

Spring conference highlights: Civil rights successes inform movement to end domestic violence

By Susan Bonne

In the 1960s, the civil rights movement created a transformation in the experience of African Americans in this country, illuminating the dark reality of racism, enacting new laws and making substantive progress in changing attitudes, perspectives, and lives. Arising out of the women's movement, the domestic violence movement's goal is a similar transformation. Yet while progress has been made, it is a less dramatic picture of change. Violence, in all its many forms – societal as well as intimate partner violence – has actually increased over the past 30 years.

While significant progress has been made in both the civil rights movement and the field of domestic violence, many challenges lie ahead in both arenas. How can we meet these challenges? And how can the civil rights movement inform the domestic violence movement and vice versa? What are the major challenges we face in examining and addressing domestic violence? And who is responsible for creating change?

These are the questions that leaders in the field sought to answer in Long Beach last March at IDVAAC's 2007 National Conference. Over 600 attendees were able to hear some of the best thinking on the topic from a broad spectrum of leaders in research, education, the faith community and those who work in the prison system and in the communities and the family, where violence lives. The discussion they brought forth and the issues they put on the table were extraordinary.

Continued next page



The IDVAAC Steering Committee led conference members in making personal commitments to end domestic violence in the African-American community. Members shown with keynote speaker Rubin Carter, from left to right, are: Dr. Robert L. Hampton, Joyce N. Thomas, "Hurricane" Carter, Dr. Oliver J. Williams, Dr. Linner Ward-Griffin, Dr. Esther J. Jenkins, Dr. Beth Richie, and Dr. William Oliver.

Executive Director's Message— Contract for Change: Make the covenant and join our movement to end domestic violence



Dr. Oliver J. Williams

By Dr. Oliver J. Williams,
executive director

It was a powerful moment at the end of our conference last spring when we stood together with lighted (electronic) candles and made a commitment to mobilize people around the country to end domestic violence among African Americans.

During the March 2007 IDVAAC conference in Long Beach, Calif., we invited attendees to sign a contract for change. This signified a sincere personal commitment to support efforts to mobilize our community to end domestic violence among African Americans, to take action to achieve this goal, to be an agent for change, to raise public awareness, and to work to inspire action.

The Contract for Change Covenant Agreement is a one-page document that includes the following eight statements. Our efforts and approaches:

- Must be culturally relevant and consider social context
- Must transform lives of both those who experience abuse and those who commit violence
- Must stimulate the public to act
- Must break down silos of social action to address intersecting issues
- Encourage all stakeholders partner with one another for continuum of support
- Adopt entrepreneurial spirit and develop creative strategies
- Be invested in transforming the landscape of domestic violence. And above all,
- We must love and support one another in this work.

To see the document in its entirety, please visit our web site at www.dvinstitute.org.

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Spring conference highlights *(continued from cover)*

A call to action

Noted speaker, author and therapist Dr. Gail Wyatt opened the conference by issuing a call to action to the African-American community to embrace social challenges, including domestic violence, and to reexamine the work being done. Giving an impassioned talk, she discussed the roots of violence in our culture, violence in the media, dwindling social resources and intimate partner violence. She advised listeners to turn away from negative media messages, such as the persistent stereotype of angry, African-American mothers and screaming couples, and focus on positive, purposeful images.

"I want every one of you to see how you can do something. It matters to me that each of you come out of here with something specific that you [can] do. This is the time for us to make a change...We have to be a peaceful people." —Dr. Gail Wyatt

Wyatt also urged attendees to be more public in their actions. "You have to get righteously indignant...you have to come at this with some grit," she said, urging listeners to write letters, speak up in their churches and families and workplaces, and organize for change.

She closed her remarks by asking each person to think about what they can do. "I want every one of you to see how you can do something. It matters to me that each of you come out of here with something specific that you [can] do. This is the time for us to make a change...We have to be a peaceful people."

Then and now: parallels for activism

In the morning panel discussion, Dr. Beth Richie, professor at the University of Illinois-Chicago and IDVAAC Steering Committee member, moderated a roundtable on the history of activism during the civil rights era, and what parallels could be drawn for engaging and mobilizing communities today around domestic violence.

