

# Respect UK: Global perspectives on dealing with domestic violence

By Susan Bonne

**W**ith domestic violence present in every echelon of American society, and too few people, programs and resources to heal it, you might wonder why it's necessary to travel across the Atlantic to participate in another nation's efforts to make change. The answer is simple: because there's so much to gain.

The United Kingdom's mix of cultures and differing government and legal systems spark new insights on a common challenge—that of turning male perpetrators of domestic violence into nonviolent partners and fathers. The opportunity to share experiences and cultural perspectives with DV groups internationally enables all to broaden their knowledge base and consider ideas and models they may not otherwise encounter.

Unfortunately, one way that domestic violence perpetrator programs are similar in the UK and the U.S., according to Respect, a UK-wide, London-based association for domestic violence perpetrator programs and associated women's programs, is that African/Black Minority Ethnic perpetrators' needs are not adequately addressed, ultimately negatively impacting the safety of partners and children.

In a Research Roundtable held on June 23, 2008, Respect brought together key academics from the UK and the U.S. to discuss the issues, including IDVAAC Executive Director Dr. Oliver Williams, whose life's work has been considering the causes and

effects of domestic violence in the African-American community.

In late March, Dr. Williams was again invited to participate in a Respect conference in York, England. The two-day conference which explored issues relating to Men's Involvement in Children's Lives, included experts on the subject from several cities in the UK, as well as Minneapolis, and new IDVAAC Steering Committee Member Johnny Rice, II from Baltimore.

"I am impressed with the fact that two of the main nongovernmental domestic violence organizations, Respect and Women's Aid, are located in the same building in London," says Dr. Williams. "This makes it easier for them to communicate with one another and to coordinate their programs."

## Sharing DV resources throughout Europe

Established in 2000 by a steering group of practitioners, Respect serves as an informational, funding and lobbying resource for its membership of nearly 40 community-based perpetrator programs in England, Wales, Scotland,

*Continued on page 6*

## Executive Director's Message— Five stages of healing will be revealed at annual conference



Dr. Oliver J. Williams

By Dr. Oliver J. Williams,  
executive director

Many of us who work in the field of domestic violence spend a lot of time working with people to help them survive and deal with trauma. We've learned that *healing* involves something deeper. Often, it's a process that requires reconciling with one's self and evolving.

Healing doesn't occur on anyone's timetable. You can't move further than the mind or body will let you. And you must actively engage in the process of healing. Some domestic violence victims don't even recognize that they're in the process until they reach the later stages, and they're able to reflect on what they've managed to survive.

We've done extensive research on healing and have identified five stages of healing that are not specific to trauma. These stages go beyond what is required to deal with trauma to the next step, which is the process of healing. Reconciliation is key to this. We are hopeful that our research will be an important addition to the current literature in the field. What we've learned through our research will be revealed at our conference in August.

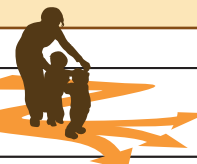
## Healing allows survivors to move on with their lives

The long-term effects of domestic violence-related for both survivors and child witnesses are varied. For both, the psychological wounds can remain open indefinitely and some may turn to defense mechanisms and unhealthy behaviors (such as denial, rationalization, drugs and alcohol abuse) to numb the pain and to maintain themselves and their children in the midst of chaos and victimization. Some survivors feel the effects of abuse for several years after the violent events have ended.

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Join us on the Journey to Healing Aug. 3-4  
IDVAAC annual conference in Long Beach, Calif.

A JOURNEY TO  
**HEALING**



Conference  
preview inside...

# IDVAAC Conference 2009

## *A Journey to Healing: Finding the Path*

By Tameka Davis

The Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community (IDVAAC) will discuss the very important issue of healing for survivors of domestic violence, as well as adults who witnessed domestic violence as children at its upcoming annual conference.

