asha bandele, Editor-At-Large, Essence Magazine, New York, NY

ENDING THE SILENCE

- I spent my life in virtual silence. Is it safe to go out into the world as a black woman?
- When I was 16 years old, I found a book in the library that changed my life.
- This book was about me.
- It told me of honor. It taught me about my voice.
- I was given a way to tell my stories that were inside me...had I not been given this, I would have died, quite literally.
- We have a visceral need to understand ourselves, and our environment.

OUR SILENCE WILL TESTIFY US THROUGH THE MARROW OF OUR CHILDREN

- I released all my addictions, and, in turn, they released me.
- I have to say dangerous things even if is scary.
- Without truth, there are no real words.
- We deal with lies all the time. It's everywhere. Who really believes that war will create peace?

PANEL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: What do you see the role of the black church as?

- A: It is the most important part of the community. We would not be here if the black churches could do it alone.

Q: Why have we been so reluctant to challenge black media?

- A: We've always had a difficult time doing that...I think we see it as access to power. When you have so little, a crumb seems like a meal.
- We hope if we're quiet, we will get out of the tenements.

Q: What do we say about healing and restoration?

- A: We have a fear of influence.
- We are lacking a collective agenda.
- Children make choices within parental boundaries.
- Be unafraid to be a man who confronts himself.
- What you are doing in your communities is critical, but do not forget that there are men who can help also, even though we are the perpetrators of the violence.

Panel Question & Answers

* How do I make this "my business"?

* fill out the back of your business card...

* Who is involved in the prospect of the video development for men? How will it be put in the proper context?

* We are working with counceling centers for abused & abusive people to get accurate perspectives for the video

* We will be doing focus groups so men can tell their stories.

* MEN have stories to tell too...

* How do you address negative comments about women while on the air?

* Women are often afraid to start over... Men often blame women's MOUTHS on the abuse...

* Mostly I think people are appreciative to have a place to talk - We haven't seen much negativity.

* We have to reinforce that this affects EVERYONE - all our communities... not just women.

* This is about male DOMINANCE over women - it is MISINFORMATION.

* CONFLICT IS NOT JUSTIFICATION FOR V·I·O·L·E·N·C·E.

* Men who have never done bad things often get defensive...

* Because it is about the community - we have to have healthy discussions - not 'men-bashing' ones so everyone can be a part.

* We as men have to accept responsibility for our role in society.

* We need to let our brothers stand up.

* Assess the behavior without tearing down the person.

Moderator: Dr. Linner Ward Griffin, East Carolina State University, Greenville, NC

PANEL DISCUSSION

Q: How do I make this "My business"?

- Fill out the back of your business card and we will send you information.

Q: Who is involved in the prospect of the video development for men? How will it be put in the proper context?

- We are working with counseling centers for abused and abusive people to get perspectives for the video.
- We will be doing focus groups so men can tell their stories. Men have stories to tell too.

Q: How do you address negative comments about women while on the air?

- Women are often afraid to start over....men often blame women's mouths on the abuse.
- Mostly, I think people are appreciative to have a place to talk. We haven't seen much negativity.
- We have to reinforce that this affects everyone, all our communities, not just women.
- This is about male dominance over women. It is misinformation.
- Conflict is not justification for violence.
- Men who have never done bad things often get defensive.
- Because it is about community, we have to have healthy discussions, not "men-bashing" ones so everyone can be a part.

Q: We as men have to accept our role in society. How do we do that?

- We need to let our brothers stand up.
- Assess the behavior without tearing down the person.
- Within the cycle of violence, we have to learn to teach to forgive.

In addition to the written word, What other venues can be used to open discussions in the community?

Ms. Bev Johnson

WDIA is the first all black radio station in the country.

The Bev Johnson show is talking about every day life.
"She's got Memphis talking."

A PERSONAL STORY on the air with Bev Johnson

- About three years ago I almost died because I was shot...
- I was dating a man & he came back home with me.
- He shot me twice...
- I went to my neighbors house - I had my cell phone and called the police.
- Later that night, he committed suicide...
- So often, we ignore the signs.
- I was so lucky. Now I want to help others see the signs.

Thoughts of Callers...

You have to love yourself enough to get out of it.

It's not how you ACT
It's how you REACT

Keep asking Questions!

Talk to your boyfriends' friends.. find out more!

"When you sweep me off my feet, keep your legs together - there is too much sexual pressure for me."

