND  
18 WE WILL HELP YOU.

19 WE MUST.

20 YOU WILL SURVIVE WITHOUT US.

21 MS. BURSTEIN: MAJORIE FIELDS?

22 MS. FIELDS: WHEN YOU TOLD THE POLICE BEFORE  
23 THEY TOOK YOU TO THE HOSPITAL AND YOU WERE COVERED  
24 WITH BLOOD, THAT YOUR HUSBAND HAD DONE THAT, WHAT  
25 HAPPENED?

1 DID THEY SUGGEST ARREST?

2 DID YOU ASK THEM TO ARREST HIM?

3 NUMBER EIGHT: THEY SUGGESTED IT.

4 MS. FIELDS: SUGGESTED ARREST?

5 NUMBER EIGHT: I DON'T REMEMBER EXACTLY  
6 BECAUSE I WAS REALLY IN A STATE OF SHOCK.

7 I REMEMBER WE WAS DRIVING AROUND FOR A FEW  
8 MINUTES.

9 THEY WENT TO HIS SISTER'S HOME, BUT NOBODY  
10 ANSWERED THE DOOR.

11 MS. FIELDS: SO THEY LOOKED FOR HIM?

12 NUMBER EIGHT: YES.

13 MS. FIELDS: DID YOU EVER SPEAK TO ANYONE  
14 AFTER THAT, A DETECTIVE OR ANOTHER POLICE OFFICER  
15 ABOUT ARRESTING HIM?

16 NUMBER EIGHT: YES.

17 MS. FIELDS: FOR THAT INCIDENT?

18 NUMBER EIGHT: YES.

19 MS. FIELDS: WHAT HAPPENED?

20 NUMBER EIGHT: AFTER A FEW DAYS BECAUSE  
21 I CARED ABOUT HIM AND I REALLY LOVED HIM, I  
22 WITHDREW FOR THEM TO ARREST HIM.

23 MS. FIELDS: HAD HE EVER BEEN ARRESTED FOR  
24 HITTING YOU?  
25

1  
2 NUMBER EIGHT: NO.

3 HE WAS PUT OUT OF MY HOUSE.

4 MS. FIELDS: HOW MANY TIMES?

5 NUMBER EIGHT: ON TWO OCCASIONS.

6 MS. FIELDS: THANK YOU.

7 MS. ELDRIDGE: JUST ONE OTHER THING.

8 I WANT TO BE CLEAR ABOUT THIS ON THE RECORD.

9 WHEN YOU WENT INTO THE HOSPITAL FOR STITCHES  
10 AND TO BE SPLINTERED, THE DOCTOR SAID, "I DON'T  
11 WANT YOU TO BE ALONE. LET ME CALL YOUR HUSBAND."

12 NUMBER EIGHT: YES, HE DID.

13 MS. ELDRIDGE: EVEN THOUGH YOU HAD SAID  
14 "MY HUSBAND DID THIS TO ME?"

15 NUMBER EIGHT: YES, HE DID.

16 MS. ELDRIDGE: ALL RIGHT.

17 MS. BURSTEIN: NUMBER NINE, PLEASE.

18 NUMBER NINE: I COME FROM A WHITE, MIDDLE-  
19 CLASS, WELL EDUCATED FAMILY.

20 I'M THIRTY-TWO YEARS OLD, AND I'VE HELD FEDERAL  
21 AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT JOBS FOR ELEVEN YEARS.

22 MS. BURSTEIN: IT WOULD BE BETTER IF YOU  
23 COULD TALK A LITTLE MORE CLEARLY INTO THE MIKE,  
24 AND VERY SLOWLY.

25 SORT OF PICK UP AS YOU GO.

NUMBER EIGHT: ALL RIGHT.

I COME FROM A WHITE, MIDDLE CLASS, WELL  
EDUCATED FAMILY.

I AM THIRTY-TWO YEARS OLD, AND I HAVE HAD  
FEDERAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT JOBS FOR ELEVEN YEARS.

PERHAPS YOU FEEL THAT I DON'T FIT THE  
DESCRIPTION OF A BATTERED WOMAN, BUT PHYSICAL AND  
PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE HAS NO COLOR OR SOCIAL STATUS.  
I HAVE BEEN THE VICTIM OF BOTH.

BEFORE THE BEATINGS BEGAN, I HAD ALREADY  
ACQUIRED EMOTIONAL SCARS. IN A SENSE, MY HUSBAND  
PREPARED MY MIND TO ACCEPT THE PHYSICAL ABUSE I WAS  
TO HAVE.

THE MENTAL ABUSE BEGAN BY HIM ISOLATING  
ME FROM MY FRIENDS, MY FAMILY AND EVEN MY CHILDREN.

MY HUSBAND MOLDED MY MIND INTO A DARK SHADOW  
WHICH EXISTED ONLY TO ACCEPT HIS YELLING, HIS  
POSSESSIVENESS, HIS OBSESSION TO MAKE ME HIS PERFECT  
WIFE.

MY FAMILY HAD DIFFICULTY UNDERSTANDING WHY  
I SEPARATED MYSELF FROM THEM. THEY SENSED THAT  
SOMETHING WAS WRONG, BUT I NEVER CONFESSED THE TRUTH  
TO THEM. IN FACT, I BECAME A VERY CONVINCING LIAR.

AT THIS TIME I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT I WAS

1  
2 REALLY LYING TO MYSELF. I DIDN'T SEEK HELP FROM  
3 AN OUTSIDE SOURCE BECAUSE THE IDEA OF SOMEONE ELSE  
4 KNOWING THAT I TOOK THIS ABUSE COULD CAUSE THEM  
5 TO LOOK DOWN ON ME.

6 THE PHYSICAL HUMILIATION BEGAN SHORTLY AFTER-  
7 WARDS. NOW, HAVING TOTALLY MANIPULATED MY BRAIN,  
8 MY HUSBAND BEGAN WHAT TURNED OUT TO BE DAILY RITUALS,  
9 THE ACTUAL BEATINGS.

10 THROUGHOUT THE REST OF MY MARRIAGE, I WAS  
11 SUBJECTED TO HIS FISTS, HIS THROWING ME AGAINST  
12 THE WALLS, HIS CRUDE BEATINGS WITH FURNITURE AND  
13 OTHER OBJECTS.

14 HE WAS AN EXTREMELY DOMINEERING AND DEMANDING  
15 MAN.

16 WHEN HIS ANGER GREW, HE BECAME ERRATIC AND  
17 LOST FULL CONTROL OF HIS STRENGTH.

18 I ALWAYS MAINTAINED A CLEAN AND NEAT HOUSEHOLD  
19 BUT SOMETIMES BETWEEN FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT AND MY  
20 CHILDREN, I COULDN'T GET THE CHANCE TO VACUUM  
21 EVERY DAY.

22 MY HUSBAND WOULD COME HOME AND START TO VERBALL  
23 ABUSE ME AND END UP HITTING ME WITH THE VACUUM  
24 CLEANER OR ME BEING THROWN AROUND FROM WALL TO WALL.

25 I CAN ALSO REMEMBER THAT ONE DAY, WHEN WE WERE

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2  
3  
4  
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25

GOING OUT TO A FRIENDS' HOUSE, HE WAS THE LAST ONE TO LEAVE OUR HOUSE. HOWEVER, HE DIDN'T CLOSE THE DOOR TIGHTLY.

WHEN WE RETURNED, WE FOUND THE DOOR WIDE OPEN. NATURALLY, HE BEGAN YELLING AT ME, AND I WOULDN'T DARE ANSWER HIM, YET I KNEW I HAD TO TELL HIM HE WAS THE LAST ONE TO LEAVE THE HOUSE.

WELL, I SHOULD HAVE FOLLOWED MY INITIAL FEAR OF KEEPING QUIET.

AS SOON AS I OPENED MY MOUTH, I GOT A FIST IN MY FACE, THEN I DOUBLED OVER FROM THE PUNCH IN THE STOMACH WHICH ACTUALLY KNOCKED THE WIND RIGHT OUT OF ME.

IMMEDIATELY, I LEARNED THAT HE WAS ALWAYS TO BE RIGHT EVEN IF I KNEW ANY DIFFERENTLY.

ANOTHER TIME I WENT OUT AFTER WORK WITH MY FRIENDS, WITH MY HUSBANDS CONSENT, OF COURSE.

HE HAD EVEN ASKED ME TO CALL HOME SO HE WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT ME COMING HOME LATE. I CALLED AND ALL WAS FINE.

WHEN I GOT HOME, I GOT INTO BED AND AS MY HEAD HIT MY PILLOW, I GOT A FIST TO MY NOSE AND EYES.

HE WAS MAD BECAUSE I HAD CALLED AS HE AS-

1  
2 AND HAD WOKE HIM OUT OF A DEEP SLEEP.

3 LIKE WITH ALL THE OTHER BRUISES, I LIED TO  
4 MY CHILDREN, MY FAMILY, AND CO-WORKERS, AND I TOLD  
5 THEM THAT I HAD BANGED MYSELF INTO THE EDGE OF THE  
6 BATHROOM DOOR.

7 IN ALL OF MY ELEVEN YEARS OF ABUSE, I ALWAYS  
8 BELIEVED THAT HE WAS TRULY SORRY AS HE STATED, AFTER  
9 EACH VIOLENT ATTACK. I ACTUALLY CONVINCED MYSELF  
10 THAT HE WOULD CHANGE BECAUSE HE LOVED ME OR SO I  
11 THOUGHT HE DID.

12 MY GREATEST FEAR THEN WAS THAT MY HUSBAND  
13 WOULD LEAVE ME.

14 I HAD LOST MY OWN SELF-RESPECT, MY SELF-  
15 ESTEEM. I HAD LOST MYSELF IN HIS CRUEL AND  
16 VIOLENT WORLD WHERE I BELIEVED I COULD NOT FUNCTION  
17 AGAIN WITHOUT HIM.

18 AFTER EACH BATTERING, I TRIED TO JUSTIFY  
19 IN MY MIND THAT MAYBE I DESERVED HIS ILL TREATMENT.

20 THE LAST THREE YEARS OF MY MARRIAGE I WAS  
21 THE SOLE BREADWINNER.

22 MY HUSBAND WAS FIRED FROM HIS STATE JOB BECAUSE  
23 OF ABUSIVE CONDUCT TO OTHERS.

24 THESE WERE PROBABLY THE WORST OF ALL THE  
25 BAD TIMES.

1  
2 I WALKED IN AN AIR OF TERROR AND FEAR THAT  
3 CLOGGED MY EVERY BREATH.

4 MY MAIN CONCERN IN LIFE WAS TO PROTECT MY  
5 CHILDREN AND TO AVOID ANY FURTHER VIOLENCE FROM  
6 HIM.

7 TODAY MY CHILDREN ARE BEING TAKEN CARE OF  
8 BY MY FAMILY BECAUSE I AM A CRIMINAL IN THE JUSTICE  
9 SYSTEM.

10 I AM A "CRIMINAL" BECAUSE I REFUSED TO  
11 TAKE ONE MORE BEATING..

12 I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE BWS RECOGNIZED IN  
13 THE COURTROOMS FOR SELF-DEFENSE. THERE IS A GREAT  
14 NEED FOR MORE SHELTERS AND MORE SUPPORT GROUPS IN  
15 THE COMMUNITIES SO THAT PERHAPS ANOTHER LIFE  
16 DOESN'T HAVE TO BE TAKEN.

17 I ALSO FEEL THAT SUPPORT GROUPS FOR FAMILY  
18 MEMBERS OF THE BATTERED WIFE SHOULD BE SET UP.

19 THE FAMILY COULD HELP THEIR VICTIMIZED MEMBE  
20 TO UNDERSTAND AND END THIS REAL LIFE DRAMA. I DON'  
21 FEEL THAT THESE PAINFUL EXPERIENCES SHOULD END UP  
22 WITH ONE NOT LIVING AND THE OTHER IN PRISON.

23 SADLY ENOUGH, THOUGH, THOSE OF US THAT HAVE  
24 "GRADUATED" TO PRISON, HAVE A NEED OF SUPPORT GROU  
25 TO HELP US BUILD THE STRENGTH TO ACCEPT AND DEAI

1  
2 WITH WHAT WE HAVE DONE.

3 THE PHYSICAL SCARS ARE GONE, BUT THE WOUNDS  
4 THAT ARE STILL ALIVE INSIDE NEED HEALING.

5 WE NEED A GROUP TO HELP PREPARE US TO REGAIN  
6 OUR SECURITY AS WOMEN AND TO BEGIN TO HELP US HEAL  
7 THE DEEP SCARS THAT SO MANY YEARS HAVE MADE.

8 MS. BURSTEIN: ARTIE?

9 MR ABE: YOU WERE VERY MUCH INVOLVED,  
10 OBVIOUSLY, WITH YOUR HUSBAND.

11 THE OTHER YOUNG LADY, WHEN I ASKED HER IF  
12 A FACILITY, THAT COULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE  
13 YOU LEAVE FOR A WEEK OR SO, THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN  
14 HELPFUL, SHE SAID SHE HELPED TO MAKE THAT HOUSE  
15 WHAT IT WAS AND, THEREFORE, SHE WOULD NOT MOVE.

16 BUT, I SEE IN YOUR SUGGESTIONS THAT YOU  
17 ARE RECOMMENDING MORE SHELTERS?

18 NUMBER NINE: YES.

19 MR. ABE: SOME OF US WOULD LIKE TO  
20 KNOW HOW WE CAN REALLY HELP.

21 YOU SAY MORE SHELTERS. WITH THAT SHELTER,  
22 OBVIOUSLY, THERE MUST BE A PROGRAM THAT DEALS WITH  
23 YOUR HUSBAND, WITH YOU, AND YOUR PSYCHOLOGICAL NEEDS,  
24 AND, ALSO, WITH YOUR CHILDREN, WHO MAY HAVE ALSO  
25 HAD THE EXPERIENCE OF SEEING THAT ABUSE TAKE PLACE.

1  
2 IN YOUR OWN WORDS, WHAT ARE SOME OF THE  
3 COMPLEMENTS THAT THAT PROGRAM OUGHT TO HAVE?

4 BECAUSE JUST THE SHELTER ALONE, OBVIOUSLY,  
5 IS NOT SUFFICIENT, AND I KNOW THAT IN NEW YORK  
6 STATE WE DO A LOT OF THINGS WITH WELL-INTENT, BUT  
7 WE LEAVE A LOT OF THINGS UNDONE AND SUBSEQUENTLY  
8 WE DAMAGE A LOT OF PEOPLE.