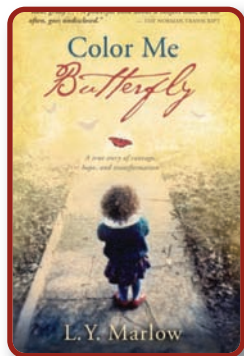
This year's conference, *A Journey to Healing: Finding the Path* is a must-attend event, which will be held Aug. 3-4 in Long Beach, Calif. The conference will feature informative and engaging presentations, practical information, interactive panel sessions, and artistic performances—all focused on learning how to help battered women and adults, who witnessed domestic violence as children, discover their own pathway to healing and recovery.

### A JOURNEY TO HEALING



“The topic of healing really deals with the issue of how victims of domestic violence that I’ve talked to over the years yearn for moving past the experience of the victimization,” said Oliver J. Williams, Ph.D., executive director of IDVAAC. “It doesn’t mean that they’re trying to forget, or pretend it didn’t happen. It doesn’t mean they’re not touched by the experience forever more. But they want to be able to not let it consume their lives, and they want to figure out a way to move past the experience, move past the trauma.”

This conference will appeal to advocates, practitioners, researchers, domestic violence survivors, educators, policy-makers, and other stakeholders with an interest in or responsibility to attend to

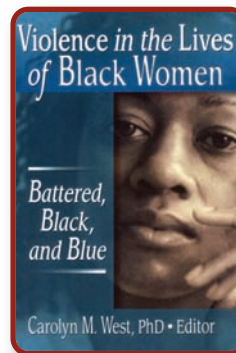
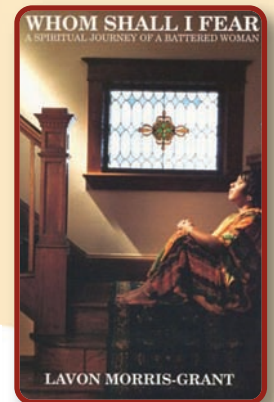


the welfare of battered women and their families.

Featured speakers include L.Y. Marlow author of *Color Me Butterfly* and founder of the Saving Promise Campaign, who will speak at the Adult Children and Their Exposure to Domestic Violence panel discussion. Marlow is a third-generation survivor of domestic violence and will speak about the impact of intergenerational domestic violence and abuse endured by her family. Essence best-selling

author Brenda L. Thomas, who wrote *Laying Down My Burdens*, will talk about rebuilding her life after experiencing domestic violence.

Author of *Whom Shall I Fear: a Spiritual Journey of a Battered Woman*, Lavon Morris-Grant, will talk about how she’s recovering from being shot four times by her husband, who then committed suicide. Atum Azzahir, president and executive director at the Cultural Wellness Center in Minneapolis and survivor of domestic violence, will speak at the Building Healing Mechanisms/Strategies into Battered Women’s Programs workshop. Other featured speakers, panelists and performers will include: survivors of domestic violence, adults who witnessed violence as children, domestic violence practitioners, artists, and scholars whose work addresses this issue. For a full list of speakers visit <http://idvaac.org/healing/speakers.html>

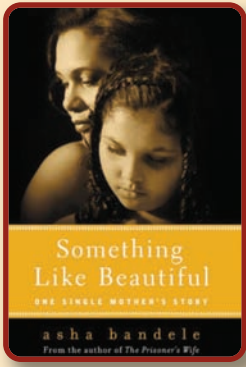


### Conference highlights

#### Panel Discussion: *Survivors and Healing*

Comprised of four inspiring women who are survivors of domestic violence, this panel will present first-hand perspectives on finding the path to healing for battered women. Conference participants will view four video biographies – one focused on each panelist – that





explore these women's lives during and after their abusive experiences. Panelists will then engage in a guided discussion during which they will articulate their perspectives on healing for battered women, noting common definitions, themes, and elements of their journey and path to healing.

**Panel Discussion:** Trauma and Elements of Recovery for Children Who Witness Domestic Violence

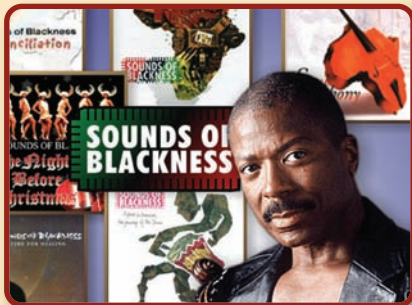
This discussion focuses on practitioners and scholars whose work focuses on children will report on the trauma of and recovery for children who suffer the emotional and other consequences of witnessing domestic violence. Panelists will also discuss elements of healing and recovery for children of battered women.

