

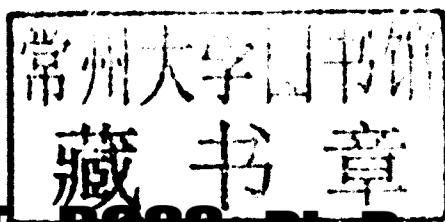
# THE WAR AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

EDITED BY **LEE E. ROSS, Ph.D.**



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# **THE WAR AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**



This book is dedicated to

Barbara Pollack, formerly of the Milwaukee Task Force on Family Violence, whose tireless efforts to re-educate those who choose violence, has touched and enriched the lives of so many. She is a mentor, a colleague, and most importantly, a good friend.

All current and former students who espouse a philosophy of nonviolence and who respect themselves and others around them.

Leslie, Christopher, and Alexander: pleasant reminders of God's goodness and grace.

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# Acknowledgments

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I am indebted to the many people who have generously shared their time and knowledge in the preparation of this collection. The collaborative friendship of my colleagues who contributed the excellent chapters in this book is sincerely appreciated. I wish to extend a special thanks to the staff at CRC Press-Taylor & Francis Group, including Judith Simon (project editor), David Fausel (project coordinator), Andrea Grant (editorial assistant), and Carolyn Spence (acquisitions editor). By far, writing this book was a pleasant and satisfying experience—from submitting a prospectus to witnessing the final product.

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# The Editor

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**Dr. Lee E. Ross** is associate professor of criminal justice at the University of Central Florida. A graduate of Rutgers University, his research interests span a variety of areas, from his seminal work on religion and social control theory to more recent explorations into unintended consequences of mandatory arrest policies and the dynamics of domestic violence among African Americans. As editor of *African-American Criminologists: 1970–1996, An Annotated Bibliography*, his scholarship can be found in a variety of academic journals, including *Justice Quarterly*, *Journal of Criminal Justice*, *Journal of Crime and Justice*, *Journal of Criminal Justice Education*, *The Justice Professional*, *Sociological Spectrum*, *Sociological Focus*, and *Corrections Today*. Professor Ross also spent several years as a group facilitator to the Milwaukee Domestic Abuse Intervention Program, while teaching graduate and undergraduate courses in the area of domestic violence.

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# The Contributors

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**Dr. Julie C. Abril** earned her PhD in criminology, law, and society at the University of California, Irvine. She has published widely in the area of Native American Indian crime and justice. She is the author of *Bad Spirits: A Cultural Explanation for Intimate Family Violence: Inside One American Indian Family* (UK: CSP), *Violent Victimization Among One Native American Indian Tribe* (DE: VDM Verlag: Germany), and *Crime and Violence on One Native American Indian Reservation: A Criminological Study of the Southern Ute Indians* (VDM Verlag: Germany).

**Dr. Allen Anderson** received his PhD in political science, with a specialization in public law and judicial process, from Southern Illinois University in 1984. He has since expanded his study into public health, with a certification from the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill, and continuing education from both the University of Michigan and Johns Hopkins University. Combining these backgrounds, he has researched HIV/AIDS policies and behaviors in the People's Republic of China since 1990. His research has focused on prisoners, drug abuse, prostitution, internal migration, and general sexual transmission of the AIDS virus. He made his 19th research trip to China in November 2008. Anderson is now working with both the Chinese Foundation for the Prevention of STD and AIDS and the Chinese Ministry of Justice on controlling HIV/AIDS in the mainland prison environment. His domestic research has focused on judicial behavior, plea negotiation, child advocacy, and criminal law.

**Dr. Charlene K. Baker** is an associate professor of community psychology in the Department of Psychology at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Her research interests include working in collaboration with communities to develop and evaluate culturally appropriate prevention and intervention programs aimed at reducing the prevalence and impact of violence on individuals, families, and communities. Her work also emphasizes the relationship between domestic violence and housing instability, including homelessness, and advocates for policy and programmatic solutions to address these two intersecting social issues.