Among the topics for discussion was the early assumption in the domestic violence movement that all women were the same – white, heterosexual, middle-class, partnered – and would benefit from the same kinds of help. In truth, women of color reflect a wide variety of situations and complications. It was noted that the oppression routinely suffered by black women is typically not addressed within the violence against women movement as a whole, and that racial oppression needs to be identified as a particular kind of violence against women of color. Said Richie, "While the civil rights and anti-violence movements have been important to the liberation of people, it seems that black women and the violence they experience is minimized in both of those discussions."

Questioning definitions

Panelist Phyllis Craig-Taylor, professor of law at North Carolina

**"It's all one thing...whether it's civil rights, or domestic violence, it's all about oppression."
—Phyllis Craig-Taylor**

Central University, spoke of the wider context. "It's all one thing...whether it's civil rights, or domestic violence, it's all about oppression." Drawing on her own experiences as a child in Alabama where she entered a segregated school at age 7, Craig-Taylor advocates that racial attacks on children be seen as child abuse, another example of how we must broaden our definition of violence as a culture.

In analyzing why the movement against domestic violence has not followed the model of the civil rights movement, Craig-Taylor noted that racial issues were always a highly public issue, while domestic violence was, and is, seen as a private matter.

Time and place also played a role. Civil right leaders were stretched fighting for societal rights ...there simply wasn't enough time or energy left over for anything else. Charles "Chuck" McDew, cofounder of the '60s activist group, Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, agreed that violence against women simply had not been on their agenda in the civil rights era. "We were busy trying to protect blacks as a people. It was never our issue," he added. "But we were not insensitive. We just didn't have the luxury to say we were black men and black women....we were just black people fighting against a common foe."

"But we were not insensitive. We just didn't have the luxury to say we were black men and black women....we were just black people fighting against a common foe." —Charles "Chuck" McDew

Richie noted the fact that those in the domestic violence movement did not confront or communicate with other groups. "We didn't go to civil rights organizations and say, 'here's another form of injustice affecting black women;' we still don't talk about it very well."

Working across boundaries

Owing to the legacy of the civil rights movement, African Americans have been the ones to carry the idea of liberation, paving the way for others, including the women's movement, the GLBT community, disabilities rights and the like. There was consensus among the panelists that this was important to acknowledge and that it was the responsibility of the African American community to continue to work across boundaries for social justice.

As the conversation returned to the present, Craig-Taylor observed that laws precede changing attitudes and opinions, and new laws are a necessary first step in forging major cultural transformation. She advocates building coalitions but expressed

concern over the difficulties inherent in doing so. "Black women endure beatings because they know that black men will not get the same treatment as white men" in the criminal justice system, and that once in the system, it's hard to get out. If the anti-violence movement is to be successful, it must work to address underlying issues such as these as well.

The erosion of progress

In the '80s and '90s, economic funding for resources to communities of color began to dissolve, and affirmative action came under attack. Funding for women's shelters increased, but violence was also increasing as a result of the drain on resources. Looking back, it is as if society decided to treat only the symptoms, and not the underlying causes, of violence.

Problems also arose within the domestic violence movement around issues of race and power. Women of color were organizing to gain culturally specific programs. Many women in the movement feared divisiveness, seeing it as an attack on sisterhood. "That was an error...there was an incredible amount of backlash for women of color who organized," recalled Catlin Fullwood, principal consultant at On Time Associates in Chicago.

While fear and racism within the movement created dissension, it became clear that one size fits all treatment simply wasn't working. Domestic violence workers assist women with mental health issues, with substance abuse issues, with sex workers, with those in the criminal justice or child protection system.

Despite the challenges, panelists emerged on a note of hope. Said Ruth Slaughter, divisional director of PROTOTYPES in Culver City, Calif., and a leading voice in the movement: "We have to learn to work with all women and the complexities that they bring with them. But women *do* recover, with the right support and advocacy—and so do men."

Re-examining our efforts: what we don't talk about

An afternoon panel discussion led by Dr. Esther Jenkins, professor of psychology at Chicago State University and IDVAAC Steering Committee member, sought to re-

examine efforts to address domestic violence in the African-American community. What has been overlooked? Why is self-examination so difficult? What could we be doing differently?

One of the ideas put forth was the notion that as a culture, we don't identify violence as a tool of oppression. In connecting issues of racism and sexism, for example, African-American women may internalize racism, and then integrate violence into their gender identification as well. Long histories of family violence further cloud the issues.

"Racism and sexism can be layered, and violence is a tool used in both," said Shelia Hankins, project director for Michigan's Department of Human Services. "We integrate violence into our gender id; we say it's part of how we grew up instead of rejecting it."