There will also be several workshops on this topic including, Trauma and Recovery in Children Who Witness Domestic Violence and in Adults Who Witnessed Domestic Violence During Childhood, Trauma and Recovery for Battered Women, and other panel discussions entitled Adult Children and Their Exposure to Domestic Violence and Trauma and Elements of Recovery for Battered Women.

## Artistic Expression

### *Sounds of Blackness and dancer/choreographer Endalyn Taylor*

Grammy award-winning R&B group Sounds of Blackness has recorded a new song focused on healing; conference participants will view the video premiere of this inspiring work. Penned by group founder and director Gary Hines, song will be interpreted through a dance choreographed by Endalyn Taylor, original cast member of the Broadway production of The Lion King, and school director of the Dance Theatre of Harlem. The conference will also feature a vignette showcasing the artistic talent of Margaret "Shug" Avery of "The Color Purple." This original work will provide a provocative dramatic portrayal of the healing.



## Luncheon

- **Battered Women's Perspectives on Healing: Report on Focus Group Responses**  
*Oliver J. Williams, Ph.D.*, IDVAAC Executive Director; Professor, School of Social Work, University of Minnesota (St. Paul)  
This presentation highlights a report on focus group responses from domestic violence survivors about the process for and stages of healing for battered women.

- **Fighting for the Hearts and Minds of Your Children**  
*Mildred Muhammad*, Executive Director, After the Trauma (Washington, DC)

As the former wife of convicted DC sniper John Allen Muhammad, Mildred Muhammad and her experience of domestic abuse have received national attention. Muhammad will offer insights into the challenges a battered woman may face in fighting for the hearts and minds of her children when her batterer seeds and encourages conflict and hostility toward her.

- **Awards Ceremony**  
IDVAAC will recognize outstanding work to address domestic violence across the United States that is directed toward or inclusive of African Americans.



**Margaret Shug Avery**

## Workshops

This year's conference offers concurrent workshops on a variety of topics related to recovery that will provide skill-building opportunities focused on helping survivors discover their pathway to healing. Each workshop will conclude with a facilitated group discussion on defining healing for battered women and children who witness domestic violence. For more details on specific workshops offered visit, [www.idvaac.org/healing/workshops.html](http://www.idvaac.org/healing/workshops.html)



**Mildred Muhammad and her daughters.**

Learn how you can help yourself and others through the process of healing from domestic violence. Register today to take part in an uplifting journey of healing by attending, A Journey to Healing: Finding the Path. To register for the conference or find out more information please visit, [www.idvaac.org/healing](http://www.idvaac.org/healing). Meeting and lodging accommodations for the conference will be held at The Westin Long Beach. ♦

# Collaboration and culturally specific approaches to DV in Detroit

*Editor's Note: This article is based on IDVAAC research done for a DVD called "Domestic Violence and Culturally Diverse Communities in Detroit".*

In Detroit, ethnic culture is proudly maintained. With multiple culturally-based communities, Latinos, Arab Americans, a variety of Asian American communities and African Americans can continue to speak the language of their choice, eat the food they are used to eating and do not find many situations where complete assimilation with the mainstream culture necessary.

"Detroit is a very diverse city, but we're also very segregated," says Larmender Davis founder and CEO of Unity Detroit's Serenity Services. "There are a lot of different people here, but we all congregate and live separately."

In 2006, the Detroit population was 83 percent African American, 10 percent Caucasian American, 6 percent Hispanic, 1 percent Asian American. Many Arab Americans identified themselves as Caucasian Americans, though some are beginning to identify themselves as people of color.

## Strengths and challenges of diversity

There are both strengths and challenges in working with these diverse groups. Cultural strengths can be transferred from one group to another; but there are challenges in providing domestic violence services to people from a wide variety of cultural backgrounds.

