

## What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence is a pattern of behavior where one person tries to control the thoughts, beliefs or conduct of another person. This person could be an intimate partner, a spouse, a parent or sibling. It can include physical, emotional, sexual, spiritual and economic abuse. Although domestic violence is occasionally an isolated act, once it begins, it often continues and escalates in frequency and severity. An abused person can be of any age, race, class, culture or occupation. She or he can be gay or straight.

## Did You Know?

- ❖ An estimated 29.1% of African American females and 23.4% of Hispanic/Latina females are raped, stalked or physically assaulted in their lifetime by an intimate partner.
- ❖ Between 41% and 60% of Asian and Pacific Islander respondents to a survey reported experiencing physical and/or sexual violence during their lifetime.
- ❖ Rates of intimate partner homicide vary by race and ethnicity. Black women between the ages of 25 and 44 are 3.5 times more likely to be murdered than are women of other races within the same age range.

## Does Anyone Do These Things To You?

Does a current or former intimate partner, adult household member, person you are dating or have dated, or person you have a child with...

- ❖ call you names and insult you in public or when you are alone?
- ❖ call you or text you constantly or force you to check in constantly throughout the day?
- ❖ kick, choke, punch, slap, spit at or bite you?
- ❖ restrain you against your will?
- ❖ threaten to hurt your children or have your children taken away from you?
- ❖ isolate you from your family and friends?
- ❖ control where you go, what you do and what you wear?
- ❖ force you to have sex?
- ❖ threaten to report you to immigration?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, this may be an abusive relationship.

## You Are Not Alone

No one deserves abuse. Nothing you say or do justifies emotional or physical violence. There are people who understand the problems you are facing and will provide information, resources and support to you.

## For Help Call

NJ Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline  
**1-800-572-7233 (1-800-572-SAFE)**  
**Available 24 hours a day**



1670 Whitehorse-Hamilton Square Rd.  
Trenton, New Jersey 08690-3541  
(609) 584-8107  
TTY: (609) 584-0027  
Fax: (609) 584-9750

## Our Mission

The Women of Color Task Force (WOCTF) of the New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women works to eliminate barriers to inclusion and access to services for domestic violence survivors of color and other traditionally marginalized survivors and their children in New Jersey. The Task Force works to establish equitable and inclusive services and resources for survivors of color through advocacy, education, training and public awareness.

## Our Goals

- ❖ To identify and offer ways to address the unique needs of racially and ethnically marginalized survivors of domestic violence.
- ❖ To assist domestic violence programs in New Jersey in the ongoing development of services that are responsive to the needs of survivors of color.
- ❖ To provide a safe and productive forum for women of color who work in domestic violence programs to meet to network, exchange information and ideas and problem solve.

## Our Constituency

The Women of Color Task Force was formed to address the unique needs of survivors of color who experience domestic violence in New Jersey. The Task Force defines "survivors of color" as people who are African American/Black, Asian/Asian Indian/Pacific Islander, Native American and Latino/Hispanic.

## Our Focus

- ❖ Enhancing quality services for survivors of color through community education and resources, staff development and training;
- ❖ Identifying gaps in services to survivors; recommending policy changes to enhance services; and collecting and distributing information pertinent to the needs of survivors of color;
- ❖ Sponsoring training programs that help staff improve skills and services related to assisting populations of color;
- ❖ Suggesting procedures to domestic violence programs that support changes to create more inclusive environments for domestic violence victims of color; and
- ❖ Advocating for and supporting victims of color who experience mistreatment and other barriers when they seek help for problems with domestic violence.

## Join Us

Membership in the Women of Color Task Force is open to all women of color employees in domestic violence programs statewide and to women of color who support the work of the Task Force. The WOCTF meets on the first Friday of each month at the Offices of the New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women. For more information about the Women of Color Task Force, please go to [www.njcbw.org](http://www.njcbw.org) or call (609) 584-8107.

## Our Accomplishments

Shortly after 2001, the Task Force began a process of assessing all New Jersey domestic violence programs to determine how well they were meeting the needs of domestic violence survivors of color. Receiving an over 50% response to a statewide survey, the Task Force issued the Report on the Cultural Competency of New Jersey Domestic Violence Programs. The report includes recommendations to enhance the nature and quality of services to traditionally marginalized populations.

To assist domestic violence programs in their efforts to become culturally competent, the Task Force developed the Inclusion and Access Implementation Plan, 2007-2010, a strategic plan that includes activities and a suggested timeline for implementation. The Task Force also assisted in the development of Inclusion and Access training, a two-part diversity training to support cultural change in domestic violence programs.

In addition, the Task Force has engaged in many other activities over the years designed to establish equitable and inclusive services and resources for survivors of color.

The Task Force is currently working on the second phase of implementation of the Inclusion and Access plan.