9 CAN YOU TELL US, IN OTHER WORDS --

10 NUMBER NINE: WELL, I BELIEVE, AND I FEEL  
11 THAT ONCE A WOMAN HAS BEEN BATTERED AND THE POLICE  
12 ARE CALLED INTO THE HOUSE TO SEE THE BATTERING  
13 THAT'S BEEN DONE TO THE WOMAN, I BELIEVE THAT  
14 WHAT THEY SHOULD DO FOR THE MAN INVOLVED, THAT  
15 WHEN HE IS TAKEN OUT AND TALKED TO, BESIDES GOING  
16 IN FRONT OF A JUDGE, I THINK IT SHOULD BE MANDATORY  
17 THAT HE GOES AWAY FOR A WHILE TO SOME SORT OF  
18 SHELTER, WHERE HE CAN GET COUNSELLING AND THEN,  
19 MAYBE, IF HIS WIFE AND CHILD WISH TO VISIT HIM IN  
20 THE COURSE OF ONE DAY A WEEK, TWO DAYS DURING THE  
21 WEEK WHERE THEY CAN JOIN IN ON THE JOINT COUNSELLING  
22 MAYBE IT WOULD BE HELPFUL.

23 FOR A LADY I ALSO FEEL THAT WITH THEIR  
24 COUNSELLING, THAT BY HER REALIZING THAT THE  
25 HUSBAND IS SEEKING THIS HELP AND HE IS WILLING

1  
2 TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO GO OUTSIDE AND TRY TO  
3 DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT, YOU MAY FIND THAT THE TWO  
4 OF THEM THEN MIGHT BE ABLE TO COME TO SOME KIND  
5 OF AGREEMENT WITH HOW THEIR LIVING SITUATION IS;  
6 WHETHER IT BE THAT HE WILL TOTALLY DESIST WITH  
7 BEING WHAT HE IS, OR HE WILL AT LEAST MAKE THE  
8 ATTEMPT.

9 I DON'T THINK THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY SHOULD  
10 FALL ON THE WOMAN.

11 MR. CHRISTIANSON: YOU'RE SAYING THAT THE  
12 MAN SHOULD BE MOVED OUT AND PUT INTO A FACILITY  
13 OF SOME SORT AS A RESIDENCY FACILITY FOR SOME  
14 TEMPORARY BASIS.

15 IF HE DECIDES NOT TO GO AND THE WOMAN DOES  
16 NOT DECIDE TO GO, THEN WE HAVE A VERY SERIOUS  
17 SITUATION WHERE THE CONFRONTATION, OBVIOUSLY, WILL  
18 TAKE PLACE AND THE END RESULT WAS GOING TO BE SOMETHI  
19 THAT I THINK NONE OF US WANT.

20 I DON'T KNOW WHETHER OR NOT WE CAN MAKE A  
21 MAN LEAVE.

22 ARE YOU SAYING THAT WE SHOULD HAVE A LAW  
23 THAT IF THE JUDGE SAYS YOU HAVE, IN FACT, ABUSED  
24 YOUR WIFE AND THEN I ORDER YOU TO LIVE IN THAT  
25 FACILITY FOR TWO OR THREE WEEKS WHILE WE TRY TO

1  
2 GIVE YOU CONSULTATION, ARE YOU SAYING THAT WE SHOULD  
3 INSTATE LAW -- I'M A STATE LEGISLATOR. A LOT OF  
4 PEOPLE HERE WILL CHEER YOU ON AND MAKE YOU FEEL GOOD.  
5 I WANT TO HELP YOU.

6 I'M LOOKING FOR SOME DIRECTIONS.

7 ARE YOU SAYING THAT WE SHOULD CREATE A LAW  
8 THAT WOULD, IN FACT, TAKE AWAY THAT MAN'S FREEDOM  
9 AND PUT HIM INTO A PLACE FOR A WEEK OR TWO, IS THAT  
10 WHAT YOU ARE SUGGESTING?

11 NUMBER NINE: YES. BY INCARCERATING US,  
12 YOU ARE TAKING AWAY OUR FREEDOM.

13 MS. BURSTEIN: I HAD NEVER REALLY --  
14 I DON'T THINK I HEARD THAT SUGGESTION, AND I THINK  
15 IT IS VERY INTERESTING.

16 I THINK THE DIFFICULTY WITH IT LIES, I GUESS  
17 IN OUR VERY BASIC VIEW OF A FAMILY UNIT, A QUALITY  
18 OF A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY, AND OUR OWN PERCEPTIONS  
19 OF EACH OTHER, SO THAT IT BECOMES HARD FOR SOME  
20 PEOPLE TO SEE. I MEAN, IT IS BREAKING THE LAW,  
21 I THINK, TO ATTACK SOMEONE ELSE AND THAT IS A VERY  
22 SIMPLE CONCEPT.

23 NUMBER NINE: EXCUSE ME. ISN'T THAT ASSA

24 MS. BURSTEIN: THAT'S RIGHT.

25 NUMBER NINE: SO HE IS BREAKING THE LAW.

1  
2 MS. BURSTEIN: THAT'S WHY I THINK THAT  
3 IT MIGHT BE A VERY GOOD SUGGESTION.

4 IT IS A GOOD SUGGESTION, AND WE SHOULD  
5 LOOK INTO IT, ABOUT HAVING THE SHELTERS BE FOR THE  
6 MEN WHO HAVE DONE THE BATTERING.

7 I HAVE LISTENED AND I KNOW HISTORICALLY  
8 THAT WOMEN ALLOW THEMSELVES TO BE BATTERED BECAUSE  
9 PARTLY THEY HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE PLACE TO GO AND  
10 PARTLY BECAUSE THEY'RE ECONOMICALLY DEPENDENT ON  
11 THE MEN, BUT SEVERAL OF THE WOMEN TODAY, ARE, IN  
12 FACT, AND HAVE SAID THAT THEY WERE, IN FACT,  
13 THE WAGE EARNERS IN THE HOUSEHOLD.

14 SOME OF YOU OWNED YOUR HOME THAT THE  
15 MAN LIVED IN, WITH YOU, AND SOME OF YOU WERE WORKING,  
16 AND THE MEN WERE NOT WORKING.

17 SO, IN A WAY WE HAVE TO GO BACK. IT DOESN'T  
18 SEEM TO ME ENOUGH TO EVEN LOOK BACK AND SAY, "YES,  
19 WE SAW THIS PATTERN OF ABUSE WITH OUR PARENTS;  
20 WE DIDN'T RECOGNIZE IT AS ABUSE, BUT IT ALSO BECOMES  
21 A VERY BASIC KIND OF THING ABOUT WHAT WE, AS WOMEN,  
22 ABOUT WHAT WE FEEL ABOUT OURSELVES THAT WE ARE NOT  
23 A WHOLE PICTURE UNLESS WE HAVE A MAN NEXT TO US,  
24 EVEN IF HE BEATS US UP.

25 THAT'S A THING THAT WE HAVE TO TALK ABOUT

1  
2 AS FAR AS EARLY EDUCATION AND WHAT YOUNG GIRLS THINK  
3 OF THEMSELVES BECAUSE YOU ARE A PICTURE OF A WHOLE  
4 PERSON IF YOU STAND THERE BY YOURSELF.

5 WE LOSE OUR DIGNITY, OUR INDEPENDENCE,  
6 OUR FREEDOM WHEN WE MAKE OURSELVES DEPENDENT ON  
7 SOMEONE THAT ABUSES US, SO, I THINK, NOT ONLY FOR  
8 THE WOMEN AND WHAT WE ALLOW TO HAPPEN TO US, BUT  
9 PEOPLE WHO MIGHT HAVE SOME INFLUENCE ON POLICY HAVE  
10 TO REALLY BEGIN TO LOOK AT IT, NOT NECESSARILY,  
11 "WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP YOU AS WOMEN"; WE HAVE GOT  
12 TO STOP THIS AND THAT'S WHY I COME BACK TO YOUR  
13 ORIGINAL SUGGESTION, THAT WE SHOULD TALK ABOUT  
14 SHELTERS FOR MEN BECAUSE THEY ARE THE PEOPLE  
15 DISRUPTING THE PEACE IN THESE SITUATIONS, INITIALLY.

16 THANK YOU.

17 MS. BURSTEIN: SENATOR MENDEZ?

18 SENATOR MENDEZ: I THINK THAT THAT SUGGESTION  
19 OF YOURS IS AN EXCELLENT ONE TO PURSUE FROM THE  
20 POINT OF VIEW OF EITHER LEGISLATION AND WHAT HAVE  
21 YOU.

22 IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN MY -- I HAVE ALWAYS  
23 QUESTIONED THE FACT THAT EACH TIME THAT A WOMAN,  
24 BECAUSE OF VIOLENCE IN THE FAMILY, MUST LEAVE  
25 THE HOME AND THE LIVES OF THE CHILDREN ARE BEING

1  
2 DISRUPTED TREMENDOUSLY; SCHOOL WORK IS INTERRUPTED  
3 AND EVERYTHING ELSE.

4 AND THE GUY JUST STAYS ROAMING AROUND.  
5 IT'S NOT FAIR BECAUSE HE IS THE ONE THAT IS BREAKING  
6 THE LAW.

7 IN TERMS OF SHELTERS FOR WOMEN, THE WOMEN  
8 ARE ABLE TO RELATE TO OTHER WOMEN THAT HAVE  
9 EXACTLY THE SAME PROBLEM, AND THAT THEY ARE ABLE  
10 TO DISCUSS IT AND TO RECEIVE SOME PROFESSIONAL HELP.  
11 BUT I THINK THAT I WANTED TO MENTION THAT THAT  
12 SUGGESTION SHOULD BE ONE THAT WE SHOULD FOLLOW  
13 THROUGH WITH GREAT INTENT.

14 THANK YOU.

15 MS. ELDRIDGE: LET ME ASK YOU A SPECIFIC  
16 QUESTION, TO CONTINUE ALONG WITH THE ONES THAT I  
17 ASKED BEFORE:

18 WERE YOU REPRESENTED BY AN ASSIGNED OR  
19 PRIVATE COUNSEL?

20 NUMBER NINE: PRIVATE COUNSEL.

21 MS. ELDRIDGE: NOW, YOU SUGGESTED THAT  
22 THE BATTERED WOMAN SYNDROME, WHAT YOU RECOGNIZED  
23 IN COURT, WAS THERE IN YOUR CASE, IF YOU CAN TELL  
24 US, A DISCUSSION OF THE BATTERER, AS THE HISTORY  
25 OF THE BATTERER?

1  
2 NUMBER NINE: NO COMMENT ON THAT.

3 MS. ELDRIDGE: ALL RIGHT.

4 SENATOR MENDEZ: I'M NOT A LAWYER.

5 YOU ARE A LAWYER, BUT IN PUERTO RICO IF A WOMAN  
6 IS AT HOME AND THE HUSBAND COMES AND BEATS HER  
7 VIOLENTLY AND IN THAT ARGUMENT THE HUSBAND DIES,  
8 THAT WOMAN HAS A VERY GOOD REASON IN COURT TO GO  
9 TO TRIAL IN TERMS OF SELF-DEFENSE AND I THINK THAT  
10 WE SHOULD --

11 MR. ADE: OLCA?

12 MS. ELDRIDGE: YES, IT IS.

13 THESE ARE THE KINDS OF ISSUES THAT THIS  
14 HEARING IS SURFACING BECAUSE WHAT SEEMS LIKE  
15 PERFECTLY RATIONAL, A RATIONAL SYSTEM OR RATIONAL  
16 SET OF RULES DOESN'T APPEAR TO OBTAIN IN REALITY.

17 IT IS USEFUL FOR US TO HAVE TO COME TO TERMS  
18 WITH THAT AND THAT IS WHAT YOU HAVE LET US DO.

19 I REMEMBER GOLDA MEIR'S PARLIAMENT IN  
20 ISRAEL. "THERE IS A LOT OF MEN OUT THERE RAPING  
21 WOMEN. I THINK WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO HAVE A CURF  
22 FOR THE WOMEN. IT IS THE MEN THAT ARE RAPING THE  
23 WOMEN. WE WILL HAVE A CURFEW ON THEM.

24 THAT'S FROM GOLDA MEIR.

25 THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

1  
2 WOULD YOU PLEASE COME BACK?

3 MS. FIELDS: THE REASON I PARTICULARLY  
4 WANTED TO ASK YOU ABOUT THE POLICE, WAS BECAUSE YOU  
5 SAID YOU WERE TREATED DIFFERENTLY AND YOUR LIFE  
6 WAS DIFFERENT BECAUSE YOU WERE MIDDLE CLASS, AND  
7 WHITE, AND SOME OF THE OTHER WOMEN ARE NOT.

8 DID YOU EVER CALL THE POLICE?

9 NUMBER NINE: NO, I DIDN'T.

10 MS. FIELDS: WHY?

11 NUMBER NINE: THE IDEA OF ME CALLING THE  
12 POLICE JUST THE THOUGHT OF THEM KNOWING THAT I WAS  
13 GOING THROUGH SOMETHING LIKE THAT, IT WOULD BELITTLE  
14 ME MORE THAN I WAS BEING BELITTLED BY MY SELF-  
15 RESPECT AND MY SELF-ESTEEM WAS TOTALLY NOTHING.

16 SO MY IDEA OF CALLING THEM INTO A SITUATION  
17 LIKE THIS, I REALLY FELT LIKE THEY WOULD JUST TURN  
18 AROUND AND TELL ME, "GO OUTSIDE AND TAKE A WALK  
19 AROUND THE BLOCK, AND EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE."

20 MS. FIELDS: DID ANYBODY ELSE EVER CALL  
21 THE POLICE?

22 NUMBER NINE: NO.

23 MS. FIELDS: THANK YOU.

24 MS. BURSTEIN: NUMBER TEN?

25 NUMBER TEN: I AM TWENTY-FOUR.

VIOLENCE HAS EXISTED IN MY HOME AS FAR BACK AS I CAN REMEMBER.

I CAN RECALL AS EARLY AS THE AGE OF THREE, WATCHING MY MOTHER AND STEPFATHER FIGHTING IN THE PROCESS HER SLICING HER WRISTS.

THE SHOCK OF WATCHING THIS ACT, THE CONSTANT FEAR OF THE OUTCOME OF THESE BATTLES RESULTED IN SOMETHING VERY SERIOUS; THE POSSIBLE DEATH OF MY MOTHER.

I CAME FROM A FAMILY OF FOUR CHILDREN. AS THE OLDEST I LEARNED TO SPEAK BLUNTLY ON MANY ISSUES, WHICH ONLY RESULTED IN ME RECEIVING BEATINGS FOR NOT REMAINING IN A CHILD'S PLACE, OR I WAS LOCKED IN MY ROOM WHILE MY PARENTS FOUGHT.

I WOULD ALSO ATTEMPT TO STOP THEM, FOR WHICH I ENDED UP BEING ASSAULTED BY BOTH OF THEM.

IF ASKED, I WOULD STILL SAY I WAS BROUGHT UP IN A HOME WITH LOVE.

MY FEELINGS, WHILE GROWING UP WERE THOSE OF BEING AN OUTLET TO MY MOTHER'S ONGOING FRUSTRATIONS.

