

## GETTING the DV MESSAGE OUT INTO THE PUBLIC?

- Domestic violence will need to be seen as relevant to hip hop. before it will be dealt with.

## CENSORSHIP vs. SETTING STANDARDS?

- Young people of 5 years old are listening to the same music that adults listen to. So at some level there has to be some regulation.
- There has to be some line we don't cross. Someone has to set a standard and the music industry isn't willing to.

## DIALOGUING WITH YOUTH?

- This takes the resources and efforts of the community.
- Find artists you can link up with and do forums with youth around the country in the community. This will allow you to identify the young people who are willing to be leaders and talk to their peers.
- Also, practitioners should get out in the community. Come to the spoken word events. Go to the local hip hop artists and party organizers.

## HIP HOP RECORDS ON AIDS?

- An album called AIDS-America Is Dying Slowly.

## WOMEN HIP HOP ARTISTS SEEM TO ACT VIOLENTLY- HOW DOES THIS IMPACT YOUNG WOMEN?

- If the impact was enough, you'd see young women arming themselves against men.
- But violence as a solution is an American phenomenon.
- There are battered women who are fighting back and being arrested for domestic violence. This is a complicated response in a violent world.

## Q&A with BAKARI KITWANA

## DISEMPOWERED BLACK MEN?

- In a society where being progressive to women is happening, there is also a lashing back by black men who are feeling disempowered and disenfranchised.





## Q&A WITH BAKARI KITWANA

### HOW DO WE GET THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MESSAGE OUT INTO THE PUBLIC?

- Domestic violence will need to be seen as relevant to Hip-Hop before it will be dealt with.

### CENSORSHIP VS. SETTING STANDARDS?

- Young people of 5 years old are listening to the same music that adults listen to. So at some level there has to be some regulation.
- There has to be some line we don't cross. Someone has to set a standard and the music industry isn't willing to.

### HOW DO WE DIALOGUE WITH YOUTH?

- Dialoguing with youth takes the resources and efforts of the community.
- Find artists you can link up with and do forums with youth around the country in local communities. This will allow you to identify the young people who are willing to be leaders and talk to their peers.
- Also, practitioners should get out in the community. Come to the spoken word events. Go to the local Hip-Hop artists and party organizers.

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### DISEMPOWERED BLACK MEN?

- In a society where being progressive policies favor Black women, Some Black men who are feel disempowered and disenfranchised lash back with violence.





# PORTRAYAL of MEN and WOMEN

## IN THE HIP HOP CULTURE

CARDY WEST:

### SEXUAL VIOLENCE

- In the American Black culture, sexual violence has its roots in the sexual violence and assault that occurred in slavery.
- The myth of it being okay to sexually assault black female slaves included that they were prostitutes, they were promiscuous, they were property to do what you wanted to.

The Jezebel Image?

- Today, a growing body of research is showing that sexual assaults against women are not being taken seriously and Black women are pressured to keep silent about their victimization.

Or is it just a wardrobe malfunction?

This country has a history of INTRARACIAL RAPE.

The problem is silence.

Most African Americans do not sexually assault women.

### OBJECTIFICATION of BLACK WOMEN

- The Hottentot Venus was an early image of Black females. When she died her buttocks & genitals were on display in a Paris museum until 1974.
- Today, music lyrics portray Black females as sexual addicts, freaks, and normalize alcoholism & multiple partners.

- Josephine Baker was also called the Black Venus. She wasn't just reduced to her butt. Her erotic dance was more about an art form.

### CONSEQUENCES

- Sex is a commodity: Women are boasting how they use their sexuality to gain.
- The pimp lifestyle is promoted. The message is that men will not be held accountable for taking advantage of the women in our community.
- Men and women have become adversarial to each other.

My milkshake brings all the boys to the yard.

### SOCIAL CHANGE

- Hold people accountable.
- Empowerment through helping women have real choices in their lives through economic security.
- We must become queens on the throne of our own creation.

- Today we have the shaking butts... butts are for sale.

- Tell the good stories.

- The solutions don't take money, they take heart.