By not naming violence for what it is, we minimize it. "There was a lot of violence in my ghetto, but it wasn't called that," said author and domestic violence advocate Rev. Al Miles. "It was called fights, it was called, 'she likes men who are mean to her,' it was called 'she must have done something to cause this.'" But at the most basic level, before violence can be named, it must be identified. Domestic violence and anger management counselor Jolene Jones noted that in her work with individuals, education comes first; because violence is so entrenched in many families, women don't necessarily recognize the dysfunction they are living in. Recognition may bring help, but that process can create pain of a different kind. "For some, it's devastating to find out what violence is," added Jones.

Separating blame from responsibility

In addition to calling violence exactly what it is, said Joseph White, professor of psychology (UC-Irvine), we need to explore our societal inability to separate responsibility from blame. In White's view, the African-American community can rightly lay blame at the feet of historical oppression and ongoing racism, but at some point, personal responsibility must also take a role.

Continued next page

Executive Director's Message continued

Keynote speaker Dr. Gail Wyatt, professor of psychiatry at University of California in L.A., asked participants to think about what they can do individually and collectively to move forward the contract to end domestic violence in the African-American community. If you missed our conference, you can still join our efforts, just print off a copy of the covenant, sign it and send it to our office.



Dr. Gail Wyatt

We want to count you as a member of our agents-of-change team.

We recognize that for decades domestic violence has been seen as a private matter. Now is the time to take it public, to share with members of our community and those responsible for providing services to our community that we are serious about taking on this issue, and we're serious about making changes.

We are willing to overcome racism, sexism and other forms of oppression to achieve our goals. We are willing to work publicly and privately to achieve our goals of eradicating domestic violence in the African-American community.

And we will take personal and public responsibility for doing so.

I hope you take time to read the article on the front cover of this issue that gives conference highlights. It provides a good overview of key points, and a DVD of conference proceedings will soon be available from our institute.

We sincerely hope that our variety of outreach and communications will help you catch the fever and join with us in our contract for change. ♦

Spring conference highlights *(continued from page 3)*

“What are we as a people responsible for?” asked White. “If you beat your wife, is that the white man’s fault or your fault? At what point do you begin to accept responsibility for your own behavior?”

That’s a teachable idea, according to community activist Warren Edwards. A formerly violent man who now counsels men coming out of prison, Edwards pointed out that these men are released into a void, with little support and nothing to grasp onto. “It appalls me that they don’t get the information that they could turn it around before they come out. We can do a better job.”

Challenging definitions of manhood

One explanation for why so many African-American men fail to take responsibility, White offered, is the lack of a social structure to define manhood. In the past, tribal, religious and cultural rites helped boys make the transition from boyhood to manhood. Today, the lack of socially approved rites of passage has been replaced with negative role models, the gangstas and pimps glorified in the media.

Panelists agreed that institutions, churches and even families have not been proactive in challenging the definitions of manhood and womanhood. One of the most important ways we can work to change the pattern of violence is to reach out to boys who will be the men of tomorrow, said White. “We as men have to model an effective combination of tender and tough. Boys never see that; they see the extremes.”

On the flip side, women need to take responsibility for their own choices. The culture teaches women to respect tough men and media reinforce the message constantly. Consequently, many women are drawn to “bad boys,” said Jones. “There’s a price to be paid, and we need to be honest about that.”

The role of the church

It’s not just rap music and movies that give men the upper hand. Rev. Al Miles raised the issue of the church’s patriarchal teachings, naming God as a “father” who must be obeyed. Men identify with that, developing, consciously or unconsciously, the sense that maintaining control over their wives and children is a God-given right.

Both Miles and Rev. Mary Walton, a domestic violence counselor in Long Beach, agreed in saying that the church has not done enough to face this aspect of scripture and condemn intimate partner violence.

What can be done?

In trying to stop domestic violence, asks the panel, what are we trying to start? What are we prepared to replace [violence] with? What are the needs that must be filled? Human closeness, belonging, patience, trust, communication – these are skills we aren’t teaching our kids, said White. Other ideas included organizing for change, training young people to organize and working to shape policy.

Learning from the past and each other, we can start again to address these issues. But real change will require leadership from the bottom up, and as Wyatt pointed out in her keynote address, a willingness to get involved and push domestic violence out into the public sphere.