SHE WOULD BEAT ME AND HER MEN WOULD ALSO BEAT ME FOR NO APPARENT REASON.

IF I WAS LOOKED AT LUSTFULLY, ALL OF A SUDDEN

1  
2 BY HER OWN MEN, I WOULD BE BEATEN WHILE HEARING  
3 "IT IS FOR YOUR OWN GOOD."

4 WHEN I REACHED ADOLESCENCE AND STARTED TO  
5 INDULGE IN THE WORLD OF DATING, I ALREADY  
6 ASSOCIATED LOVE WITH BEATINGS. IF MY BOYFRIEND  
7 DID NOT BEAT OR ABUSE ME, I FELT UNLOVED.

8 I HAD BEEN AFFECTED WITH A NEGATIVE APPROACH  
9 TO MY PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS.

10 THIS WAS EVIDENT IN THE SHORT AMOUNT OF TIME  
11 THEY LASTED.

12 VIOLENCE WAS OCCURRING WITH EVERYONE IN MY  
13 HOUSEHOLD.

14 PHYSICALLY, AND VERBALLY TO MY MOTHER FROM  
15 HER MEN AND SHE TO ME.

16 I GREW UP HEARING, "I WISH I NEVER HAD YOU.  
17 "YOU MAKE ME SICK.

18 "YOU WERE THE BIGGEST MISTAKE."

19 I LEARNED PSYCHOLOGICALLY TO BELIEVE ALL  
20 OF MY MOTHER'S OUTBURSTS.

21 WHEN I DID NOT PLAY UP TO THE GOOD GIRL  
22 IMAGE THAT WAS INSTILLED ON ME BY MY MOTHER, I WAS  
23 ALWAYS GETTING YELLED AT AND HIT OR HAVING THINGS  
24 THROWN AT ME.

25 MENTALLY I FELT CONDEMNED LONG BEFORE

REACHING THE GROWING POINTS OF MY LIFE.

I FELT ON A CROSS; WANTING HER LOVE AND ALWAYS  
RUNNING TO LOVE HER IN ANOTHER BATTLE.

YET MY DEVELOPMENT WAS CAUGHT UP IN A  
VICIOUS VEHICLE OF PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL  
ABUSE.

THE IMPACT ON ME CAUSED ME TO FIND MYSELF  
IN A CONTINUOUS BATTLEFIELD, AT HOME  
WITH MY PARENTS AND SIBLINGS, ON THE STREETS  
WITH MY FRIENDS.

IN AUTHORITY I FELT RAGE. I TRIED TO RUN,  
YET HOW MUCH CAN A CHILD RUN?

I WANTED TO STAY, TO BE THERE FOR MOM.  
ALL THE WHILE PRAYING THAT THINGS WOULD BECOME  
BETTER, WHICH THEY DIDN'T.

I BECAME A CONSTANT RUNAWAY. SOCIETY HAS  
A TENDENCY TO ADVERTISE EVERYTHING; MATERIALISTIC  
PROSECUTION.

YET, I HAVE NEVER HEARD OF ANY SUPPORT AGENCIES  
OR MEANS OF HANDLING THE CHAOS THAT WAS OCCURRING  
IN MY FAMILY, IN MY HOUSE.

BESIDES, IF THE PARENTS DID NOT RECOGNIZE  
THAT SOMETHING IS WRONG; WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE THE  
CHILD?

1  
2 I WAS, IN MY MIND COMING UP IN AN ISOLATED  
3 SITUATION. I HAD NO ONE TO TURN TO.

4 THERE WERE NO HOTLINES. THERE WERE NO  
5 PAMPHLETS. THERE WERE NO PUBLICIZED AGENCIES.

6 I HAD NOTHING TO GRASP ON TO.

7 WHEN THE POLICE OFFICERS WERE CALLED TO OUR  
8 HOME, THEY DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO HANDLE THE SITUATION.  
9 THEY WOULD ATTEMPT TO HAVE A FRIENDLY CONVERSATION  
10 WITH MY PARENTS.

11 THEY WOULD MAKE STATEMENTS, LIKE, WHAT  
12 ABOUT THE KIDS?

13 BUT THEY HAD NO BACKGROUND TO INFORM THEM  
14 ON THE AFFECT OF THE KIDS.

15 THEY OFTEN WOULD PASS THE BUCK FROM ONE TO  
16 THE OTHER, OR THEY WOULD NOT RESPOND TO CALLS.  
17 WHAT I DO KNOW CLEARLY IS THAT ON THESE OCCASIONS  
18 WHERE THEY WOULD DRIVE MY STEPFATHER TO THE PRECINCT,  
19 THEY NEVER MADE AN ARREST.

20 HE WAS BACK IN THE HOUSE WITHIN A MATTER  
21 OF HOURS, OFTEN IN A WORSE RAGE THAN WHEN HE LEFT.

22 I HAVE A SON OF MY OWN. THIS INCARCERATION  
23 HAS CAUSED A GREAT SEPARATION BETWEEN HIM AND I.  
24 HE IS PRESENTLY IN THE CARE OF MY MOTHER AND ALTHOUGH  
25 I DO NOT OFTEN GET TO SEE HIM, I AM ABLE TO GIVE

HIM GOOD INPUT WHEN I DO SEE HIM.

I HAVE GOOD HOPES ABOUT OUR FUTURE, IN TERMS OF RAISING HIM IN A DIFFERENT PATTERN THAN THAT THAT I WAS RAISED IN.

I HAVE THE ABILITY TO FURTHER MY EDUCATION WHILE INCARCERATED AND I HAVE TAKEN PART IN THERAPEUTIC EDUCATION TO RID MYSELF OF THE VIOLENT PATTERNS I HAD LEARNED THROUGHOUT THE YEARS.

YET, I QUESTIONED MYSELF, WHY WAS IT NECESSARY FOR ME TO COME TO PRISON TO EFFECT THESE CHANGES?

UPON RELEASE I INTEND TO BE A STABLE, LAW-ABIDING CITIZEN.

I WANT TO BE A PRODUCTIVE PERSON IN OUR SOCIETY FOR THE BENEFIT OF GIVING MY SON A POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH TO DEVELOP.

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE OTHER CHILDREN GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEAD HEALTHY LIVES AND NOT DESTROYED BY THE VIOLENT PATTERNS WHICH ARE SO MUCH A PART OF OUR PRESENT SOCIETY.

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE A BETTER FUTURE, PREPARED BY US IN AN EFFORT TO SALVAGE OTHER HUMAN BEINGS.

THERE IS AN ABSOLUTE NEED FOR CHANGE IN THE LAWS WHICH GOVERN THE "DOMESTIC VIOLENT OFFENDERS."

1  
2 THERE IS A NEED FOR ALL EDUCATION, OUT  
3 REACH AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR PEOPLE INVOLVED IN  
4 A CYCLE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

5 I BELIEVE THAT ALTERNATE SENTENCE PLANS SHOULD  
6 BE DEVELOPED TO DEAL WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE FIRST  
7 OFFENDERS, WITH A BACKGROUND OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

8 I LOVE LIFE. I LOVE PEOPLE AND I BELIEVE  
9 THAT IF I HAD BEEN GIVEN A GENUINE OPPORTUNITY,  
10 I WOULD NEVER HAVE CROSSED THE STAGES THAT BROUGHT  
11 ME IN HERE AND FROM THE BOTTOM-MOST OF MY HEART,  
12 I BELIEVE I WILL NEVER GET CAUGHT UP IN ANYTHING  
13 SIMILAR TO THIS EXPERIENCE AGAIN.

14 MS. ELDRIDGE: WHAT IS THE TERM THAT YOU  
15 ARE SERVING HERE? WHAT IS THE SENTENCE?

16 NUMBER TEN: THREE AND A HALF TO TEN.

17 MS. ELDRIDGE: WERE YOU REPRESENTED BY  
18 ASSIGNED COUNSEL OR PRIVATE COUNSEL?

19 NUMBER TEN: I HAD BOTH. FOR THE FIRST THREE  
20 WEEKS I HAD A PRIVATE LAWYER, BUT BEING THAT THE  
21 BILLS AT HOME AND NO MONEY, I HAD TO GET A COURT  
22 APPOINTED LAWYER.

23 MS. ELDRIDGE: HOW OLD IS YOUR SON?

24 NUMBER TEN: MY SON IS FIVE, NOW. HE  
25 WAS TWO WHEN I LEFT.

1  
2 MS. SCHAFER: THIS MAY BE A DIFFICULT  
3 QUESTION, BUT YOU MENTIONED THAT YOU HAD ALSO  
4 BEEN ABUSED BY YOUR MOTHER AND THAT CURRENTLY YOUR  
5 CHILD IS IN YOUR MOTHER'S CUSTODY.

6 IS IT A CONCERN OF YOURS THAT THIS PATTERN  
7 WILL BE REPEATED THERE, AND IF SO, ARE THERE SOME  
8 AGENCIES THAT ARE AWARE OF THAT PAST BEHAVIOR AND  
9 IS MONITORING THAT SITUATION?

10 NUMBER TEN: AS FAR AS THE PATTERNS, REALLY,  
11 I BELIEVE THAT MY BEING HERE SHOOK HER ENOUGH NOT  
12 FOR HER TO DO WHAT SHE DID TO ME TO HIM.

13 I BELIEVE AND I HOPE THAT I AM THE BROKEN  
14 LINK TO THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN MY FAMILY.

15 MS. SCHAFER: ARE YOU FROM NEW YORK CITY?

16 NUMBER TEN: YES.

17 MS. ELDRIDGE: YOU SAY THAT THERE WERE  
18 NO AGENCIES THAT YOU WERE AWARE OF THAT COULD ADDRESS  
19 THE SITUATION IN WHICH YOU FOUND YOURSELF?

20 NUMBER TEN: IT TOOK AWHILE FOR ME TO  
21 REALLY UNDERSTAND AND TAKE RESPONSIBILITY OF ADMITTING  
22 TO MYSELF THAT I WAS AN ABUSED CHILD BECAUSE I WAS  
23 ALWAYS TOLD TO STAY IN A CHILD'S PLACE; THAT WAS  
24 WITH YOUR MOUTH SHUT OR YOU WERE IN YOUR ROOM,  
25 OR ELSE YOU WERE GOING TO BE BEAT.

MS. ELDRIDGE: SO, YOU THOUGHT YOU DESERVED  
WHAT YOU GOT?

NUMBER TEN: AT THE AGE THAT I WAS, I WAS  
A MINOR, OKAY? I DIDN'T HAVE NO JOB. I WAS IN  
SCHOOL.

MY SUPPORT WAS MY MOTHER.

SHE DIDN'T SEE IT.

MS. ELDRIDGE: WERE YOU BRUISED ENOUGH  
SO THAT PEOPLE COULD SEE THE BRUISING?

NUMBER TEN: I WAS BRUISED PHYSICALLY.  
I USED TO GO TO SCHOOL WITH WELT MARKS FROM AN  
EXTENSION CORD; MY ARMS, MY BACK, MY LEGS.

MENTALLY, I WAS TO SIT IN FRONT OF MY CLASS  
WITH SHORT SOCKS ON, SHORT SHIRTS, SHORT DRESSES,  
OKAY?

PHYSICAL ABUSE AT HOME, MENTAL ABUSE FROM  
MY PEERS AT SCHOOL. MY COUNSELORS, THEY ONLY  
CAME -- I CANNOT EVEN RECALL SITTING IN A COUNSELOR'S  
OFFICE. I SAT IN THE DEAN'S OFFICE OR WAS RUNNING  
FROM THE TRUANT OFFICER.

THERE WAS NO THERE.

MS. ELDRIDGE: NO ONE EVER CAME TO YOU IN  
CLASS; NO TEACHER OR COUNSELOR, AND SAID --

NUMBER TEN: THEY WOULD ASK ME, "WHAT

1  
2 HAPPENED TO YOU? I FELL. I SCRATCHED MYSELF."

3 I ALWAYS HAD AN EXCUSE BECAUSE I KNEW THAT  
4 IF I TELL IT WOULD HAVE WENT HOME TO MY MOTHER.  
5 I KNEW WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN.

6 "HOW DARE YOU HAVE STRANGERS IN OUR BUSINESS.  
7 WHO GAVE YOU THAT RIGHT?

8 "I AM THE MOTHER. YOU ARE THE CHILD. AND  
9 YOU STAY IN THAT PLACE."

10 AND I WAS CONDITIONED TO BE IN THAT PLACE.

11 MS. ELDRIDGE: HOW MUCH DO YOU SEE YOUR  
12 SON?

13 NUMBER TEN: RECENTLY I HAVE BEEN SEEING  
14 HIM THROUGH THE CHILDREN CENTER, THE BUSINESS AND  
15 FOR FAMILY -- NOT AS MUCH AS I WOULD LOVE TO.

16 MS. BURSTEIN: DOES YOUR MOTHER BRING HIM  
17 UP TO SEE YOU?

18 NUMBER TEN: NO.

19 MS. BURSTEIN: DO YOU HAVE ANY SOCIAL WORKER  
20 OR IS THERE ANYBODY THAT WATCHES?

21 NUMBER TEN: NO. BECAUSE THE NIGHT THAT  
22 I WAS ARRESTED, I WAS SENT TO THE POLICE STATION.

23 I WAS AUTOMATICALLY SEPARATED FROM MY SON.

24 THEY DID NOT ASK ME, DID I WANT A FOLLOW-  
25 UP OR AN EVALUATION OR THAT THEY WERE GOING TO CHECK.

ON MY SON.

MS. BURSTEIN: NO ONE EVER INTERVIEWED  
YOU ABOUT THAT?

NUMBER TEN: NO. THEY JUST TOOK ME IN  
THERE AND THREW ME IN THE CAGE AND PICTURES AND  
NOTHING WAS BROUGHT UP OF MY SON.

I SEEN MY SON FOUR WEEKS LATER.

MS. BURSTEIN: YOU DON'T HAVE TO  
ANSWER THIS, IF YOU DON'T WANT TO:

HAVE YOU REALLY TALKED VERY SERIOUSLY WITH  
YOUR MOTHER ABOUT HOW YOU VIEW THE WAY YOU WERE  
BROUGHT UP AND WHAT YOU HOPE FOR YOUR SON AND WHAT  
HAS HAPPENED?

NUMBER TEN: I HAVE BEEN TRYING TO TALK  
TO MY MOTHER FOR SO MANY YEARS. STILL, I GET A BETTER  
RESPONSE FROM MY FIVE- YEAR OLD SON.

EVERY TIME THAT I FEEL GOOD ABOUT ME, SHE  
TEARS ME DOWN AND I AM TIRED OF BEING TORN DOWN.

MS. BURSTEIN: IS THERE ANYBODY HERE THAT  
YOU TALKED TO ABOUT YOUR CONCERNS WITH YOUR CHILD  
AND THAT HELP YOU WITH THAT?