Demographic trends in Detroit have had an enormous impact on shaping the challenges the city faces today. According to Kurt Metzger, director of research at the United Way of Southern Michigan, during the 1950s, due in part to racial steering by realtors and unfair mortgage practices, such as red lining, many whites left Detroit for the suburbs.

At that time, home loans weren't made in African American neighborhoods or in the city. The development of the highway system aided the flight of whites to the suburbs. As they left the city, so did critical infrastructure and resources, such as hospitals and medical facilities, creating a significant lack of health care for the remaining culturally diverse communities.

Increases in poverty, lack of adequate public transportation, and the movement of social infrastructure to the suburbs has exacerbated social issues in Detroit, including domestic violence. According to Metzger, nearly 78 percent of jobs are located more than 10 miles or more away from the city. This disconnect is greater than any region in the county.

## Discrimination's legacy in Detroit

Population patterns that challenge most cities are even more vivid in Detroit, due to in part to racial discrimination, which has affected many urban policy decisions. Social service agencies there have had to create programs in the absence of traditional infrastructure.

To be successful, they have worked to collaborate among cultures when that choice was most efficient, and to serve specific cultural needs of various racial groups when that was most effective.

"Women who are battered have the same kinds of needs," says Eun Joo Lee of New Visions, a Detroit organization focusing on the prevention of domestic violence. "They need safety protection, they may need financial assistance, and they may need legal advocacy."

In addition to similar needs, women from different ethnic groups have culturally specific needs as well. "You cannot lump everybody...and say everybody needs this, these are the goals for everybody. You have to look at everyone's situation independently," says



Larmender Davis of Serenity Services.

Language barriers pose challenges for Asian American, Arab American and Latino communities alike. Another challenge is specific ethnic foods. When a woman enters a shelter, she may not find the food that she usually has at home, and she may not be allowed to prepare food in the same ways that she does at home. And she may encounter difficulties connecting with relatives from her home country because of the time difference.

## Culturally specific forms of abuse

"Dynamics of domestic violence in Asian communities is different from other communities," says Eun Joo Lee of New Visions. "In addition to having to endure abuse from the intimate partner, there may be multiple perpetrators involved in the abuse, including the mother-in-law, the father-in-law, the brother-in-law, the sister-in-law and the ex-wives.

Studies have shown that there are particular types of domestic violence that happen in Asian communities, such as honor killings, assaults or murder of a bride by a groom or his family because of conflict over dowry, isolation, neglect and restrictions on reproductive choices of women.

Arab American communities also experience specific kinds of abuse. According to Joanna Ladki of Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS), they recognize "spiritual abuse" as a form of domestic



violence, because men in these communities control their wives by saying ‘you don’t pray enough,’ ‘your cover is not good enough,’ ‘you don’t go to the mosque enough,’ or ‘you don’t listen to what the Imam is saying enough.’

ACCESS originally began as a small volunteer organization helping new immigrants who did not know English or lacked immediate connections in Detroit. It offers direct services to victims of domestic violence, including legal services, case management and mental health counseling.

“They are always blaming the woman [in Arabic culture],” says Ladki. “We had seven murders [of DV victims] in our community in the last three years. The first question we heard was ‘what did she do?’”

This is related to the fact that attitudes and beliefs promote the submissive role of women in all cultures. “This is done in different ways in every culture,” says Oliver J. Williams, executive director of the Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community (IDVAAC).

## Collaboration is key

Several service agencies are working toward meeting the common and unique needs of people of all different cultural backgrounds in the city of Detroit. “We are part of this together as women of color. We are all suffering. Let’s come together and seek a solution, because we all have similar kinds of experiences,” says Ladki.

Community Health and Social Services (CHASS) – a joint venture between the Michigan Department of Public Health, the Michigan Department of Social Services, the Detroit Health Department and the Hispanic community – grew out of the need to provide health care services to the Latino people of Detroit.

“We wanted to create a one-stop shop where you would have the Department of Social Services, health care, you would have social workers, you would have some mental health workers also on site, as well as other programs like the food stamp program, etc.,” says Ricardo Guzman of CHASS/LA VIDA.