**Dr. Tricia B. Bent-Goodley** is professor of social work at Howard University School. A graduate of Columbia University, Dr. Goodley's research has

focused on violence against women and girls, HIV prevention, and healthy relationship education. She has developed community and faith-based interventions in domestic violence and relationship education with a focus on strengthening the Black family and the development of culturally competent interventions that build on the strengths of the community. She is the author or co-author of three books in the area of social policy and people of color, is a consulting editor for several scholarly journals, and serves distinctly in a number of local, state, and national elected and appointed leadership positions.

**Dr. Christopher W. Blackwell** is an assistant professor of graduate affairs within the College of Nursing at the University of Central Florida. His research focus is on health and social disparities experienced by gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons in American society. His work has been widely published in a variety of scholarly journals and textbooks. In addition to teaching and research, Dr. Blackwell is also a board-certified adult health nurse practitioner and maintains a clinical practice in pulmonary critical care in the Orlando, Florida, area. For more information, visit Dr. Blackwell's professional Web site: <http://www.drchristopher.blackwell.com>

**Dr. Rebecca Bonanno** is a New York State-licensed social worker currently working in clinical practice with children and adolescents. She received both her master's in social work and PhD in social welfare at the School of Social Welfare at Stony Brook University in 2003 and 2008, respectively. Dr. Bonanno has conducted research on alternatives to incarceration, including batterer intervention programs, with the Suffolk County Department of Probation on Long Island, New York, and has contributed to studies on parenting and intimate partner abuse. Dr. Bonanno is an adjunct professor at Adelphi University's School of Social Work.

**Dr. Leanor Boulton Johnson** is professor of African and African American studies in the School of Social Transformation at Arizona State University. A graduate of Purdue University, her main research activities have been in Black family studies, cross-cultural sexuality, and work-family stress. In addition, she is an associate editor of the *Journal of Family Relations*, a consulting editor for the *Journal of Sex Research*, and a reviewer for several other journals. She is also co-author of *Black Families at the Crossroads: Challenges and Prospects*.

**Dr. Cynthia Brown** is an assistant professor in the Department of Criminal Justice and Legal Studies at the University of Central Florida. A graduate of Mississippi College of Law, she teaches law and the legal environment, law and society, employment discrimination, and contracts. Over the course of the last 15 years, she has provided continuing legal education in the area of

domestic violence, while at the same time serving as a Guardian ad Litem. In 2006, she received a doctorate in the administration of criminal justice from the University of Southern Mississippi.

**John V. Elmore, Esq.** is a practicing criminal defense attorney with offices in Buffalo and Niagara Falls, New York. He is a former New York State trooper, Manhattan assistant district attorney, and New York State assistant attorney general. He has taught criminal justice administration at Buffalo State College and Medaille College. A graduate of Mansfield State University, Attorney Elmore went on to earn a JD from the Syracuse University College of Law. He is also a member of the U.S. Magistrate Selection Committee for the U.S. District Court for the Western District of New York, and a life member of the NAACP. John V. Elmore is the author of *Fighting for Your Life: An African-American Criminal Justice Survival Guide*.

**Gina Farrell** graduated from the University of Minnesota Duluth with a master's degree in social work in May 2009. She completed a master's research project exploring the child welfare response to co-occurring domestic violence and child maltreatment at a county child protection agency. Ms. Farrell has extensive work experience related to family violence. For the last seven years she has been involved in the domestic violence movement as an advocate, an educator, and program coordinator. She is passionate about working toward equality and justice for all people.

**Lynette Feder** is a professor in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Portland State University. She has evaluated a wide array of interventions including the police, courts, corrections, and social service agencies. Her recent focus has been to conduct applied research on specific interventions that are methodologically rigorous so as to address both policy questions (evidence-based policy) as well as underlying theoretical issues. In this way, her research attempts to build the knowledge base to aid in the development of future programs and policies while simultaneously answering specific questions about the effectiveness of a particular program. Her two recent experimental studies (The Broward Experiment and the A Test of the Enhanced Nurse Family Partnership), serve as recent examples of this evaluative approach. Dr. Feder has also served as a guest editor for a special issue on domestic violence (*Women and Criminal Justice*) and co-guest editor (with Dr. Robert Boruch) for a special issue on the need for experimental research to guide evidence-based decision-making in criminal justice (*Crime & Delinquency*).