We all share the charge. “It’s about being in the community,” said Jones. “We have to step forward, be role models, tell the truth, stand up. My job is 24/7, if I’m awake.”

“If we don’t raise the issue [of domestic violence], then there’s not going to be a conversation about it, because it’s politically unacceptable for somebody else to raise these issues,” Hankins concluded. “We have to be willing to air our dirty laundry and to speak the truth to our communities. We can break the silence.” ♦



Honoring ‘Mothers’ of our field

These awards were given to honor those women who’ve contributed greatly during the course of their lives to the field of domestic violence prevention. 2007 IDVAAC Legacy Award Winners are: Lupe Serrano, Casa De Esperanza (Minneapolis, MN), Sheryl Cates, National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (Austin, TX), Rev. Dr. Marie Fortune, Faith Trust Institute (Seattle, WA), Rev. Mary Walton, Interval House Domestic Violence Crisis Shelters (Long Beach, CA), Anne Menard, National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (Harrisburg, PA), P. Catlin Fullwood, National Battered Women’s Hotline (Chicago, IL), Vicki Coffey, Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women’s Network (Chicago, IL), Dr. Beth Richie, University of Illinois-Chicago (Chicago, IL), Ruth Slaughter, PROTOTYPES (Culver City, CA), Ellen Pence, Praxis International (St. Paul, MN), Esta Soler, Family Violence Prevention Fund (San Francisco, CA) and Rita Smith, National Coalition on Domestic Violence (Denver, CO).

IDVAAC consults on New Orleans visitation center

By Claire V. Joseph

During the recovery efforts in New Orleans, families affected by domestic violence can find solace in a community visitation center, constructed specifically as a place where children can visit with non-custodial parents.

Before the storm, a local YWCA provided a visitation center for families to meet in a secure and accepting environment. That center no longer exists.

"After the storm, Catholic Charities assumed the responsibility for the visitation center's grant," said Mary Claire Landry, director of Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Services for Catholic Charities. "We are currently going through a six-month planning phase that includes finding a location for the center and working to get the facility up and running."

In the aftermath of a crisis, there are even more competing issues than usual in the African-American community. By keeping records of restructuring after Katrina, other domestic violence practitioners who experience community crises will have a foundation of learning to rebuild upon.

Although Catholic Charities is the supervising organization for the project, Dr. Oliver Williams and IDVAAC have been resources for the center's organizers.

"Before and after the storm, IDVAAC has been a great resource to us," Landry said. "He has visited and studied the area. He is helping to make sure our center and our policies are culturally aware and culturally specific."

Changing demographics in wake of storm

The demographic of residents in New Orleans has changed since the storm, so Landry wants to be sure the center is comfortable and welcoming for all visitors.

"We anticipate that our primary demographic in the center will be African

American, but we are also seeing a very large influx of Latino cultures and populations, as well," Landry said. "We want to make sure that our center is culturally conscious and sensitive."

Pamela Jenkins, a professor of sociology at the University of New Orleans and a member of the Mayor's Domestic Violence Advisory Committee, is an evaluator of the project. Jenkins noted that, although many pictures depict the structural damage Hurricane Katrina inflicted upon New Orleans, the damage Katrina caused to familial structures is harder to see, and thus is often overlooked.

"The safety of women is often invisible and the other issues take priority," said Jenkins, so "the need for social support for survivors of domestic violence is great."

"As the community is in recovery from Hurricane Katrina, many families are displaced," Jenkins said. "Many families are still in trauma."

Landry agreed and noted that, "there was certainly need prior to Katrina, but there is an even larger need now because there is a loss of support systems for families. Survivors, including family members and friends, have been relocated and churches have been destroyed. So, a lot of places where people used to find support are no longer available."

Safe place to reunite

The overall goal of the center is to respond to the needs of the diverse range of family members who need a safe place where children can visit their non-custodial parent, and battered women don't have to be fearful.

"We want to be able to respond to the needs of families," Landry said. "And the center will offer a safe place to conduct safe exchanges between parents. We feel



Pamela Jenkins

"The safety of women is often invisible and the other issues take priority, so 'the need for social support for survivors of domestic violence is great.'—Pamela Jenkins

like this is an incredibly important service to provide for families who are already facing a number of difficult circumstances. If we can relieve just one stress, we've done our job."

Once the center opens, it will be run by its director, Keith Spears, an attorney and former New Orleans police officer. The center will also be staffed by social worker monitors who will help lead activities and communication, as well as police officers who will make sure the location remains a safe haven for its clients.