The need to address domestic violence issues in the Latino community led to the creation of LA VIDA by CHASS. Since people already knew and trusted CHASS, they felt comfortable going to LA VIDA for help. In addition, LA VIDA works to reach out to people to let them know it is safe to come forward.

By focusing on both the needs common to all victims of domestic violence and the different cultural needs of various ethnic groups, Detroit’s programs are more effective in meeting all victims’ needs.

To obtain a copy of “Domestic Violence and Culturally Diverse Communities in Detroit,” a video produced by Dr. Oliver J. Williams for IDVAAC, visit [dvinstitute.org](http://dvinstitute.org) and click on “Multimedia” or call 1-877-NIDVAAC. ♦

## Executive Director’s Message

*Continued from cover*

Even in subsequent, satisfying, trusting, non-abusive relationships, it is not uncommon for survivors to react to conflict or environmental stressors as if abuse is imminent. They consistently report feeling the need to “walk on eggshells” out of fear for their safety.

Although many have been role models and leaders in the world as they have lived their lives post abuse, other victims have reported, “they lack the confidence and self-esteem to move forward in healthy ways.” There are also significant consequences for adults who witnessed violence as children. It is well documented that a child’s exposure to domestic violence causes a number of reactions and challenges for them to overcome as adults and can continue into the next and subsequent generations, if not addressed.

Further, those children who appear resilient may be asymptomatic but still remain challenged by their childhood experiences. Most adult and child victims don’t approach domestic violence or child services programs, as a means of recovery and healing.

## What road maps exist to help victims with recovery?

Healing – or the lack thereof – can have a profound effect on whether survivors of abuse and adults witnessing domestic violence as children can achieve a personal sense of well-being. Yet for many involved in domestic violence, there’s no clear pathway to achieving the healing that is so greatly desired. The Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community (IDVAAC) will explore this topic through its conference, *A Journey to Healing: Finding the Path*, to be convened Aug. 3-4 in Long Beach, Calif.



During the past year, we’ve interviewed 50 women to learn about the stages individuals commonly go through while healing from domestic violence. Some of their journeys have been videotaped in advance to be shared on the opening day of the conference.

Friends of IDVAAC also will explore the definitions of and the journey to healing with survivors of domestic violence and adults who witnessed domestic violence as children. The conference will also feature panel discussions, workshops, and artistic expressions.

You can read more about this conference on the next two pages of this newsletter. You can also find out more about this exciting event by visiting our web site at [www.idvaac.org](http://www.idvaac.org).

## Other topics in this newsletter

This edition of our newsletter also features a profile of Dr. Tricia Bent-Goodley from Howard University, a peek at what our friends at Respect in the United Kingdom are up to, and an overview of the DVD we produced on our findings on how different cultures deal with domestic violence in Detroit.

Please join us as we continue our quest to heal victims of domestic violence in the African American community. Like my relatively minor wrestling wounds, we can learn to move forward in a healthy manner and not be overwhelmed by domestic violence for the rest of our lives. ♦

Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. According to CEO Jo Todd, Respect's mission can be summed up broadly as an effort to increase the safety of those experiencing domestic violence through promoting effective interventions with perpetrators. (For more information, see [www.respect.uk.net](http://www.respect.uk.net).)



To achieve that goal, Respect focuses its efforts on two main fronts: lobbying government and statutory agencies across the UK to

influence public policy in relation to domestic violence perpetrator work, and establishing and supporting a code of best practices for perpetrator programs.

Lobbying in dire economic times tends to focus on funding. "Funding is always a struggle, and especially in the current credit crunch," says Todd. Recent successes include securing funding for a program that calls for mandated perpetrator treatment through the civil court system, and for a longitudinal research project examining outcomes of men's participation in Respect-accredited programs.

To promote best practices, in 2008 Respect published a guideline, *The Respect Accreditation Standards*, which was the work of several years; the Standard has been endorsed by relevant institutions and will be used to assess member organizations seeking credentials under a new Accreditation program.