**Dr. Shirley Garick** has been in the nursing field for 35 years. She has multiple expertise in many areas, including domestic violence, patient safety, drug



addiction, and legal consulting. Her primary role as a researcher and professor directs many of her activities within the health care arena. Some of her other activities involve volunteer work for legal aid and help with students' understanding of the priorities of domestic violence and substance abuse within the health care field.

**Dr. Debra Heath-Thornton** is professor and dean of the Campolo College of Graduate and Professional Studies at Eastern University. A graduate of the University of Rochester, her research interests include comparative justice and restorative justice. She has taught a variety of courses, including restorative justice, social problems, principles of sociology, and comparative criminal justice. One of her areas of expertise is the integration of faith and learning.

**Dr. Josephine Kahler** is a professor of nursing and founding dean of the College of Health and Behavioral Sciences at Texas A&M University–Texarkana. She earned a doctorate in nursing education administration from the University of South Dakota in 1990 and a master's in nursing from South Dakota State University. She is certified as a clinical nurse specialist in adult mental health nursing and has taught and done clinical practice in this specialty area for many years. Dr. Kahler, originally from New Zealand, lived in many different parts of the world and brings unique perspectives and insight to the behavioral science disciplines.

**Dr. Sarah N. Keller** has an expertise in public health communication and evaluation. As part of her dissertation at the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill, she developed and tested a tailored Internet-based health communication intervention to promote adolescent girls' sexual health and a national STD prevention Web site aimed at teenagers. Her research has been published in the *Journal of Health Communication*, the *Journal of Sex Research*, and the international journal *Nursing & Health Science*. In teaching, Dr. Keller is no less committed to public health. She dedicates a class each year to designing and implementing a social marketing campaign.

**Dr. Joanne Klevens** is an epidemiologist currently at the Division of Violence Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, and Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia. She works on the development and evaluation of interventions to prevent child maltreatment and intimate partner violence. Dr. Klevens has also done studies on risk factors and preventive interventions for youth violence, adult criminality, and child abuse in Colombia.

**Walter Komanski, Esq.** is a circuit court judge in Orange County, Florida. For nearly 30 years he has served in various judicial capacities for Orange County, including domestic, circuit, civil, juvenile, and criminal court. A member of the first graduating class of the University of Central Florida, Komanski earned a juris doctor from John Marshall Law School. He is a faculty member of the Florida Judicial Education Committee, an adjunct professor at the University of Central Florida, and a lecturer at Rollins College and Valencia Community College.

**Robert T. Magill, Esq.** earned his law degree from the Florida A&M University College of Law in the spring of 2009. He has worked in the legal field for over 20 years with his attorney father, Patrick Magill, focusing mainly on commercial litigation and family law. Robert served as a law clerk for Circuit Judge Walter Komanski in the Domestic Relations Division, hearing Domestic violence and high-conflict family law cases in the Ninth Judicial Circuit of the State of Florida. Currently he is teaching at the University of Central Florida.

**Dr. Godpower O. Okereke** is a professor of sociology and criminal justice at Texas A&M University–Texarkana, where he teaches sociology and criminal justice courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. He received his doctorate degree in sociology with concentrations in criminology, social problems/deviance, social psychology, and law enforcement from Oklahoma State University. His research interests and publications cover a broad spectrum of subjects in fields such as sociology, criminal justice, criminology, social psychology, economics, and political economy.

**Dr. A. J. Otjen** is an assistant professor of marketing and serves as advisor to American Indian Business Leaders. Some of her research endeavors include self-actualization as a test of equality, and gender-specific reactions to a domestic violence campaign. In 2006, her marketing in Domestic and Sexual Violence Campaign was a winner of six Addys Awards.

**Dr. Peter Racheotes**, a university professor for the past 28 years, is involved in the graduate training of both professional and public school counselors. A graduate of the University of Massachusetts, he has gained expertise in the area of health psychology emphasizing both the prevention of disease and the promotion of health. Currently, Dr. Racheotes works as a therapist and group facilitator in the Batterer's Intervention Program with Domestic Violence Prevention in Texarkana. His research interests are in the area of domestic violence, the judicial system responsibility, and the effects of violence and abuse on children, both cognitively and psychosocially.