Center will feature therapeutic program


The center will feature structured activities for parents and children, and the social worker monitors will help to make sure parents have therapeutic time with their children.

The center will be open to families who have court-ordered visitation mandates, as well as families who decide to use the center on their own.

"If the visit is court-mandated, the person would be referred to us through the court," Landry said. "We would have an interview with the parent and then we would set up a regular visitation schedule, depending on what the court-ordered report says."

If the visit is requested by an individual, "Then we'd do it on an individual basis, depending on what's requested," Landry said.

The visitation center is intended to become a model for other communities throughout the nation.

As Jenkins said, "I think that New Orleans can be a model for these centers created in a community in the midst of a long-term recovery." 



Mary Landry

Meet Dr. Tameka L. Gillum

Practical research for service providers

By Toy Eldridge

Research Focus: Intimate Partner Violence

Dr. Tameka L. Gillum has focused her career on researching and working on the issues of domestic violence in the African-American community. The focus of her research is intimate partner violence (IPV), including the disproportionate rates of IPV among women of color, culturally specific dynamics of violence and developing specifically tailored interventions for minority populations. She is also interested in exploring the intersections of intimate partner violence and HIV.

Her past research has included: *Exploring the Link Between Stereotypic Images and Intimate Partner Violence in the African American Community*, where she created her own *Perceptions of African-American Women Scale*, that has gone on to be used in other research. The scale was used to measure the extent of stereotypic views African-American men have for African-American women, including: the matriarch, jezebel and positive images subcategories.

She first came in contact with IDVAAC while researching historical stereotypes of African-American women and their relationship to intimate partner violence. She says she has had a wonderful experience working with IDVAAC, especially having the opportunities to speak with like minded individuals who also work in the field of domestic violence. "It's important to be connected to people who are also working in the same field and to be able to engage in dialogue with them" said Dr. Gillum.

The Message

"It's important to continue to get the word out about the impact of intimate partner violence in the African-American community and foster community-based intervention and prevention efforts. It is also important to continue to conduct and disseminate research to inform such efforts and facilitate the acquisition of funding to continue addressing the issue of domestic violence in the African-American community. IDVAAC's work is critical to this point," said Dr. Gillum.

IDVAAC's conferences are one way of getting the word out. They are excellent opportunities to hear speakers address similar issues that Dr. Gillum is also involved with. "It's great to hear all the community-based efforts, including community-based intervention programs," said Dr. Gillum.

In her career so far, a personal highlight for Dr. Gillum has been the opportunities to speak directly with women about their experiences and translate that into formats which directly target service providers. She believes in the importance of conducting research that is practical in aiding to develop ways to better serve those who are impacted by intimate violence and providing

feedback in ways that are useful to service providers, those who are working "in the trenches" of the domestic violence movement. It is important that the research become more than insights shared between academics, it needs to actually translate into the real world and continue to be of service to those who are working to end domestic violence as well as those experiencing it.

As a community psychologist, Dr. Gillum does community-based research. Her involvement with the communities she has worked in has led to connections with other organizations working on community-based programs including Tapestry Health, an organization dedicated to providing health care to under/uninsured people in the state of Massachusetts, House of Ruth, a women's domestic violence center shelter in Baltimore, MD, and the Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.

Education

Dr. Gillum holds a doctorate in community psychology, with a minor in the sociology of gender and race from Michigan State University, East Lansing. She also completed a two-year post-doctorate research fellowship at Johns Hopkins University, with their Urban Health Institute, Baltimore. She has published several research articles and is now an assistant professor with the School of Public Health and Health Sciences, at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. ♦



Dr. Tameka Gillum

Cottman appointed new IDVAAC Steering Committee Member

IDVAAC announces Karma Cottman, program director for the National Network to End Domestic Violence, as its newest steering committee member.

"We're extremely pleased she is joining us," says Dr. Oliver J. Williams, IDVAAC executive director. "She brings a wealth of expertise and knowledge to the issues of domestic violence." Cottman has participated in advisory planning meetings for IDVAAC's national conferences for the past three years. An article about her background appeared on p. 5 of the Spring 2007 IDVAAC newsletter. ♦



Karma Cottman

IDVAAC

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'Love is Respect' Hotline uses technology to reach teens.