Along with all of that, Respect is also developing an online client information management system that will enable member groups to log data, run reports and generate task reminders. "Programs that sign up to use the database will in turn provide Respect with statistics on how many men are in programs in the UK, along with data on outcomes, what kind of support partners receive and the like," says Todd.

Beyond its work to address the concerns of member programs, Respect has sought and received funding to run a number of outreach programs.

The Respect Phonenumber ([www.respectphonenumber.org.uk](http://www.respectphonenumber.org.uk)) begun in 2004, offers information and advice to men who are abusive to their partners and want to stop; the Phonenumber receives an average of 250 calls per month, and staffers may spend up to an hour talking with callers, motivating them to seek help and instilling the idea that change is possible.

## Outreach services for perpetrators, victims and others

On the other side of the coin, the Men's Advice Line ([www.mensadvice.org.uk](http://www.mensadvice.org.uk)) serves as a confidential resource for men who are experiencing domestic violence, either in straight or same-sex relationships. Todd notes that 20 percent of callers to the Advice line self-identify as victims, but upon careful and insightful discussion of the issues with staff, turn out to

be primary perpetrators. "It's important for people to understand that men and women victims present very differently," says Todd. "While you want a believing approach with genuine victims, you also need to talk with people at some length to uncover the full story."

An online initiative launched in 2008, *Dads-space.com*, is a valuable resource for any and all fathers, offering a wealth of entertaining, no-nonsense parenting advice. The information provided on the site is based on fathers' own experiences as well as research, and ranges from child development to ideas on what activities dads can undertake with their children to game, book and toy reviews.

A related site is *Dads' Space 1-2-1* ([www.dads-space.org](http://www.dads-space.org)), a free, national, web-based communication facility designed for fathers who are separated from their children. The 1-2-1 service enables children to stay in contact with their father even in difficult circumstances and can be a valuable addition to existing contact resources. *Dads' Space 1-2-1* supports children and fathers in developing their relationships and enhancing their communication.

For some children, the risks of direct contact with their father may outweigh the benefit; in cases of domestic violence the child or mother may not be, or feel, safe, *Dads' Space 1-2-1* can provide a safe contact solution. However, the service is not just for those where there are risks; the 1-2-1 service can be used as an enhancement to existing contact arrangements or indeed where geography or work commitments present a barrier, for example when a father is serving military duty away from home.

The 1-2-1 site provides a secure online environment for the parent and child where they can chat, send emails and photos, play games, and send e-cards or e-gifts. The site has different levels of moderation depending on the outcome of a risk assessment. The service can be accessed through referrals from relevant professionals and agencies working with families; to assist with the risk assessment process, the referral must include a copy of their own report or recent assessment.

Teens will also benefit from *Young People's Services*, a toolkit for practitioners working with 13-19 year olds who are already using violence and abuse in their relationships. Still in development, *Young People's Services* is currently being piloted by five organizations around the UK. One of the pilot sites works specifically with young black African clients and another with young people with learning difficulties. Respect is hoping that the pilot programs will yield a real diversity of knowledge about working with a wide range of young people using violence.

Respect's many initiatives seek to address issues surrounding male perpetrators of domestic violence from a wide range of vantage points. Their work is undoubtedly invaluable to practitioners in the UK, and provides those of us working on similar projects here with invaluable insights, and perhaps something even more important—the knowledge that while our struggles with addressing domestic violence in a racial context are unique, we are not alone. ♦

# IDVAAC

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## Researching how support networks heal DV

By Tameka Davis

Early in Tricia Bent-Goodley's life, she remembered hearing that domestic violence didn't happen in the African American community. However, while working as a practitioner in child abuse prevention, Bent-Goodley found domestic violence indeed was happening in African American communities and at an alarming rate. This triggered her interest in research.



Tricia Bent-Goodley

"We weren't necessarily prepared to address domestic violence and fully understand it; that's really what led me to want to learn more about the issue," said Bent-Goodley. "Being in the field taught me so much about the challenges people face but also the resilience and strength they use to survive. These are lessons I bring with to my research and teaching".