NUMBER TEN: I GO UP TO THE MENTAL HYGIENE,  
I HAVE ASSOCIATIONS AND CLOSE FRIENDS IN HERE AND  
I TALK TO SISTER ELAINE WHEN I SEE HER, BUT I HAVE

TO MAKE THOSE IN ADVANCE.

MS. BURSTEIN: THANK YOU.

MEMBER ELEVEN, PLEASE?

NUMBER ELEVEN: I GUESS I WOULD LIKE TO  
START OUT BY SAYING THAT I AM KIND OF NERVOUS, BUT  
I WOULD LIKE TO THANK GOD MOST OF ALL FOR JUST ALLOW-  
ING ME THIS OPPORTUNITY AND GIVING ME THE STRENGTH  
AND THESE WOMEN THE STRENGTH TO BE HERE AND TO FINALLY  
SPEAK OUT ABOUT THE REAL SOCIETY, THE REAL WORLD  
THAT WE HAVE BEEN LIVING IN FOR SUCH A LONG TIME.

VIOLENCE FOR ME BEGAN WHEN I WAS VERY YOUNG.  
THE MEMORIES FOR ME ARE SOMEWHAT FOGGY. BUT THEY  
SEEM TO LATCH ON TO MY SOUL, THEY ARE MY MEMORIES.

I'VE ALWAYS TRIED TO FORGET MY PAST, BUT  
IT SEEMS TO HAUNT ME. I'VE WONDERED WHEN WILL  
THE PAIN AND PUNISHMENT STOP. I LOVE MOMMY AND  
DADDY WHO BY THE GRACE OF GOD ARE STILL ALIVE TODAY.

I DON'T THINK MOMMY WAS EVER REALLY HAPPY.  
SHE ALWAYS HAD TO WORK.

AS A PRE-SCHOOLER MY SISTER A YEAR YOUNGER  
THAN ME, WE WERE OFTEN OUR OWN BABYSITTERS. OTHER  
TIMES WE WERE LEFT WITH PEOPLE WHO WERE IN THE CLOSET  
CHILD MOLESTERS AND CHILD ABUSERS.

THINGS HAPPEN TO CHILDREN AND NO MATTER HOW

1  
2 YOUNG THEY ARE, THEY REMEMBER.

3 I REMEMBER AND I'LL NEVER FORGET BEING LEFT  
4 WITH BABYSITTERS WHO PUNISHED ME AND MY SISTER.

5 THERE WERE THESE PEOPLE WHO BABYSIT US  
6 THEY'D MAKE US STRIP NAKED AND GO INTO A ROOM.  
7 WE CALLED IT THE "BLACK ROOM."

8 WE'D WAIT THERE TO BE BEATEN WITH BELTS AND  
9 WET OBJECTS. I MUST HAVE BEEN THREE OR FOUR YEARS  
10 OLD THEN. I REMEMBER STAYING WITH OLDER COUSINS  
11 WHO'D MAKE US DO UN-NAMELY SEX ACTS.

12 WHEN I WAS EIGHT YEARS OLD AND MY SISTER  
13 WAS SEVEN, MY MOTHER WAS WORKING, AS USUAL, WHEN  
14 WE CAME HOME FROM SCHOOL.

15 IT WAS A COLD DECEMBER DAY. MOMMY HAD COOKED  
16 SO ALL WE HAD TO DO WAS HEAT THE FOOD.

17 MY FATHER CALLED US THAT DAY AND PROMISED HE'D  
18 COME AND BRING US OUR FAVORITE CANDY. HE WASN'T A  
19 STEADY PROVIDER OR A STEADY FATHER, BUT FOR SOME  
20 REASON I STILL LOVED HIM.

21 WELL, TO THIS DAY I NEVER ASKED HIM ABOUT  
22 THE CANDY, NOR DID I GET IT BECAUSE THAT EVENING  
23 I WAS TAKEN TO QUEENS GENERAL HOSPITAL WITH SECOND  
24 AND THIRD DEGREE BURNS ON TWO THIRDS OF MY UPPER  
25 TORSO.

1  
2 MY BLOUSE CAUGHT ON FIRE WHILE I WAS TRYING  
3 TO HEAT ME AND MY SISTER'S DINNER.

4 MY FACE, HEAD AND MY LEFT ARM AND LOWER RIGHT  
5 ARM WERE THE ONLY PARTS OF MY UPPER TORSO THAT DIDN'T  
6 GET BURNED.

7 I STAYED IN THE HOSPITAL FOR NINE MONTHS  
8 AND I HAD FROM TEN TO TWELVE SKIN GRAFT OPERATIONS.

9 WHEN I CAME HOME FROM THE HOSPITAL, MOMMY  
10 WAS STILL WORKING. THINGS DRASTICALLY CHANGED  
11 AFTER THAT. DADDY SEEMED TO BLAME MOMMY AND SHE  
12 BLAMED HIM, AND I BLAMED MYSELF.

13 HE BEGAN TO BEAT HER. HE WANTED HER TO QUIT  
14 HER JOB, BUT SHE SAID WE NEEDED THE MONEY.

15 THE BEATINGS GOT WORSE, BLACK EYES, STITCHES,  
16 HAIR LINE FRACTURES AND MULTIPLE CONTUSIONS.

17 ONCE HE WAS REAL NICE TO EVERYONE AND SAID  
18 HE WAS GONNA TAKE MOMMY OUT, FOR SOME REASON, I  
19 DIDN'T SLEEP GOOD THAT NIGHT. IN FACT, I WOKE UP  
20 ABOUT 4:00 A.M. TO GO TO THE BATHROOM, TO FIND MY  
21 MOTHER SITTING THERE WITH BOTH HER EYES CLOSED SHUT  
22 AND SHE WAS WASHING THE DRIED BLOOD OFF HER.

23 DADDY HAD TAKEN HER UPSTATE AND BEATEN HER.

24 I ASKED WHY DIDN'T SHE GET OUT OF THE CAR  
25 OR YELL OUT THE WINDOW. SHE SAID SHE TRIED, BUT  
HE STEPPED ON THE GAS AND HE SAID IF SHE WASN'T

1  
2 KILLED BY JUMPING OUT, HE'D GET OUT AND KILL HER  
3 OR RUN HER OVER AND LEAVE HER BODY THERE.

4 THEN DADDY GOT SO HE'D BEAT HER IN FRONT  
5 OF ME AND MY THREE YOUNGER SISTERS.

6 WE USED TO TRY AND HELP MOMMY FIGHT HIM.

7 ME AND MY SISTER WHO WAS A YEAR YOUNGER,  
8 WOULD FIGHT HIM TRYING TO PROTECT MY MOTHER, MY  
9 TWO YOUNGEST SISTERS WOULD, AND ME, CRY AND PLEAD  
10 WITH HIM TO STOP.

11 THEY WERE TOO YOUNG TO DO ANYTHING ELSE.

12 USUALLY I'D STAY WITH THE TWO YOUNGER SISTERS  
13 AND TRY TO HELP MOMMY WHILE MY OTHER SISTER RAN  
14 AND GOT THE POLICE.

15 WHEN THE POLICE WOULD ARRIVE, THEY'D TAKE  
16 DADDY, BUT HE WAS ALWAYS BACK IN VIRTUALLY NO TIME.

17 THEN EVERYBODY GOT BEAT UP FOR CALLING THE  
18 POLICE.

19 WE WERE TOLD TO GO TO COURT AND GET AN ORDER  
20 OF PROTECTION. WE FOUND OUT WITH THE FIRST ONE  
21 WE ACHIEVED THAT IT WAS MADE TO BE EATEN.  
22 LITERALLY.

23 I NEVER REMEMBER BEING A CHILD. AT THE AGE  
24 OF NINE ON I WAS A MOTHER OF MY THREE SISTERS.

25 WHEN I WAS THIRTEEN, I BEGAN DRINKING.

1  
2 MOM AND DAD HAD SO MUCH GOING ON WITH THEIR  
3 LIVES THEY COULDN'T EFFECTIVELY DEAL WITH MINE OR  
4 MY SISTERS.

5 BY THE TIME I WAS FOURTEEN, I WAS DRINKING  
6 HEAVILY EVERY DAY, SNIFFING HEROIN AND DOING WHAT-  
7 EVER ELSE WAS AVAILABLE.

8 I'VE LEARNED THAT THESE WERE METHODS TO SURVIV  
9 THE HORROR, TO BLOCK IT OUT.

10 I WANTED FRIENDS LIKE OTHER CHILDREN, BUT  
11 I WANTED FRIENDS I FELT WOULD ACCEPT ME, THEY WERE  
12 USUALLY FRIENDS THAT WERE TRYING TO ESCAPE THEIR  
13 OWN PROBLEMS. SO MY SISTER AND I WHO WAS MY PARTNER  
14 IN PAIN AND TERROR STUCK TOGETHER THROUGH EVERYTHING.

15 AT THIRTEEN SHE GOT PREGNANT AND HAD A DAUGHTER  
16 THE BABY WAS SOMEBODY WE COULD LOVE.

17 MY SISTER RAN AWAY A LOT. THAT'S HOW SHE GOT  
18 PREGNANT. I HAD PROBLEMS ADJUSTING IN SCHOOL.

19 I ALWAYS WORRIED AND THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT A  
20 MESS MY LIFE WAS, SO MOST OF THE TIME I PLAYED HOOKY.

21 THIS WAS MY LIFE AND I WAS FEELING AND LIVING  
22 LIKE AN ANIMAL AND ANIMALS LIVED WITH ANIMALS.

23 THE PEOPLE AND MY LIFE SEEMED TO GET  
24 PROGRESSIVELY MORE ABUSIVE. THE ONLY PEOPLE WE  
25 FIT IN WITH WERE THOSE WHO WERE DOWN AND OUT

THEMSELVES.

LIFE FOR ME, TURNED INTO FROM ONE ABUSIVE  
RELATIONSHIP TO ANOTHER. I THOUGHT I DIDN'T HAVE  
TO BE ASHAMED BECAUSE THE PEOPLE I WAS HANGING  
AROUND WITH WERE LIKE ME.

THIS WENT ON FOR YEARS. EVENTUALLY, I MET  
MY CHILD'S FATHER WHO SEEMED NICE, AND SEEMED TO

UNDERSTAND ME. HE TURNED OUT TO BE ANOTHER  
HORRIBLE ASPECT OF THIS ONGOING LIVING NIGHTMARE.

WHEN I BEGAN TO SEE HIM FOR WHAT HE REALLY  
WAS, I WAS AT LEAST THREE MONTHS PREGNANT AND HE  
BEGAN TO BEAT ME REGULARLY.

WHEN I'D GO HOME TO MY FAMILY HE'D COME  
AND GET ME. I ALREADY KNEW HOW THE POLICE  
OPERATED FROM MY EXPERIENCES AS A CHILD WITH MOMMY.

ALSO, FROM WATCHING OTHER WOMEN WHO WERE  
BEATEN BY THEIR MALE COUNTERPARTS. I KNOW MANY  
WOMEN WHO ARE BATTERED.

I REMEMBER ONCE BEING BEAT UP ON A STREET  
CORNER IN HARLEM. I WAS EIGHT MONTHS PREGNANT.

A POLICE CAR WAS PATROLLING THE AREA, WHEN  
MY CHILD'S FATHER SAW THE POLICE CAR, HE STOPPED.

I WALKED AWAY FROM HIM AS FAST AS I COULD.

THE POLICE DROVE PAST "HIM" AND CRUISED UP

1  
2 ALONGSIDE OF ME AND THEY TOLD ME TO JUST KEEP WALKIN'  
3 THEY WAITED FOR A FEW MINUTES AND DROVE OFF. HE  
4 CAUGHT UP WITH ME.

5 OUR LIFE TOGETHER CONSISTED OF A LOT OF  
6 VIOLENCE AND HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOMS.

7 ONCE HE GRABBED ME IN AN ELBOW CHOKE AND  
8 WITH HIS FOREARM APPLIED PRESSURE TO MY THROAT UNTIL  
9 I TURNED PURPLE.

10 I WAS SCARED THAT HE'D HURT THE CHILD I WAS  
11 CARRYING, SO I TRIED TO PROTECT MYSELF.

12 I BIT HIM ON HIS HAND UNTIL HE TOOK HIS ARM  
13 FROM AROUND MY NECK.

14 THIS PART OF MY NIGHTMARE ENDED WHEN I WAS  
15 ARRESTED.

16 I HAD A BABY BOY NINE DAYS LATER IN THE  
17 CUSTODY OF THE CITY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY.

18 MY BABY AND I HAVE BEEN SEPARATED EVER SINCE  
19 AND THAT WAS TWO YEARS AGO.

20 MY CHILD'S FATHER IS MY CO-DEFENDANT AND  
21 I'VE HEARD HE HAS HEARD FROM HIS APPEAL. I HAVEN'T  
22 HEARD FROM MINE YET.

23 THERE'S A POSSIBILITY THAT HE MAY EVEN BE  
24 WAITING FOR ME WHEN I GET HOME.

25 THIS WHOLE HELLISH NIGHTMARE THAT BEGAN

NINETEEN YEARS AGO IS STILL INCLUSIVE OF MY THREE YOUNGER SISTERS.

EACH OF MY SISTERS ARE IN EQUALLY ABUSIVE SITUATIONS. THEY RANGE IN AGES OF TWENTY-ONE, TWENTY-TWO, AND TWENTY-SIX AND I'M TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS OLD.

FOR A LONG TIME I THOUGHT I HAD A DRUG PROBLEM AND THAT DRUGS WAS THE EXTENT OF MY PROBLEMS.

NOW I KNOW THAT MY PROBLEM WAS NOT DRUGS. I WAS HAVING A PAIN, GUILT AND SHAME PROBLEMS.

I DIDN'T LIKE MYSELF AND THE DRUGS AND ALCOHOL WERE, AT THE TIME, THE DEFENSE MECHANISMS AVAILABLE TO ME.

I JUST NEVER PUT TWO AND TWO TOGETHER AND CAME UP WITH VICTIM, OR THAT I'M A VICTIM.

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER REALLY SPOKE OUT AGAINST THIS ISSUE PUBLICLY. I'M SURE A LOT OF PEOPLE HERE HAVE SEEN THE BURNING BED. I ASSUME THAT WE CAN ALL UNDERSTAND THE EMPHASIS FOCUSED ON THE BATTERED WIFE PORTRAYED BY FARRA FAWCETT, AND MAY I SAY, RIGHTFULLY SO, BUT I STRESS AN EQUALLY SIGNIFICANT POINT. THE CHILDREN, THE IMPACT LIVING UNDER THIS SITUATION CAN HAVE IN THEIR LIVES.

WHAT WILL THEY GROW UP TO BE?

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THESE CHILDREN?

PERHAPS WHAT HAPPENED TO ME AND MANY OTHERS  
LIKE ME.