- We have to develop circles of accountability. We need no guns, we need no handcuffs. The interventions must be door to door.
- Transformation takes a lifetime, institutionalization takes only a moment.

## LATEEFAH SIMON: MY STORY

I gave birth to my daughter in a room by myself.

I grew up in a crack culture where young people went to the funeral of their parents.

I speak for the young sistahs who die on the street daily crying out for their mommies and daddies.

Help me! I'm dying here! No one was telling young women that they were valuable. No one!



# PORTRAYAL OF MEN AND WOMEN

Carolyn West (University of Washington) and Lateefah Simon (Center for Young Women's Development) joined in a discussion on images, attitudes, and challenges to building relationships in the Hip-Hop generation.



## **CAROLYN WEST: BLACK WOMEN'S STORY**

### **SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

- In the American Black culture, sexual violence has its roots in the sexual violence and the assault that occurred in slavery.
- The myth of it being okay to sexually assault Black female slaves included that they were prostitutes, promiscuous, and nothing more than property to do with what they wanted.
- Today a growing body of research is showing that sexual assaults against women are not being taken seriously and that Black women are pressured to keep silent about their victimization.

### **OBJECTIFICATION OF BLACK WOMEN**

- The Hottentot Venus was an early image of Black females. When she died her buttocks and genitals were on display in a Paris museum until 1974.
- Today, music lyrics portray Black females as sexual oddities and freaks. The images normalize their use of alcoholism and multiple partners.
- Josephine Baker was also called the Black Venus. She wasn't just reduced to her butt. Her erotic dance was more about an art form.

- Today, we have the shaking butts...butts for sale.

### **CONSEQUENCES**

- Sex is a commodity: women are boasting how they use their sexuality to make gains.
- The pimp lifestyle is promoted. The message is that men will not be held accountable for taking advantage of the women in our community.
- Men and women have become adversarial to each other.

### **SOCIAL CHANGE**

- We must hold people accountable.
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## **LATEEFAH SIMON: MY STORY**

### **MY STORY**

- I grew up in a crack culture where young people went to the funerals of their parents.

- No one was telling young women that they were valuable. No one!
- I gave birth to my daughter in a room by myself.
- I speak for the young sistahs who are on the street daily crying out for their mommies and daddies.

### **SOLUTIONS**

- We need to come together as Black females to create a new strategy where women are politically, socially and economically empowered.
- We must develop options for young Black men who feel they have no choices.
- We have to create our own alliances so we don't have to rely on the criminal justice system.
- We have to develop circles of accountability. We need no guns, we need no handcuffs. Interventions must be door to door.
- Transformation takes a lifetime, institutionalization takes only a moment.
- The solutions don't take money, they take heart.
- Tell the good stories.



# Q&A WITH CAROLYN WEST & LATEEFAH SIMON

## THE EFFECT OF MUSIC LYRICS?

- Community dialogue is part of the answer. We must have an ongoing conversation about what constitutes violence.
- We must be the change we want to see.
- We must look at the intersection between gender, race and social class.

## DIALOGUE BETWEEN BLACK MEN & WOMEN WHEN BLACK MEN ERASE BLACK WOMEN'S EXPERIENCE?

- We're comfortable about talking about violence against the Black community but not within it. We must learn how to do this.

## NIGGAHS BITCHES and HDs: can we ever see these as positive?

- No! It is not okay to people who have been through so much to take on these words that have so much negative connotations against us.
- It's not healthy sexuality & these words are not the way to get there.

## EMPLOYMENT TO EMPOWERMENT?

- How do you begin to work with young brothers? We must get onto the streets and talk to them. Talk to them with respect.
- Remember, a job will stop a bullet any day.

## TOOLS TO OVERCOME INTERNAL OPPRESSION?

- We use non-violent techniques. We have conversations where we respect the partners we are talking to.
- Everybody wants to be loved. We apply the generational learning we have gained to our own generation. Be sure you hire people from this young generation to do the work.
- We need comprehensive sexual education.
- We need to educate people about the history of these images so they know where they come from.



- We must become queens on the thrones of our own creation.