Mr. Gregory Huskisson

In the church there were more women up front than there were left in the audience... ...Are there enough men to embrace them?

The 3 most important things we can say are: I Love you. I need you. I'm sorry.

I'm Sorry Sister

15 minute video focuses on:
- Testamonies of women
- Apologies
- Theraputic focus.

- They need to know you MEAN it.
- For all the men that wronged you - allow me to stand in their shoes and say... I'm sorry sister
- I will never use the "B" word against a woman, but especially a sister.
- I will never abuse my wife physically or verbally because she is the mother of my children and of my future.
- There are so many women walking through their lives with so much suppressed pain.
- You can't create harmony with one dischord.
- We are doing a men's video.
- Most men don't know women go through this

Audio & Visual Outreach

Panelists: Ms. Bev Johnson, WDIA Radio, Memphis, TN, and Mr. Gregory Huskisson, Equal Access Meddia, Inc., Los Angeles, CA

Bev Johnson

Q: In addition to the written word, what other venues can be used to open discussions in the community?

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- I was dating a man, and he came back home with me.
- He shot me twice. I went to my neighbor's house. I had my cell phone and called the police. Later that night, he committed suicide. I was so lucky. Now I want to help others see the signs.
- So often, we ignore the signs.
- He wanted to go everywhere with me.
- Don't ignore the signs.

THOUGHTS OF CALLERS

- You have to love yourself enough to get out of it.
- It's not how you act. It's how you react.
- When you sweep me off my feet, keep your legs together. There is too much sexual pressure for me.
- Talk to your boyfriend's friends. Find out more.

Gregory Huskisson

THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS WE CAN SAY ARE:

1. I love you. 2. I need you. 3. I'm sorry

- In church, there were more women up front than there were left in the audience...are there enough men to embrace them?

I'M SORRY, SISTER

- They need to know you mean it.
- For all the men that wronged you – allow me to stand in their shoes, and say, "I'm sorry, sister."
- I will never use the "B" word against a woman, but especially a sister.
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VIDEO FOCUS

- Testimonies of women
- Apologies
- Therapeutic focus
- There are so many women walking through their lives with so much repressed pain.
- You can't create harmony with one discord.
- We are doing a men's video.
- Most men don't know women go through this.

It's Your Business

Ms. Kelly Mitchell-Clark

- Public Service radio campaign & mobilization project to stop domestic violence in the African American community.
- 12 part Soap-opera in 90 second segments.
- How can this serve as a catalyst - to create safe environments without placing blame.

- Research was a large part of developing this program.

- This is a community P·R·O·B·L·E·M

- SPEAK OUT.
- SPEAK UP.
- SPEAK OFTEN.

Promote Action

- 18-45 target for black men & women.
- Encourage listners to talk to survivors & offer support
- Openly express opposition in public settings - It's not O.K.
- Our intention is for it to be relevant to people, that they can recognize themselves in the spots.

Ms. Antonia Vann

The Milwaukee Pilot program.

- Palm sized cards
- Pens
- Nail files
- Bus ads.
- Billboards
- Printed information went out to 5000 businesses

- We purched airtime for morning, noon & night broadcasts to reach African Americans.
- We SATURATED the target area.

- Over 2 million people saw our ads.
- People loved Ma B!

SUCCESSES

- Fathers & their Sons came to our programs to learn and get help.
- There has been an increase in calls for help
- There was increased TALKING.

Ms. Kelly Mitchell-Clark,
Family Violence Prevention Fund, Washington, D.C.

PUBLIC SERVICE RADIO CAMPAIGN

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- Research was a large part in developing this program.
- This is a community problem.

PROMOTE ACTION

- Encourage listeners to talk to survivors and offer support.
- Openly express opposition in public settings. It's no okay.
- Speak out.
- Speak up.
- Speak often.

Ms. Antonia Vann, ASHA Family Services, Milwaukee, WI

THE MILWAUKEE PILOT PROGRAM

- Printed information went out to 500 businesses:
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  - Business ads
  - Pens
  - Billboards
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Panel Question & Answer

What do you want people to get out of your work?

- I want people to know it's real — I thought having a tragic ending would do that.
- The Silent Cry: we are hoping people will see this and get people talking... Educating people that violence is wrong is the first step in stopping it.
- I want people to hold themselves accountable.

Community Accountability: Is there some other model that can be used outside the justice system?

- Coordinated Community Response Program in Ann Arbor addresses this.

What inspired your song? (Jay McGee)

- I've tried to put myself in other people's shoes to try and reach people, inspire them, push toward change.
- There was no specific incident.