IT MAY COME AS A SURPRISE, BUT MY STORY IS  
A COMMON ELEMENT WITHIN MY COMMUNITY AND IN  
COMMUNITIES SUCH AS MINE.

MANY CHILDREN ARE CAUGHT UP IN THIS VICIOUS  
WEB OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ABUSE, INCEST AND  
EVEN MURDER.

LET US THINK OF THE TRAUMA THAT THESE CHILDREN  
FACE AND FEEL.

I KNOW HOW I FELT.

ON BEHALF OF THE CHILDREN CAUGHT UP IN THE  
MEAT GRINDER OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE; WE NEED REAL  
HELP AS PARENTS AND CHILDREN, WIVES AND HUSBANDS.  
THIS IS A VERY REAL PAINFUL ELEMENT IN THE LIVES  
OF MANY.

MY TESTIMONY IS NOT MEANT TO HURT ANYONE,  
BUT TO RAISE THE PUBLIC AWARENESS ON THE INTENSITY  
OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, AND ALSO TO RAISE THE PERSONAL  
AWARENESS OF MANY WHO MAY BE VICTIMS AND ARE NOT  
AWARE.

I FEEL THAT WE WOMEN ARE COMPARABLE TO FARMERS  
WE HAVE COME HERE TO PLANT SEEDS OF KNOWLEDGE, WISL

AND UNDERSTANDING REGARDING THE PROBLEMS OF  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

IT REMINDS ME OF THE PARABLE OF JESUS:  
A FARMER WENT OUT TO SOW HIS SEEDS.

AS HE WAS SCATTERING THE SEEDS, SOME FELL  
ALONG THE PATH, AND THE BIRDS CAME AND ATE IT UP.

WILL THE BIRDS OF TIME BE ALLOWED TO EAT  
UP THIS PREVALENT ISSUE, SOME SEEDS FEEL ON ROCKY  
PLACES WHERE IT DID NOT HAVE MUCH SOIL.

IT SPRANG UP QUICKLY.

WILL THE PAIN WE HAVE SHARED HERE TODAY  
SPRING UP OUT OF YOUR THOUGHTS AND BE FORGOTTEN  
QUICKLY, PERHAPS, WHEN YOU LEAVE ON THIS DAY?

THIS PARABLE GOES ON TO SAY THAT WHEN THE  
SUN CAME UP THE PLANTS WERE SCORCHED AND THEY  
WITHERED, BECAUSE THEY HAD NO ROOT.

WILL YOU LET THE HORROR AND ANGUISH OF WHAT  
WE HAVE SHARED WITH YOU TAKE ROOT IN YOUR HEARTS  
OR WILL YOU ALLOW IT TO BE SCORCHED AND WITHERED  
BY WHATEVER NEXT WEEKS' ISSUE MAY BE? OTHER SEEDS  
FELL AMONG THORNS, WHICH GREW UP AND CHOKED THE  
PLANTS WILL, THE THORNS OF BUREACRACY AND POLITICS  
CHOKED WHATEVER EFFORTS, CONCERN, AND HELP CAN COME  
OUT OF THIS HEARING.

1  
2 STILL OTHER SEEDS FELL ON GOOD SOIL, WHERE  
3 IT PRODUCED A CROP A HUNDRED SIXTY OR THIRTY TIMES  
4 WHAT WAS SOWN.

5 I'VE LEARNED THAT GOD WORKS THROUGH PEOPLE,  
6 BUT ONLY THOSE THAT ARE WILLING HE PLANTS SEEDS  
7 THROUGH PEOPLE AND IN PEOPLE.

8 GOD HAS PLANTED SEEDS TODAY AND WE WOMEN  
9 HAVE BEEN HIS SHARE CROPPERS, WE'VE PLANTED SEEDS.  
10 WHERE WILL YOU ALLOW THEM TO FALL?

11 WILL YOU ALLOW THOSE SEEDS TO TAKE ROOT IN  
12 YOUR HEARTS?

13 THIS PARABLE ENDS WITH THE WORDS THAT I COULD  
14 NOT HAVE CHOSEN ANY BETTER. IT ENDS BY SAYING:

15 HE WHO HAS AN EAR, LET THEM HEAR.

16 I PRAY THAT YOU RECEIVE WHAT WE ARE SHARING  
17 WITH THE PUBLIC.

18 MS. ELDRIDGE: YOU'VE LEFT US SPEECHLESS, BASICALLY.  
19 WE WILL JUST ASK ONE QUEST N.

20 ARE YOUR SISTERS GETTING ANY HELP, THERE,  
21 OUTSIDE?

22 NUMBER ELEVEN: NO, THEY'RE NOT.

23 MS. ELDRIDGE: BUT, THEY NEED HELP?

24 NUMBER ELKEVEN: YES.

25 MS. SHAFFER: THE QUESTION WAS ASKED THAT .

ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS YOU WOULD LEAVE YOUR PARTNER  
AND GO HOME TO YOUR FAMILY AND THAT HE WOULD COME  
AND GET YOU.

GIVEN THE FACT THAT YOUR MOTHER HAD GONE  
THROUGH THIS PATTERN OF BEING VICTIMIZED BY ABUSE,  
AS WELL, DID YOUR FAMILY TRY TO INTERVENE AT THOSE  
TIMES OR REPORT THIS TO ANYONE OR TO TRY TO KEEP  
YOU IN THEIR HOME AND NOT GO HOME WITH HIM?

NUMBER ELEVEN: WELL, BASICALLY, THEY WERE  
TOO BUSY BEING VICTIMS THEMSELVES.

THAT'S A COMMON ISSUE AND ELEMENT IN MY FAMILY  
THAT MOSTLY EVERYBODY THERE IS GOING THROUGH SOME  
TYPE OF ABUSE THEMSELVES.

SO THEY CANNOT EFFECTIVELY INTERVENE OR HELP  
ME OR ANYONE ELSE.

MR. CHRISTIANSON YOU STATE THAT IT IS A  
COMMON ELEMENT FROM THE COMMUNITY THAT YOU COME  
FROM AND THE COMMUNITY THAT YOU KNOW, ESPECIALLY,  
IN TERMS, ELABORATE WHAT COULD THE STATE AGENCIES  
DO TO REACH OUT TO THOSE COMMUNITIES TO BRING OUT  
THE KIND OF PROGRAMS THAT WOULD BE EFFECTIVE TO  
THOSE TYPE OF COMMUNITIES?

NUMBER ELEVEN: THEY COULD GO INTO THOSE  
COMMUNITIES AND HELP.

1  
2 INSTEAD OF STANDING ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE  
3 COMMUNITIES, CONTINUOUSLY ASKING WHAT COULD WE DO.

4 MS. ELDRIDGE: FOR THE RECORD, DID YOU  
5 HAVE ASSIGNED COUNSEL OR PRIVATE COUNSEL?

6 NUMBER ELEVEN: I HAD ASSIGNED COUNSEL.

7 THEN I OBTAINED A PRIVATE COUNSELOR AND WE  
8 COULD NOT CONTINUE TO PAY HIM FOR WHAT HE WAS DOING,  
9 WHICH WAS NOTHING.

10 SO THEN THE JUDGE REASSIGNED HIM TO ME AS  
11 ASSIGNED COUNSEL.

12 MS. BURSTEIN: WHERE IS YOUR CHILD?

13 NUMBER ELEVEN: HE IS WITH MY MOTHER AND  
14 WITH MY FATHER.

15 MS. BURSTEIN: HOW OLD IS HE?

16 NUMBER ELEVEN: HE WILL BE TWO IN DECEMBER.

17 MS. SHAFFER: ARE YOU IN SCHOOL HERE?

18 NUMBER ELEVEN: YES, I AM IN COLLEGE.

19 MS. SHAFFER: WHAT YEAR?

20 NUMBER ELEVEN: THIS IS MY FIRST YEAR.

21 MS. SHAFFER: WHAT IS YOUR GOAL?

22 NUMBER ELEVEN: MY GOAL IS TO BECOME A  
23 PSYCHOLOGIST AND ALSO A COUNSELOR FOR WOMEN THAT  
24 ARE IN A CRISIS OF ANY TYPE AND FOR CHILDREN THAT  
25 ARE ABUSED AND VICTIMS OF INCEST, RAPE AND OTHER

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROBLEMS.

I THINK A LARGE MAJORITY OF WOMEN AND PEOPLE IN GENERAL THAT ARE IN PRISON, IT IS BECAUSE OF SOMETHING THAT HAS GONE ON, TRAGIC IN THEIR CHILDHOOD AND THEY'RE ONLY WAY OF VENTILATION OF THIS PAIN AND HORROR THAT THEY WERE FEELING WAS BY ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR.

MR. CHRISTIANSON: YOU SAID THAT YOUR CHILD IS AT HOME WITH YOUR PARENTS.

NUMBER ELEVEN: YES.

MR. CHRISTIANSON: YOU HAVE INDICATED THAT THERE HAD BEEN A PATTERN OF VIOLENCE AND ABUSE WITH THEM.

NUMBER ELEVEN: YES.

MR. CHRISTIANSON: DO YOU FEEL THAT -- ARE YOU CONCERNED THAT YOUR CHILD IN THAT SITUATION WILL CONTINUE TO BE SUBJECTED TO THAT PATTERN OF BEHAVIOR, AND IF SO, IS THERE SOMEONE MONITORING THAT SITUATION, WHO IS AWARE OF THAT?

NUMBER ELEVEN: NO, THERE NO ONE MONITORING IT. THERE WAS SOMEONE SUPPOSED TO BE MONITORING IT FROM THE BUREAU OF CHILD CARE AGENCY, BUT IF YOU WERE TO MEET MY SON, HE WOULD PROBABLY PUNCH YOU, PUNCH YOU UPON GREETING YOU.

1  
2 HE'S GROWING UP TO BE TAUGHT ABOUT A MALE  
3 MACHO MAN. THAT'S HOW HE IS GROWING UP.

4 MS. ELDRIDGE: I TAKE IT THAT YOU ARE NOT  
5 HAPPY THAT HE IS THERE?

6 NUMBER ELEVEN: AT THIS POINT, THAT IS THE  
7 ONLY THING THAT IS AVAILABLE TO ME, BECAUSE I DON'T  
8 WANT TO RISK LOSING MY CHILD COMPLETELY.

9 MS. ELDRIDGE: SO, YOU ARE IN AN IMPOSSIBLE  
10 POSITION OF HAVING HIM SOMEPLACE THAT YOU ARE NOT  
11 COMFORTABLE WITH, BUT THAT'S THE ONLY PLACE THAT  
12 YOU KNOW YOU WON'T LOSE HIM?

13 NUMBER ELEVEN: YES.

14 MS. BURSTEIN: THE OTHER ONLY ALTERNATIVE  
15 WOULD BE THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM?

16 NUMBER ELEVEN: YES, FOSTER CARE.

17 MS. BURSTEIN: DOES HE ATTEND THE CHILD  
18 CARE CENTER?

19 NUMBER ELEVEN: NO.

20 MS. BURSTEIN: HAS ANYBODY DISCUSSED THAT  
21 AS A POSSIBILITY?

22 NUMBER ELEVEN: I THINK I HAVE DONE MORE  
23 DISCUSSING THAN ANYBODY ELSE.

24 MS. ELDRIDGE: ALL RIGHT.

25 THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

1  
2 MS. BURSTEIN: I WOULD LIKE, AS THE NEXT  
3 WITNESS IS COMING UP, TO INTRODUCE LARRY CURLANDER,  
4 WHO IS THE DIRECTOR OF CRIMINAL JUSTICES, HE'S  
5 ABLE TO JOIN US. HE WAS REPRESENTED BY SCOTT  
6 CHRISTIANSON UNTIL THIS MOMENT.

7 WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT HE IS WITH US.

8 NUMBER TWELVE: I AM A THIRTY-THREE YEAR  
9 OLD WOMAN. I COME FROM A WHITE, MIDDLE CLASS  
10 BACKGROUND. I HAVE A B.A. IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION,  
11 AND AN M.S. IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.

12 I AM ALSO A WOMAN WHO WAS BATTERED AND ABUSED  
13 BY HER HUSBAND.

14 YOU MAY ASK YOURSELF HOW AN APPARENTLY  
15 INTELLIGENT WOMAN WOULD SUBJECT HERSELF TO A MAN  
16 WHO ABUSED HER FOR NINE AND ONE-HALF YEARS OF MARRIAGE

17 IT DID NOT BEGIN WITH OBVIOUS ABUSE, AS IT  
18 EVENTUALLY ENDED UP. EVEN BEFORE MY MARRIAGE BEGAN,  
19 MY HUSBAND GAINED MANIPULATIVE CONTROL OVER MY  
20 BEHAVIOR.

21 I MARRIED MY HUSBAND THREE MONTHS AFTER I  
22 MET HIM. I WAS TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF AGE, AND HE  
23 WAS TWENTY-SEVEN. HE WAS SO EXCITING, SO CHARMING,  
24 SO CONVINCING, AND SO SMOOTH. HE HAD BEEN MARRIED  
25 THREE TIMES PRIOR TO HIS MARRIAGE TO ME.

1  
2 WHEN HE FIRST PROPOSED MARRIAGE TO ME, I  
3 SUGGESTED THAT WE LIVE TOGETHER. HE WAS NOT SATISFIED  
4 WITH THE ARRANGEMENT OF LIVING TOGETHER INSTEAD  
5 OF MARRIAGE.

6 WE WENT TO SEE MY FATHER AND HAVE A DISCUSSION  
7 ON THE SUBJECT. THE RESULTS OF THAT DISCUSSION  
8 WERE THAT IT WOULD BE BEST IF I GOT MARRIED, BECAUSE  
9 IT WOULD BE TOO DIFFICULT FOR MY MOTHER TO DEAL  
10 WITH HER DAUGHTER'S LIVING IN SIN.

11 I DID NOT WANT TO HURT MY MOTHER, SO I WENT  
12 ALONG WITH THEIR REASONING. THIS IS THE FIRST  
13 INSTANCE THAT MY HUSBAND DISPLAYED THE CAPACITY  
14 TO REGULATE MY WILL.

15 AFTER I WAS MARRIED ONLY A SHORT TIME, I  
16 NOTICED MY HUSBAND WAS VERY JEALOUS OF MY RELATION-  
17 SHIPS WITH MY GIRLFRIENDS. HE MADE IT DIFFICULT  
18 FOR ME TO SEE THEM, AND, WHEN I DID, HE MADE THEM,  
19 AND ME, FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE. HE DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE  
20 ME AND MY FRIENDS ALONE.

21 HE WANTED TO STAY WITH US. WHEN I WAS ALONE  
22 WITH MY FRIENDS, HE WANTED TO KNOW HOW WE COULD  
23 SPEND SO MUCH TIME DOING WHAT APPEARED TO BE  
24 NOTHING.