Bent-Goodley began her interest in social work after completing her Bachelor's degree in Sociology with a Minor in Education. "Social work chose me," said Bent-Goodley. "I enjoyed working in communities and developing programs; a strong service ethic is very much part of who I am."

Bent-Goodley received her Ph.D. in Social Policy, Planning and Analysis from Columbia University and her Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Pennsylvania.

Today, Bent-Goodley, Ph.D., LICSW is Professor of Social Work at Howard University in Washington, D.C. Dr. Bent-Goodley's research has largely focused on violence against women and girls, cultural and faith-based intervention development, and the strengthening of children and families.

She hopes her research will help professionals understand the significant role of culture in service provision and the vitality of informal support networks within communities to resolve their own issues. By acknowledging the role that communities and faith-based groups play and putting a focus on informal helping traditions, "we can find solutions to some of our most pressing chal-

lenges, including domestic violence."

Bent-Goodley became involved with IDVAAC while doing her dissertation 13 years ago as a doctoral student. It was IDVAAC Executive Director Dr. Oliver J. Williams who initially interested her in the program, through his dedication to the issue of domestic violence.

"Oliver has made incredible contributions to advance the field; he is largely the reason why I became involved with IDVAAC," said Bent-Goodley. It's the organization's creative messaging, remaining on the cutting edge of the issues, and reaching different audiences that keep Bent-Goodley involved with IDVAAC.

As for her future plans, Bent-Goodley would like to continue to develop culturally-specific interventions that reduce violence against women and girls, improve program and policy responses to disparities in the black community, increase knowledge of healthy relationship skills, and strengthen black families and communities across the Diaspora. She is also focused on creating more opportunities for new scholars of color and women to continue to make advancements in the field. "I would like to make sure there is mentorship of new and emerging scholars in this area," said Bent-Goodley.

Bent-Goodley is an author and co-author of numerous books and journal publications, including *African American Social Workers* and *Social Policy and The Color of Social Policy*.

"What drives me most is my close relationship with my children and family, as a wife, a mother, an aunt, and a sister, I am compelled to use what God has given me to serve the common good; ultimately I represent that same girl from St. Albans Queens that had limited access but maximum drive, and I take her voice with me everywhere I go; that's what drives me," said Bent-Goodley. ♦



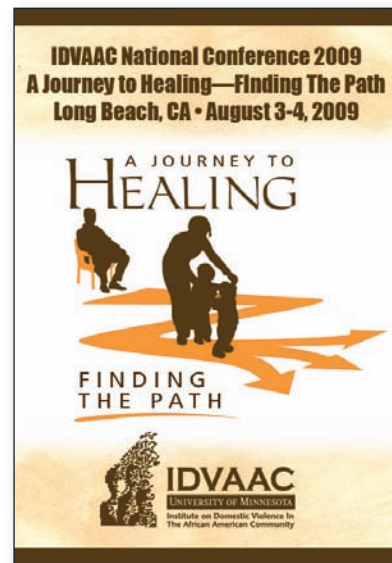


# Attend IDVAAC's annual conference Aug. 3-4 in Long Beach, California

IDVAAC's annual conference in beautiful Long Beach, Calif. will focus on the topic of finding a path to healing for victims of domestic violence, and will include informative and engaging presentations, practical information, interactive sessions and artistic expressions.

Speakers hail from all over the country, each with a unique perspective on healing. IDVAAC's "A Journey to Healing" conference will feature noted authors, scholars, practitioners, advocates and domestic violence survivors at this year's conference, including Brenda L. Thomas, author of the Essence Magazine best-selling memoir "Laying Down My Burdens"; Carolyn West, Ph.D, award-winning scholar specializing in violence in the lives of black women; and Mildred Muhammad, Executive Director, After the Trauma (Washington, DC).

Attendees will be hosted in the Westin Long Beach hotel, just a few blocks from the beach. More information – including the conference agenda, list of speakers and registration – can be found by visiting <http://www.idvaac.org/healing/index.html>. Register before July 10, 2009 to reserve your place at the conference. ♦



next issue

Conference highlights from Long Beach • Review of Gail Garfield's book *Knowing What We Know* • Meet New Steering Committee Member Johnny Rice

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