- Thank You for your work!
- We need to educate that it is very difficult for women to leave...

Have you gotten input from Domestic Violence counselors on your pieces?

- Yes, I have. As a father I deal with this now as a preventative measure with my own family. I follow my FEELINGS. Often I feel Guilty just for being a man.

What can we do?

- We are all stakeholders...
- As a community member you have say so, you must assert it.

- I want my children to grow up before I leave...

- I want my family together.
- Don't revictimize the victim — there is no right answer for everyone.

- It took me 40 years to develop my misconcieved beliefs; It will take at least 20 to straighten them out.

Moderator: Dr. Esther J. Jenkins, Chicago State University, Chicago, IL

PANEL DISCUSSION

Q: What do you want to get out of your work?

- I want people to know it's real – I thought having a tragic ending would do that.

Q: The Silent Cry: We are hoping people will see this and get people talking. Educating people that violence is wrong, is the first step in stopping it.

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Q: Community accountability: Is there some other model that can be used outside the justice system?

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- It took me 40 years to develop my misconceived beliefs. It will take at least 20 years to straighten them out.

Q: What can we do?

- We are all stakeholders.
- As a community member, you have to say so. You must assert it.
- I want my children to grow up before I leave..
- I want my family together.
- Don't re-victimize the victim. There is no right answer for everyone.

People find a way to express themselves if they have it in their heart...

PRESENTATIONS

People find a way to express themselves if they have it in their heart.

Master Samuel J. Williams

THROUGH THE EYES OF CHILDREN

- Stop. Hear kids cry.
- We need more people to be peacemakers.
- Take the time to look inside yourself.

Dykeema Richardson

THE SILENT CRY

- He beat her 150 times. She only got flowers once...
- From the grave, I am silent.

MADELINE - Jay McGee

I GAVE HER FLOWERS TODAY - Trenita Womack

TAKE SOME TIME - Inoh Sivad

Master Samuel J. Williams

Dykeema Richardson

Trenita Williams

Inoh Sivad

Jay McGee

WRAP UP

* Incorporation of arts as a tool.

* The use of art helps in
  * Positive values
  * Proactive efforts
  * Positive Affirmation
  * Creates connectedness.

* There is a passive approach and an active way to participate in change-
* We need more active people

* We must continue to incorporate art & media in our efforts.

Look beyond traditional process.

* Arts can rarely stand alone- dialogue must accompany it - Together they can help.

* They are all part of a toolbox to help stop domestic violence

...our journey is just beginning!

* This was a 'mini' Conference, but there was nothing mini about it!
* We hope we have raised your conciousness...

PRESS ON!

* We must press on until:
  * There are more black men in college than in prison.
  * Children are not on welfare.
  * We need to reinforce values that say violence is NOT acceptable.

* Understand the message you are sending ~ do not revictimize victims.

* Thank you for your work & dedication to changing our futures!

Wrap Up

Dr. Robert Hampton, University of Maryland, College, Park, MD

INCORPORATION OF ARTS AS A TOOL

- Dance
- Song
- Art
- Writing
- Poetry
- They are all part of a toolbox to help stop domestic violence.

CONFERENCE COMMENTS

- There is a passive approach and an active way to participate in change.
- We need more active people.
- Understand the messages you are sending – do not re-victimize victims.

PRESS ON

- We must press on until:
- There are more black men in college than in prison
- Children are not on welfare
- Reinforce values that say, violence is not acceptable
- This was a mini-conference, but there was nothing mini about it.

THE USE OF ARTS HELPS IN

- Positive values
- Proactive efforts
- Positive affirmation
- Creates connectedness
- We must continue to incorporate art and media in our efforts.
- Arts can rarely stand alone, dialogue must accompany it. Together they can help.
- Look beyond traditional processes.
- Our journey is just beginning.
- Thank you for your work and dedication to changing our futures.

SPONSOR

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University of Minnesota

Men of Service Alliance

HAVEN

WDTR

My Sister's Place

WMXD

For More information Please contact us at:

University of Minnesota
Institute on Domestic Violence
In the African American Community
School of Social Work
290 Peters Hall
1404 Gortner Ave
St.Paul, MN 55108-6142

Local Telephone: (612) 624-5357
Toll Free telephone: 1-877-643-8222
Fax: (612) 624-9201
Email: nidvaac@che.umn.edu

We welcome you to visit our website at www.dvinstitute.org