25 HE WOULD QUESTION ME ON WHAT MY FRIENDS

1  
2 AND I TALKED ABOUT IT.

3 IF I TOLD HIM OUR DISCUSSION WAS OF A PERSONAL  
4 NATURE, HE WOULD SAY THAT HE AND I SHOULDN'T HAVE  
5 ANY SECRETS FROM ONE ANOTHER.

6 IF I TOLD HIM THAT THE PERSONAL NATURE OF  
7 THE DISCUSSION WAS NOT PERSONAL ON MY END, BUT ON  
8 MY FRIEND'S, HE WOULD STILL WANT TO KNOW WHAT  
9 WAS SAID.

10 THIS MADE ME FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE, BECAUSE  
11 I DIDN'T WANT TO BETRAY MY FRIEND'S TRUST, AND  
12 AT THE SAME TIME, I WANTED TO SHARE WITH MY  
13 HUSBAND THE INFORMATION THAT HE WANTED.

14 ON ONE OCCASION, AFTER I SPENT AN AFTERNOON  
15 WITH ONE OF MY GIRLFRIENDS, MY HUSBAND TOLD ME IT  
16 WAS IMPOSSIBLE THAT I WOULD BE ABLE TO SPEND SO  
17 MUCH TIME WITH MY GIRLFRIENDS WITHOUT THERE BEING  
18 SOMETHING SEXUAL GOING ON BETWEEN US.

19 I COULD NOT SEEM TO CONVINCE HIM THAT MY  
20 FRIEND AND I, WHO HAD BEEN FRIENDS FOR ABOUT SEVEN  
21 YEARS, ALWAYS HAD LOTS TO TALK ABOUT.

22 THE ONLY RELATIONSHIP GOING ON BETWEEN US  
23 WAS ONE OF PLATONIC FRIENDSHIP.

24 AFTER A NUMBER OF MONTHS OF MY HUSBAND'S  
25 MAKING IT DIFFICULT AND UNCOMFORTABLE FOR ME TO

1  
2 SEE MY FRIENDS AND FOR MY FRIENDS TO SEE ME, EACH  
3 RELATIONSHIP WITH EACH OF MY FRIENDS ENDED.

4 IN A SHORT TIME, I HAD NO FRIENDS OF MY OWN  
5 AT ALL. ISOLATED FROM MY FRIENDS, MY DEPENDENCY  
6 ON MY HUSBAND GREW.

7 I ALSO BECAME ISOLATED FROM MY FAMILY.

8 SHORTLY AFTER I WAS MARRIED, MY PARENTS FOUND  
9 OUT THAT MY HUSBAND HAD BEEN MARRIED BEFORE. WHEN  
10 THEY FOUND OUT, THEY TRIED TO GET ME TO LEAVE HIM.  
11 I WOULD NOT LEAVE.

12 I WAS GOING TO MAKE MY MARRIAGE WORK.

13 FROM THAT TIME ON, WHENEVER I SAW MY PARENTS,  
14 THEY WOULD HAVE TERRIBLE THINGS TO SAY ABOUT HIM,  
15 AND THEY WEREN'T ALL LIES.

16 AFTER SEEING MY PARENTS, I WOULD GO HOME  
17 TO MY HUSBAND FEELING UPSET. MY HUSBAND WOULD THEN  
18 SEE SOMETHING WAS WRONG, AND HE WOULD ASK ME WHAT  
19 IT WAS.

20 I WOULD TELL HIM MY PARENTS HAD SAID NEGATIVE  
21 THINGS ABOUT HIM. AT THE END OF AN AFTERNOON WITH  
22 MY PARENTS, AND AN EVENING WITH MY HUSBAND, I DIDN'T  
23 KNOW WHAT TO THINK.

24 I WOULD BE CONFUSED, NERVOUS, AND UPSET.  
25 AFTER ABOUT TWO YEARS OF BEING TORN BETWEEN MY

1 HUSBAND AND MY PARENTS, I HAD A BIG BLOWOUT WITH  
2 MY PARENTS, AND I DIDN'T SPEAK TO THEM FOR A YEAR,  
3 ALTHOUGH THEY LIVED ONLY A MILE AWAY.  
4

5 MY YOUNGER SISTER WAS AWAY AT COLLEGE THEN,  
6 AND WORKING OUT OF STATE, SO I NEVER SAW HER MUCH.

7 I SPOKE TO HER SPORADICALLY BY TELEPHONE. MY  
8 HUSBAND HAD ALWAYS APPROVED OF MY RELATIONSHIP WITH  
9 HER.

10 ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE WAS MY OLDER SISTER,  
11 WHO WAS MARRIED AND LIVED ABOUT AN HOUR AND A HALF  
12 DRIVE AWAY. MY HUSBAND DISAPPROVED OF MY RELATION-  
13 SHIP WITH HER.

14 HE WOULD SAY THAT SHE WAS A "BAD INFLUENCE"  
15 ON ME. ALTHOUGH, SHE NEVER SPOKE ILL OF HIM, SHE  
16 WOULD TRY TO PROMOTE MY OWN INDEPENDENCE BY SUGGEST-  
17 ING THINGS THAT I COULD DO ON MY OWN.

18 I GUESS MY HUSBAND SAW THIS AS A THREAT,  
19 BECAUSE HE WOULD ONLY DRIVE ME TO HER HOUSE ON RARE  
20 OCCASIONS.

21 WHEN I MARRIED MY HUSBAND IN 1973, I HAD  
22 MY DRIVER'S LICENSE. I LET IT EXPIRE IN 1975,  
23 BECAUSE MY HUSBAND ALWAYS DROVE ME EVERYWHERE,  
24 SO I DIDN'T SEE THE NEED TO RENEW MY LICENSE.

25 THIS MADE MY ISOLATION COMPLETE. I HAD NO

1  
2 FRIENDS, FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES. I DIDN'T  
3 SPEAK TO MY FAMILY, AND I HAD NO MEANS OF  
4 TRANSPORTATION.

5 I SEE MY ISOLATION AS A VEHICLE FOR THE  
6 BATTERING. ONCE ISOLATED, THEN BATTERED, I HAD  
7 NOWHERE TO GO, NO ONE TO SEE, AND NO WAY TO GET THERE.

8 ONE EVENING, A FRIEND OF MY HUSBAND WAS VISIT-  
9 ING AT OUR APARTMENT. MY HUSBAND EVIDENTLY DECIDED  
10 TO SHOW HIS FRIEND THE CONTROL HE HAD OVER ME.

11 HE PUT MY ARM BEHIND MY BACK, AND KEPT LIFTING  
12 IT HIGHER, UNTIL I WOULD SAY "UNCLE."

13 I WOULD NOT GIVE HIM THAT SATISFACTION, SO  
14 HE BROKE MY ARM. I WAS IN DISBELIEF THAT HE ACTUAL-  
15 BROKE MY ARM BECAUSE I REFUSED TO SAY "UNCLE."

16 AFTER MY HUSBAND REALIZED MY ARM WAS BROKEN,  
17 HE TOOK ME TO THE HOSPITAL. THE EMERGENCY ROOM  
18 STAFF INQUIRED HOW MY ARM BECAME BROKEN.

19 I TOLD THEM THAT I SLIPPED IN THE KITCHEN  
20 ON SOME WATER THAT HAD SPILLED. I WOULD NOT TELL  
21 THEM THE TRUTH, BECAUSE I WAS AFRAID MY HUSBAND WOULD  
22 BECOME MORE ANGRY WITH ME.

23 I DID NOT WANT TO SEE HIM ANGRY AGAIN.

24 THE DOCTOR TOLD ME I WOULD HAVE TO BE ADMITT  
25 TO THE HOSPITAL. X-RAYS WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN

THE NEXT DAY. MY HUSBAND CONVINCED THE DOCTOR TO  
LET HIM STAY IN THE ROOM WITH ME OVERNIGHT.

THAT NIGHT IN THE HOSPITAL, THERE WAS NOTHING  
MY HUSBAND WOULD NOT DO FOR ME.

HE MADE ME FEEL THERE WOULD NEVER BE AN  
INCIDENT LIKE THIS AGAIN. OF COURSE, THIS WAS NOT  
TRUE.

THIS WAS ONLY ONE INCIDENT IN WHICH MY HUSBAND  
USED VIOLENCE IN FRONT OF OTHERS TO SHOW HIS CONTROL  
OVER ME. THERE WERE OTHER BEATINGS I RECEIVED IN  
PRIVATE; BEATINGS WHICH I DROWNED IN SHAME AND  
EMBARRASSMENT, AND WHICH I SILENTLY BURIED IN MY  
MIND.

AFRAID OF PERSONAL FAILURE, I REFUSED TO  
ADMIT TO MYSELF THAT I WAS A BATTERED WOMAN.

YOU ARE NO DOUBT WONDERING WHY I  
DIDN'T LEAVE MY HUSBAND. ONE OF THE RESULTS OF  
MY ISOLATION WAS THAT MY HUSBAND HAD BECOME MY FRIEND,  
SIBLING, MOTHER AND FATHER, BESIDES BEING MY HUSBAND.  
EMOTIONALLY, I COULD NOT LEAVE BECAUSE HE WAS EVERY-  
THING AND EVERYONE TO ME.

THE WOMEN WHO CAME TO ORGANIZE THIS HEARING  
WERE THE FIRST TO INFORM ME THAT THE DYNAMICS OF  
MY ABUSE WERE TYPICAL, CLASSIC, AND EVEN

"TEXT-BOOK."

IT WOULD BE A GROSS UNDERSTATEMENT TO SAY THAT, AFTER ARRIVING AT BEDFORD HILLS CORRECTIONAL FACILITY, I FOUND OUT THAT I'D SUFFERED TEXT BOOK SYMPTOMS OF ABUSE.

I WENT TO SCHOOL FOR APPROXIMATELY EIGHTEEN YEARS.

WHY WAS I NOT EDUCATED TO THIS PROBLEM?

AS A RESULT OF THESE HEARINGS, I WOULD LIKE THERE TO BE A PROGRAM SET UP TO EDUCATE CHILDREN IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS, TO TEACH THE SYMPTOMS OF ABUSE AND BATTERED WOMEN.

CHILDREN ARE ALREADY EDUCATED ON SUCH SUBJECTS AS DRUG ABUSE, ALCOHOL ABUSE, SEXUAL ABUSE, AND CHILD ABUSE.

WHY ARE THEY NOT EDUCATED ABOUT THE ABUSE A WOMAN MAY SUFFER, OR A MAN MAY INFLICT?

THE KIND OF HELP I WOULD LIKE TO SEE INSTITUTED IS THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN, SO THAT THE PROBLEMS OF ABUSED AND BATTERED WOMEN MAY BECOME THINGS OF THE PAST.

EDUCATE THE CHILDREN, SO TODAY'S GIRLS DO NOT BECOME TOMORROW'S BATTERED WOMEN.

MS. ELDRIDGE: THANK YOU.

1  
2 LET ME ASK THE QUESTION WHICH I HAVE BEEN  
3 ASKING:

4 DID YOU HAVE ASSIGNED COUNSEL OR PRIVATE  
5 COUNSEL?

6 NUMBER TWELVE: BECAUSE OF THE SUPPORT MY  
7 FAMILY WAS ABLE TO GIVE ME, I WAS FORTUNATE ENOUGH  
8 TO HAVE PRIVATE COUNSEL.

9 MS. ELDRIDGE: SECOND OF ALL, WHO DO YOU  
10 HAVE AN M.S. WITH?

11 NUMBER TWELVE: NEW YORK CITY, EXCUSE ME.  
12 I HAVE A MASTER'S OF SCIENCE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD  
13 EDUCATION.

14 MS. ELDRIDGE: WHICH INCLUDED, AMONG OTHER  
15 THINGS, DISCUSSION OF THE DEVELOPMENT PSYCHOLOGY.

16 NUMBER TWELVE: YES. THERE WAS NO MENTION  
17 OF ABUSE IN ANY OF THOSE COURSES.

18 MS. ELDRIDGE: NOT EVEN, FOR EXAMPLE, CHILD  
19 ABUSE?

20 NUMBER TWELVE: CHILD ABUSE WAS MENTIONED,  
21 YES.

22 MS. ELDRIDGE: BUT, THERE WAS NEVER A  
23 CONNECTION BETWEEN THAT AND ANY OTHER KIND OF  
24 OTHER FAMILY MATTER?

25 NUMBER TWELVE: THEY WENT AS FAR AS SAYING

1  
2 CHILD ABUSE WAS PSYCHOLOGICAL, BUT NEVER ANYTHING  
3 ABOUT THE BATTERED WOMAN OR ABUSED WOMAN.

4 IT WAS TOTALLY, THE DISCUSSION WAS CENTERED  
5 AROUND CHILD ABUSE.

6 MS. THELWELL: YOUR TESTIMONY RAISES,  
7 EXPLICITLY, SOMETHING THAT I THINK HAS BEEN IMPLICIT  
8 IN WHAT A NUMBER OF OTHER WOMEN HAVE SAID TODAY,  
9 WHICH IS, AS WE LOOK AT WHAT CAUSES PEOPLE TO LIVE  
10 IN THESE SITUATIONS, THE OTHER SIDE OF TEACHING  
11 GIRLS NOT TO GROW INTO WOMEN WHO SUBMIT TO EVERYTHING  
12 THAT WAS DONE TO THEM; RAISING BOYS TO UNDERSTAND  
13 THAT THEY DO NOT AFFIRM THEIR MANHOOD BY ABUSING  
14 WOMEN.

15 THAT THEY DO NOT PROVE THEMSELVES TO BE  
16 BETTER, BIGGER OR STRONGER PEOPLE BY INFLECTING  
17 DAMAGE ON GIRLS AND WOMEN.

18 THAT THERE ARE MORE IMPORTANT REASONS FOR  
19 NOT HITTING LITTLE GIRLS THAN, "IT IS SIMPLY NOT  
20 DONE."

21 I HAVE HEARD A NUMBER OF WOMEN SAY THINGS  
22 LIKE:

23 "HE WAS JEALOUS OF THE TIME THAT I SPENT  
24 WITH OTHER PEOPLE.

25 "HE DIDN'T WANT TO SEE ME SPEND SO MUCH TIM

1  
2 WITH MY FRIENDS.

3 "THE TIME THAT I SPENT WITH MY FRIENDS WAS  
4 A THREAT SOMEHOW TO HIM."