By Toy Eldridge

Technology has made it easier for teen abusers to keep track of their victims through text messages, instant web chatting, and cell phones. A new national teen dating abuse helpline established by Liz Claiborne Inc. and The National Domestic Violence Hotline (NDVH) helps reach teens in a similar tech-savvy way. This new approach is specifically designed for teens and young adults.

Sheryl Cates, CEO of the NDVH, said "We put together a youth task force to find out what is important, what do we need to know, and they gave us great insight about the majority of activity teens want to engage in based on peer to peer feedback."

A recent survey on teen dating abuse showed the extent to which teens are using technology as a weapon in dating abuse and how unaware some parents are to the dangers presented to their teens with these new types of technology. According to Cates, "Our latest poll showed that 1 in 5 teens are experiencing teen dating abuse in their high school years. Our next generation is now experiencing violence at almost the same rate as adults, and this is alarming." This new helpline is a place for teens to get information regarding all types of dating abuse.

Through the Web site called "Love Is Respect" and a toll-free number, teens can connect with trained peer and adult advocates. This is the first interactive dating abuse Web site that offers one-on-one chatting between 4 p.m. and 2 a.m., as well as helpful guidebooks, quizzes, posters and informational tools. The phone line is open 24 hours-a-day. A new revamped version of the Web site will launch on Sept. 25 along with Facebook and MySpace pages.

More than 20,000 individuals visited the Web site in the first month of operation and the site receives between

60 and 70
chats a day.

This is a place for teens and young adults to go when they can't talk to anyone else or have questions about abuse. According to a youth advisor Sam Williams, "Some teens have a difficult problem and struggle with talking to anyone about domestic violence. The site is for those teens that live in silence with it. Now they can write anonymously on a blog and chat with peers."

There are a lot of domestic abuse hotlines, but Williams remarks, "The adult lines are great for a broad audience, but Liz Claiborne and the NDVH understand that they are dealing with teens, and teens may become overwhelmed by the Web sites and information for adults. They wanted to have a site where teens could go and feel comfortable."

Liz Claiborne has spent more than 10 years generating programs to help heal the issue of domestic violence. Each year, their Women's Work program chooses a new position targeted to a specific group. The targeted campaigns all contribute to Liz Claiborne's ultimate goal of helping create a society intolerant of abuse.

Connecting with teens on their level includes using technology they embrace to reach them. Williams hopes the site will appeal to teens, "We want it to appeal in a cool way for teens looking for help. There are a lot of helpful sites out there about teen domestic violence, but this site has a good look so it won't be easily forgotten." "Love Is Respect" is trying to use the best technology available to communicate with teens in the way they want to be communicated with.

For more information, please visit the Web site at www.loveisrespect.org or through the toll-free number 1-866-331-9474, TTY 1-866-331-8453. ♦



Sam Williams



Sounds of Blackness and IDVAAC partner on 'She is Love'

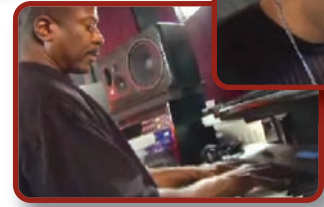
By Toy Eldridge

Sounds of Blackness' new album titled *Kings & Queens: Message Music from the Movement* is now available exclusively at Best Buy. A song on the new CD titled "She is Love" is the result of a partnership with IDVAAC and is dedicated to ending domestic violence in the African-American community. A clip from the song is on IDVAAC's web site: www.dvinstitute.org.

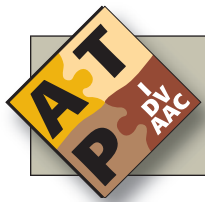
Sounds of Blackness is a Grammy-award winning choral group from the Twin Cities. Director Gary Hines explains, "We dedicated this song because the concept of Kings and Queens is about self-respect and motivation, and at the core of self-respect is respect for women." See www.soundsofblackness.com for more information.

Hines hopes, "The CD will have a positive impact on as many lives as possible, and specifically with the issues of self-respect on the street, with youth, and in the areas of domestic violence. We are expressing the spirit of Martin Luther King, Jr. to address the issues of self-respect and domestic violence."

Sounds of Blackness and IDVAAC collaborated to get the new CD placed in stores. According to Hines, it has been a phenomenal and impact-oriented relationship, as IDVAAC was a key component for the collaboration between the Sounds of Blackness and Best Buy. ♦



Contact us to order our new DVD on keeping women safe when perpetrators are on parole



next issue

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