5 WE HAVE RAISED A SITUATION IN WHICH WOMEN  
6 MUST PAY FOR THE INSECURITIES OF THE MEN THAT THEY  
7 LIVE WITH.

8 WE HAVE A BROADER EDUCATION JOB TO DO HERE  
9 THAN JUST TEACHING LITTLE GIRLS TO ASK FOR HELP.

10 WE NEED TO TEACH MEN TO STOP DOING THIS.

11 MS. ELDRIDGE: I JUST WANT TO BE CLEAR  
12 ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT HERE.

13 THE INITIAL ACTIONS WERE ACTIONS TO ISOLATE  
14 YOU FROM YOUR SUPPORT SYSTEMS.

15 NUMBER TWELVE: YES.

16 MS. ELDRIDGE: THIS PERIOD, IN THAT EARLY  
17 TIME, WAS THERE PHYSICAL ABUSE?

18 NUMBER TWELVE: NO, THERE WAS NOT.

19 MS. ELDRIDGE: IT WAS ONLY AFTER YOU WERE  
20 IN FACT ISOLATED AND COULD NO LONGER TURN EITHER  
21 FOR VALIDATION OF YOUR OWN NEED TO GET OUT OF IT  
22 TO SOMEONE OR FOR ASSISTANCE, THAT HE BEGAN PHYSICALLY  
23 ABUSING YOU?

24 NUMBER TWELVE: THAT'S CORRECT.

25 THE STAGE WAS SET FOR THE ABUSE AND VIOLENCE

1  
2 TO TAKE PLACE.

3 MS. ELDRIDGE: YOU SAID IT WAS BOTH PUBLIC  
4 AND PRIVATE BEFORE HIS FRIENDS TO DEMONSTRATE  
5 STRENGTH?

6 NUMBER TWELVE: YES.

7 MS. ELDRIDGE: AND PRIVATELY?

8 NUMBER TWELVE: YES.

9 MS. ELDRIDGE: ONE OF THE PLACES FOR  
10 INTERVENTION FOR MANY PEOPLE IN THE SYSTEM IS THE  
11 HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM.

12 YOU HAVE TOLD US THAT YOU WENT AT LEAST ONE  
13 TIME.

14 WERE YOU IN THE HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM OTHER  
15 TIMES THAN THAT?

16 NUMBER TWELVE: YES, I WAS.

17 MS. ELDRIDGE: WERE YOU EVER ALLOWED TO  
18 BE ALONE WITHOUT HIM WHEN YOU WERE IN THE HOSPITAL  
19 EMERGENCY ROOM?

20 NUMBER TWELVE: HE WOULD NEVER LEAVE, NO.

21 MS. ELDRIDGE: DID ANYONE, WHEN YOU CAME  
22 INTO THE HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM, SAY, FOR EXAMPLE,  
23 "EXCUSE ME, SIR, COULD YOU LEAVE FOR A MOMENT SO  
24 WE CAN TALK TO YOUR WIFE?"

25 NUMBER TWELVE: NO, NO ONE HAS EVER DONE

1  
2 THAT.

3 MS. ELDRIDGE: DID ANYBODY EVER FIND A  
4 MOMENT TO SAY, "I KNOW YOU SAID YOU SLIPPED, BUT  
5 HERE'S A PAMPHLET ABOUT A PROGRAM"?

6 NUMBER TWELVE: WELL, I DON'T REALLY THINK  
7 ANYBODY WOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ASK ME.  
8 I WAS NEVER ALONE.

9 MS. ELDRIDGE: NEVER?

10 NUMBER TWELVE: NEVER.

11 MS. BURSTEIN: AFTER THE YEAR THAT YOU  
12 DIDN'T SPEAK TO YOUR PARENTS, DID YOU EVENTUALLY  
13 SPEAK TO YOUR PARENTS?

14 NUMBER TWELVE: YES, I DID.

15 ABOUT AFTER A YEAR I CALLED THEM.

16 MS. BURSTEIN: YOU NEVER TOLD THEM WHAT  
17 WAS HAPPENING OR DID YOU?

18 NUMBER TWELVE: THEY FOUND OUT SUBSEQUENTLY  
19 TOO, I THINK, BECAUSE HE WANTED TO SHOW THAT I WAS  
20 THE CAUSE OF THE VIOLENCE AND I WAS THE CAUSE OF  
21 MYSELF GETTING BEAT UP, HE WOULD CALL MY PARENTS  
22 AND TELL THEM THAT I WAS FLIPPING OUT AND THAT THEY  
23 SHOULD COME AND GET ME AND THEY WOULD ARRIVE AND  
24 I WOULD JUST BE ALL BEATEN UP AND I WOULD GO TO  
25 THEIR HOUSE, BUT I WOULD ALWAYS WANT TO COME HOME

1  
2 TO MY HUSBAND.

3 I FELT, I FEEL NOW, THAT I COULDN'T LEAVE  
4 MY HUSBAND BECAUSE IT WASN'T A CHOICE I WAS MAKING.

5 IF MY PARENTS TOOK ME OUT OF THE SITUATION, I  
6 HAD SO LITTLE POWER AND CONTROL THAT I WANTED IT  
7 TO BE MY DECISION, THAT I FELT, OR AT LEAST MY  
8 DECISION IF I STAYED.

9 I HAD SO LITTLE DECISIONS TO MAKE. I MEAN,  
10 I DIDN'T DECIDE ANYTHING.

11 SO, IF I WAS GOING TO LEAVE OR STAY, IT  
12 WASN'T GOING TO BE BECAUSE MY PARENTS WERE GOING  
13 TO FORCE ME TO DO ONE THING OR ANOTHER.

14 MS. BURSTEIN: WHEN YOU WERE YOUNGER AND  
15 GOT MARRIED, DID YOU THINK THAT GETTING MARRIED  
16 WAS BEING ADULT AND THAT THAT WAS AN IMPORTANT  
17 THING TO DO?

18 NUMBER TWELVE: NO. BUT ONCE I GOT MARRIED  
19 I FELT THAT I HAD MADE A COMMITMENT AND IF THE  
20 MARRIAGE FAILED, THAT I HAD FAILED IN MY COMMITMENT.

21 MS. BURSTEIN: CAN YOU TELL US WHAT YOUR  
22 LENGTH OF TERM IS HERE?

23 NUMBER TWELVE: THREE AND A HALF TO TEN  
24 AND A HALF.

25 SENATOR MENDEZ: AFTER YOU WERE ISOLATED

1  
2 AND AFTER THE ABUSE BEGAN, DIDN'T YOU HAVE THOUGHTS  
3 ABOUT GOING FOR SOME THERAPY YOURSELF?

4 NUMBER TWELVE: NO, I DID NOT.

5 I THOUGHT THAT IF I WORKED VERY HARD AT THE  
6 SITUATION THINGS WOULD GET BETTER.

7 SENATOR MENDEZ: I SEE. THANK YOU.

8 MS. THELWELL: YOU SAID THAT THE INCIDENT  
9 WHERE YOUR HUSBAND BROKE YOUR ARM TOOK PLACE IN  
10 FRONT OF A FRIEND OF HIS.

11 YOU SAID THAT THERE WERE OTHER TIMES THAT  
12 HE WAS VIOLENT TOWARD YOU IN FRONT OF OTHER PEOPLE.

13 DID ANY OF THESE PEOPLE EVER TRY TO STOP  
14 HIM?

15 NUMBER TWELVE: NO.

16 MY HUSBAND WAS SIX FOOT, TWO, AND A HUNDRED  
17 EIGHTY POUNDS AND THEY WERE PRETTY SMART NOT TO  
18 TRY AND STOP HIM.

19 I THINK THAT HIS VIOLENCE WOULD HAVE BEEN  
20 TURNED TOWARDS THEM.

21 MS. THELWELL: DID ANY OF THEM EVERY TRY  
22 TO CONTACT YOU OR DID THEY STAY FRIENDLY WITH HIM  
23 AFTER THOSE INCIDENTS?

24 NUMBER TWELVE: YES, THEY DID STAY FRIENDLY  
25 WITH HIM AFTER THOSE INCIDENTS AND ON SOME OCCASION.

1  
2 THEY EXPRESSED THAT THEY WERE -- THEY FELT BADLY  
3 ABOUT WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO ME, BUT I FEEL THAT THEY  
4 FELT POWERLESS TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.

5 MS. BURSTEIN: DID YOU EVER CALL THE POLICE?

6 NUMBER TWELVE: NO, I DID NOT.

7 MS. BURSTEIN: YOU NEVER TOLD ANYBODY,  
8 ALTHOUGH YOUR PARENTS KNEW, I SUSPECT?

9 NUMBER TWELVE: NO.

10 MS. BURSTEIN: YOU NEVER TOLD THEM DIRECTLY?

11 NUMBER TWELVE: WELL, MY HUSBAND CALLED  
12 THEM AND HE, YOU KNOW, SAID THAT I WAS UNCONTROLLABLE  
13 AND HE HAD TO CONTROL ME, SO THEY DID KNOW.

14 MS. BURSTEIN: THEY KNEW?

15 NUMBER TWELVE: YES.

16 MR. DUNSTON: DID THEY EVER DISCUSS IT WITH  
17 YOU?

18 NUMBER TWELVE: YES, THEY TOLD ME TO LEAVE.

19 MR. CHRISTIANSON: I'M INTERESTED IN THE  
20 PROFILE OF BEHAVIOR ON THE PART OF YOUR HUSBAND  
21 BECAUSE YOU SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN MARRIED THREE TIMES  
22 BY THE TIME THAT HE WAS TWENTY-SEVEN.

23 HAD THERE EVER BEEN, TO YOUR KNOWLEDGE, A  
24 PATTERN OF ABUSE?

25 WAS THAT PART OF THE REASONS FOR THOSE DIVORCES?

THE OTHER QUESTION THAT I HAD WAS:

DO YOU KNOW WHETHER HE HAD BEEN A VICTIM  
OF CHILD ABUSE HIMSELF?

NUMBER TWELVE: THE ANSWER TO THE SECOND  
QUESTION WAS: NO, HE WAS NOT A VICTIM OF CHILD  
ABUSE.

THE ANSWER TO THE FIRST QUESTION WAS: I  
WAS ONLY AWARE OF HIS FIRST MARRIAGE AND I WAS  
AWARE THAT HE ABUSED HIS WIFE IN THE FIRST MARRIAGE,  
BUT I WASN'T AWARE OF THE OTHER TWO MARRIAGES THAT  
HE DID ABUSE THOSE WOMEN, UNTIL AFTER I WAS MARRIED  
FOR A WHILE.

I THOUGHT THAT I WAS GOING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

MS. ELDRIDGE: THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

I THINK THAT OUR PREPARED TESTIMONY IS ABOUT  
TO CONCLUDE.

WILL YOU COME UP, PLEASE.

NUMBER THIRTEEN: THIS HASN'T BEEN AN EASY  
DAY.

I'VE HEARD THE WOMEN TESTIFY HERE TODAY;  
THAT THEY HAVE SHARED WITH ALL OF US THE INTIMATE  
DETAILS OF THEIR LIVES.

THAT THEY HAVE DISCUSSED, PUBLICLY, TODAY,  
ABUSE THAT THEY MAY HAVE DENIED TO THEMSELVES

1  
2 FOR YEARS.

3 THERE ARE MANY WOMEN OUT THERE, WHO ARE  
4 SUFFERING ABUSES SIMILAR TO WHAT WAS DESCRIBED TODAY.

5 THEY MAY BE PREVENTED BY FEAR, SHAME,  
6 EMBARRASSMENT, FROM SUBMITTING THIS ABUSE TO ANYONE,  
7 AND, WORSE, THEY MAY BE VEHEMENTLY DENYING IT TO  
8 THEMSELVES, AS WELL.

9 WE KNOW THAT AN ABUSED WOMAN NEEDS AVENUES  
10 THROUGH WHICH TO EXPRESS HER FEELINGS ABOUT BEING  
11 A VICTIM OF ABUSE.

12 SHE NEEDS TO TALK TO SOMEONE, SOMEONE WHO  
13 CAN RELATE, SOMEONE WHO WILL BE ABLE TO EMPATHIZE.

14 SHE NEEDS TO TALK TO SOMEONE WHO HAS LEARNED,  
15 PERHAPS, THROUGH PERSONAL EXPERIENCE THAT THE FEELING  
16 AND FRUSTRATIONS AND DESPERATION CAN BE OVERCOME.

17 SHE NEEDS TO TALK TO SOMEONE WHO CAN REASSURE  
18 HER THAT THERE ARE EFFECTIVE, CONSTRUCTIVE WAYS  
19 TO END ABUSE.

20 SHE NEEDS TO SHARE THESE FEELINGS WITHOUT  
21 THE FEELING OF CONDESCENSIONS OR CONDEMNATION  
22 FROM OTHERS.

23 SHE NEEDS TO HAVE PLACES TO GO FOR EFFECTIVE  
24 HELP.

25 SHE NEEDS TO BE AWARE WHERE THESE PLACES

1  
2 ARE AND HOW TO GET AND UTILIZE THE HELP THAT IS  
3 AVAILABLE TO HER.

4 SHE NEEDS TO FEEL THAT THERE IS SUPPORT AND  
5 UNDERSTANDING FROM HER FAMILY, HER FRIENDS AND FROM  
6 AGENCIES.

7 ULTIMATELY, SHE NEEDS TO BE ASSURED THAT  
8 THE SYSTEM WILL NOT FAIL HER WITH EMPTY WORDS AND  
9 FLIMSY PROMISES OF PROTECTION; PIECE OF PAPER  
10 THAT WON'T STOP THE SLAPS, THE PUNCHES, THE KICKS  
11 AND THE HUMILIATION.

12 THE PHYSICAL ATTACKS ON BATTERED WOMEN LEAVE  
13 BRUISES AND WOUNDS THAT IN TIME DO HEAL.

14 HOWEVER, THE EMOTIONAL SCARS INFLICTED ON  
15 THESE WOMEN MAY NEVER HEAL WITHOUT YOUR HELP.

16 WITHOUT CHANGES IN THE ATTITUDES OF YOU,  
17 THE PUBLIC.

18 BATTERED WOMEN NEED TO KNOW THAT THEY ARE  
19 WORTH WHILE HUMAN BEINGS WHO DO NOT DESERVE TO BE  
20 ABUSED.

21 THEY NEED TO BE EDUCATED AT A VERY EARLY  
22 AGE TO KNOW WHAT CONSTITUTES ABUSE; WHETHER THE  
23 ABUSE IS DERIVED BY PHYSICAL BEATINGS OR BY  
24 EMOTIONAL DEGRADATION INFLICTED BY ANOTHER.

25 WOMEN BE MADE AWARE SEXUALLY OR EMOTIONALLY

1  
2 IS NOT AND MUST NOT BE ACCEPTED AS A PART OF LIFE; .  
3 ABUSE IS WRONG.

4 IT MUST END.

5 WOMEN MUST REALIZE THAT IT IS ALL RIGHT TO  
6 SUBMIT TO BEING A VICTIM OF ABUSE AND THAT IT IS  
7 RIGHT TO SEEK HELP.

8 AND THAT IT IS OUR RIGHT TO RECEIVE EFFECTIVE  
9 HELP.

10 AT ONE TIME THE IDEA OF HOLDING A PUBLIC  
11 HEARING INSIDE A CORRECTIONAL FACILITY LIKE THIS  
12 WAS JUST A DREAM.

13 NOW, THANKS TO THE INVASION OF THE ADMINISTRA  
14 TION HERE AT BEDFORD HILLS, ALONG WITH THE EFFORTS  
15 OF WOMEN WHO WORKED WITH US TO PREPARE THIS HEARING  
16 AND, OF COURSE, THE SUPPORT OF OUR PEERS, THIS DREAM  
17 HAS TURNED INTO A REALITY.

18 WE SAID IT IS THE FIRST TIME IT'S BEEN HELD  
19 INSIDE A PRISON.

20 WELL, I KNOW, AND I THINK THE REST OF THE  
21 WOMEN THINK THAT IT IS ABOUT TIME.

22 MR. <sup>FIVE</sup> ~~ADP~~: WE ARE VERY PROUD TO HAVE  
23 BEEN ABLE TO PLAY A PART IN THIS HEARING.

24 WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT AND THE  
25 GUIDANCE AND THE LOVE GIVEN TO US THROUGH THE

1  
2 PREPARATION OF THIS HEARING.

3 WE ARE GRATIFIED THAT WE WERE ABLE TO SEE  
4 THIS PROJECT THROUGH TO COMPLETION.

5 IT IS NOW OUR DREAM THAT THIS HEARING WILL  
6 HAVE FAR REACHING CONSEQUENCES.

7 WE KNOW THE CHANGES MUST BE MADE IN THE  
8 ATTITUDE IN THE PUBLIC TOWARDS THE VICTIMS OF  
9 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

10 WE KNOW THAT CHANGES MUST BE MADE IN THE  
11 PROGRAMS AVAILABLE FOR THE VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC  
12 VIOLENCE.

13 WE KNOW WHAT CHANGES WOULD BE BENEFICIAL  
14 TO THE WOMEN.

15 WE HAVE IDEAS FOR MAKING THOSE CHANGES.

16 YOU HAVE HEARD SOME OF THEM TODAY.

17 AND WE HAVE MORE. BUT, WE ALSO HAVE A  
18 PROBLEM, WE CANNOT MAKE THESE CHANGES ALONE.

19 WE ARE COUNTING ON YOU TO BE MOVED BY WHAT  
20 YOU HAVE HEARD HERE TODAY, TO HELP IMPLEMENT THESE  
21 CHANGES IN THE WAY THE PUBLIC FEELS ABOUT AN DEALS  
22 WITH THE ISSUE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

23 EVERY WOMAN NEEDS TO BE MADE AWARE THAT NO  
24 ONE HAS THE RIGHT TO ABUSE HER. NO ONE.

25 THANK YOU.

1  
2 MS. ELDRIDGE: I UNDERSTAND SISTER  
3 MARY NERNEY HAS ASKED IF I WOULD JUST ACKNOWLEDGE  
4 HER FOR A MOMENT BECAUSE I THINK SHE HAS SOMETHING  
5 THAT WE ALL OUGHT TO THINK ABOUT OR HEAR.

6 SISTER MARY NERNEY: I HAVE TO STAND IN  
7 THIS DIRECTION BECAUSE I HAVE SEVERAL THINGS TO  
8 SAY, BUT THE FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT THING THAT  
9 I HAVE TO SAY IS THAT I BRING A MESSAGE FROM THE  
10 WOMEN AT GREEN HOPE.

11 IT IS A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT TO ALL OF  
12 YOU WHO HAVE BEEN BRAVE ENOUGH TO SPEAK TODAY.

13 I HEAR THE SAME STORIES EVERY SINGLE DAY.

14 THERE IS AN EXTRAORDINARILY HIGH PERCENTAGE  
15 OF THE SEVEN HUNDRED WOMEN WHO HAVE COME TO GREEN  
16 HOPE IN THE PAST TEN YEARS THAT SAY THE SAME  
17 STORIES YOU HAVE SAID.

18 THE WOMEN ALSO WANT YOU TO PASS THE MESSAGE  
19 ON THAT THEY FEEL MOST CLOSELY UNITED WITH THE WOMEN  
20 WHO COULDN'T SPEAK TODAY; WHO ARE HERE AT BEDORD  
21 HILLS AND COULDN'T SPEAK BECAUSE THAT'S WHERE THEY  
22 ARE.

23 AFTER SOME TIME AT GREEN HOPE, THEY HAVE  
24 ENOUGH COURAGE TO BE ABLE TO SPEAK TO THE STAFF  
25 AND TO EACH OTHER ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES, BUT

THEY ARE NOT ABLE TO DO IT IN A PUBLIC FORUM.

SO, THEY WOULD LIKE YOU TO PASS ALONG TO THE OTHER WOMEN, THAT THEY KNOW THAT, AND THAT YOU ARE SHARING THE SAME PROBLEMS, THE SAME HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS AND MOST OF ALL TO THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU ARE DOING HERE TODAY.

AND TO ALL OF US HERE TODAY AS INVITED OBSERVERS, I GUESS THE EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN A VERY POWERFUL ONE.

AND I KNOW THAT WE CANNOT LEAVE TODAY AND SAY IT IS ENDED OR IT IS OVER.

I GUESS I WOULD LIKE TO CHALLENGE EACH ONE OF US, WHAT CAN WE DO:

WE WHO ARE OUTSIDERS, TO BE COOPERATIVE WITH INSIDERS? HOW CAN WE TAKE THE HOPES AND DREAMS THAT HAVE BEEN SPOKEN ABOUT TODAY AND THOSE THAT HAVEN'T BEEN SPOKEN AND MAKE THEM A REALITY AND SO, I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT'S GOING TO TAKE, BUT, I KNOW THAT I WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST AT LEAST A FOLLOW-UP MEETING.

MAYBE WE CAN HAVE IT OUTSIDE OR BACK HERE, DEPENDING ON WHICH IS EASIER FOR THE SECURITY OF THE PLACE.

I KNOW THAT THAT DOES CREATE SOME DIFFICULTIES BUT, DEFINITELY, AT LEAST, ONE MORE MEETING AND

1  
2 THEN FIGURE OUT HOW WE CAN TAKE THE PROGRAMS  
3 AND THE NEEDS AND THE PROBLEMS THAT THE WOMAN HAVE  
4 EXPRESSED AND PUT THEM INTO REALITY.

5 I AM CERTAINLY WILLING TO DO MY PART IN  
6 MAKING THIS A POSSIBILITY.

7 I WOULD LIKE TO CHALLENGE ALL OF US TO TRY  
8 AND FIGURE OUT THAT COURSE, BECAUSE TODAY CANNOT  
9 BE AN ENDING, IT CAN ONLY BE A BEGINNING.

10 NOW, I JUST WANT TO SAY ONE LITTLE THING  
11 TO YOU, KAREN, BECAUSE YOU HAVE BEEN ASKING A  
12 QUESTION THAT HAS REALLY BOTHERED ME A LOT, AND  
13 THAT I JUST HAD A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH.

14 I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE IT WITH YOU, YOU AND  
15 EVERYONE.

16 SOME OF THE WOMEN WHO COME TO GREEN HOPE  
17 AS ALTERNATIVE TO PRISONS -- RIGHT NOW WE HAVE THREE  
18 WOMEN WHO ARE BATTERED WOMEN WHOSE CASES ARE STILL  
19 PENDING.

20 WE ALSO HAVE HAD SEVERAL OTHER WOMEN WHO  
21 HAVE BEEN ABLE TO COME TO GREEN HOPE AS ALTERNATIVE,  
22 INSTEAD OF SPENDING FIFTEEN YEARS HERE.

23 ONE RECENTLY WAS IN THE PAPERS AND SHE CAME  
24 TO GREEN HOPE. I TOOK THIS ARTICLE AND WENT TO  
25 THE A.D.A. IN BROOKLYN TO ADVOCATE FOR ANOTHER WOMAN

1 WHO IS A BATTERED WOMAN AND WHO IS ALSO STRUGGLING  
2 WITH THE PROBLEMS OF ALCOHOLISM AND ASKED, "COULDN'T  
3 IT BE POSSIBLE THAT THE D.A. COULD REDUCE THE INDICT-  
4 MENT AND REINDICT HER ON A LESSER CHARGE, SO SHE  
5 WOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY OF AN ALTERNATIVE, INSTEAD  
6 OF FACING THE MANDATORY SENTENCE.  
7

8 I WAS TOLD THAT THIS OTHER WOMAN, IT WAS  
9 OKAY FOR HER TO HAVE AN ALTERNATIVE AND COME TO  
10 GREEN HOPE BECAUSE SHE WAS ABLE TO PAY \$80,000  
11 IN LEGAL FEES AND THE WOMAN IN BROOKLYN HAS A  
12 LEGAL AID LAWYER.

13 I DON'T KNOW WHETHER WE ARE GOING TO SUCCEED  
14 WITH HER, OR WITH THE OTHER TWO WOMEN CURRENTLY  
15 WHOSE CASE CURRENTLY ARE PENDING, MAYBE YOU'RE  
16 GOING TO BE NEEDED TO BE THERE IF WE LOSE; THAT  
17 THEY WILL HAVE THE SUPPORT SYSTEMS HERE IN PLACE  
18 AT BEDFORD.

19 BUT, IF WE WIN, I THINK THAT IT CAN BE THE  
20 BEGINNING OF CHANGING SOME OF THE MANDATORY LAWS  
21 THAT SAY THAT A BATTERED WOMAN IS A VIOLENT PERSON  
22 AND THAT EVEN THOUGH WHATEVER SHE HAS DONE THAT  
23 IS HURTFUL AND HARMFUL AND TERRIBLE, THAT TO GET  
24 THAT HELP, INSTEAD OF INCARCERATION.

25 M . ELDRIDGE: I DON'T WANT TO FORECLOSE

1  
2 THE MEMBERS OF THIS PANEL FROM MAKING A ONE-MINUTE  
3 COMMENT.

4 BUT, IT'S BEEN A LONG AND DIFFICULT DAY AND  
5 I THINK THAT THE TESTIMONY IS MORE ELLOQUENT THAN  
6 ANYTHING WE CAN SAY IN RESPONSE TO IT.

7 I WANT TO THANK YOU WOMEN FOR YOUR ENORMOUS  
8 BRAVERY TODAY AND FOR YOUR WILLINGNESS TO SHARE  
9 SUCH IMMENCE PAIN AND TO DO IT IN A WAY THAT I THINK  
10 WAS REMARKABLE.

11 WE CANNOT PROMISE PARTICULAR RESULTS AS A  
12 RESULT OF THIS MEETING, BUT WE CAN PROMISE TO MEET  
13 AGAIN, TO TALK AGAIN, TO JOIN AGAIN TO DEVELOP  
14 THE KINDS OF NETWORK THAT MAYBE WILL YIELD THE  
15 PROMISE THAT I THINK YOU DESERVE TO HAVE MADE TO  
16 YOU.

17 THAT YOU ARE RIGHT.

18 THAT ONE CAN ACKNOWLEDGE THE VIOLENCE THAT'S  
19 BEEN VISITED AGAINST ONE AND ONE CAN SAY NO, AND  
20 BE SAFE.

21 THANK YOU.

22 \* \* \*  
23  
24  
25

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

187

C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF NEW YORK )

COUNTY OF NEW YORK )

IN THE MATTER FO THE PUBLIC HEARING ON  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, HELD AT BEDFORD HILLS  
CORRECTIONAL FACILITY, ON SEPTEMBER 26,  
1985, AT 10:30 A.M.:

I, LINDA M. SCAROLA, A SHORTHAND  
REPORTER AND NOTARY PUBLIC WITHIN AND FOR THE  
STATE OF NEW YORK, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I  
ATTENDED AT THE TIME AND PLACE ABOVEMENTIONED  
AND TOOK A STENOGRAPHIC REPORT OF THE  
PROCEEDINGS IN THE ABOVE-ENTITLED MATTER.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING  
IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE COPY OF THE SAME  
AND THE WHOLE THEREOF, ACCORDING TO THE  
BEST OF MY ABILITY.

*Linda M. Scarola*

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STATE OF NEW YORK  
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER  
MARIO M. CUOMO, GOVERNOR

Press Office  
518-474-8418  
212-587-2125

September 23, 1985

PRESS ADVISORY

STATE OFFICIALS TO HEAR WOMEN INMATES ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Governor's Commission on Domestic Violence, the State Division for Women and the Department of Correctional Services will convene a panel of top State officials who will go inside of a correctional facility to hear its women inmates testify about the cycle of violence which led to their crimes and incarceration. The hearing will take place at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility on Thursday, September 26th beginning at 10:30 a.m.

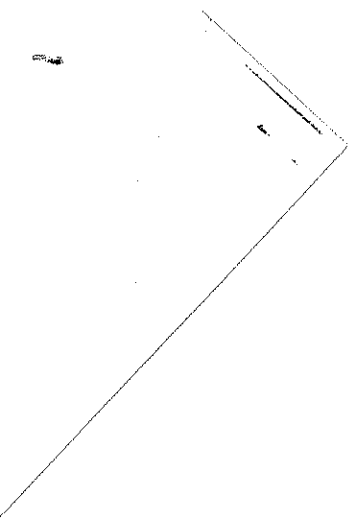
Ten women, convicted of crimes ranging from robbery to murder, will talk about the relationship between those acts and the domestic violence of which they were victims. The testimony will focus on the ways in which isolation, prolonged physical and psychological abuse, and the lack of accessible services inhibited their ability to escape from the violence. The purpose of this hearing is to promote public awareness about this relationship and to explore remedial initiatives.

The hearing panel will include:

Karen Burstein, President, New York State Civil Service Commission; Thomas A. Coughlin III, Commissioner, New York State Department of Correctional Services; Leonard G. Dunston, Director, New York State Division for Youth; Ronnie Eldridge, Executive Director, New York State Division for Women; Marjorie Fields, Managing Attorney, Family Law Unit, Brooklyn Legal Services; Lawrence T. Kurlander, Director of Criminal Justice; Senator Olga Mendez; Elizabeth Moore, Esq., Office of Counsel to the Governor; Assemblywoman May Newburger; Ramon Rodriguez, Chairman, New York State Division of Parole; Joseph Semidei, Deputy Commissioner, New York State Department of Social Services; Gail Shaffer, Secretary of State; Jeanne Edna Thelwell, Commissioner, New York State Commission of Correction; Edmund B. Wutzer, Director, New York State Division of Probation.

The hearing has been made possible through the facilitation and cooperation of Elaine Lord, Superintendent of Bedford Hills Correctional Facility.

NOTE: SECURITY AND SPACE CONSIDERATIONS MAKE IT NECESSARY TO HAVE PRIOR NOTICE OF YOUR PARTICIPATION. PLEASE CALL ADRIENNE HIDEELSON AT (212) 587-4433 (Office) or (914) 779-8868 (Home) NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH AT 1:00 P.M.



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