**Dr. Elizabeth M. Rash** is an assistant professor in the College of Nursing at the University of Central Florida and a practicing family nurse practitioner. She has a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Central Florida, a master's degree in nursing in the area of family nurse practitioner from the University of Florida, and a doctoral degree in education with a concentration in health care from the University of Central Florida. Her areas of focus have been in wellness and health promotion, with an emphasis on patient empowerment. Her research has included perceptions of sexual offenders in primary health care.

**Dr. Melanie Shepard** is a professor of social work at the University of Minnesota Duluth. She has conducted and published numerous research studies primarily in the field of domestic violence, and co-edited the book *Coordinating Community Responses to Domestic Violence: Lessons From Duluth and Beyond*. Dr. Shepard has taught primarily graduate-level social work students for the past 25 years and has practiced social work in the fields of mental health, child welfare, and domestic violence.

**Dr. Mark A. Winton** is an instructor with the Department of Criminal Justice and Legal Studies at the University of Central Florida. He teaches in the graduate program and has developed courses on genocide, family violence, and mental illness and violence. He co-authored a textbook with Dr. Barbara A. Mara on child abuse and neglect. He has a doctorate in sociology from the University of Connecticut and is a licensed mental health counselor in the State of Florida and a national certified counselor.

**Dr. Qiang Xu** is an assistant professor in the Department of Criminal Justice at Indiana University—South Bend. He received his PhD from Bowling Green State University in 2006, with a major in criminology and deviance and a minor in statistics and quantitative methods. His teaching and research interests include criminological theories, quantitative research methods, comparative perspective of criminal justice systems, gender and race differences in crime, and the applications of geographic information systems (GIS).

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# Introduction

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*The War Against Domestic Violence* is an edited compilation of chapters concerning various aspects of domestic violence and responses of criminal and social justice systems. Included here are topics rarely found (and discussed) in previous texts. These chapters devote considerable attention toward the experiences and perspectives of criminal and social justice practitioners alongside researchers, child welfare workers, and other renowned scholars across disciplines. In the process, it offers a comprehensive interdisciplinary array of topics bound to stimulate the interest of a diverse audience. One of its major strengths lies in its ability to inform and promote a contemporary understanding of phenomena that are not only dynamic and complex, but also equally difficult to remedy. Overall, the variety in this volume will help readers to appreciate the overwhelming nature of domestic violence and to create strategies to combat its continued rise.

In a society seeking to understand the role of ethnic diversity, pluralism, and differences within and across cultures, nowhere is the need greater than in the area of domestic violence. Like cancer and other diseases that invade and destroy the human body, domestic violence does not discriminate among its victims. Transcending race, ethnicity, gender, culture, age, and social class, it can attack without warning, leaving a path of destruction that claims the lives of mostly women, sometimes men, and far too often innocent children. This reality has led many to conclude that anyone can become a victim of domestic violence. As such, it is incumbent on all of us to help wage a war against domestic violence. But even in doing so, there is disagreement regarding degrees of perceived vulnerability, appreciable harm, and similarity of risk factors among potential victims of different racial and ethnic persuasions. Who is at greater risk for intimate partner homicide? What are some differences in the dynamics of domestic violence between heterosexual, homosexual, lesbian, and transgendered populations? How do rates of domestic violence compare across racial and ethnic groups? Do certain ethnic groups share similar risk factors for domestic violence? What happens to police officers who victimize and physically abuse their partner? Are public defenders complicit in female victimization? Do prosecutors sacrifice and de-prioritize victim safety in the interest of a conviction? These questions occupy many of the chapters in this volume.

In Part I, “Domestic Violence Across and Within Cultures,” answers tend to emerge as readers are exposed to a variety of salient issues unique to certain racial/ethnic/cultural groups where they can draw their own conclusions.

In the opening chapter, “An Overview of Intimate Partner Violence Among Latinos,” Joanne Klevens suggests that intimate partner violence (IPV) and the likelihood of injury among Latinos are similar to those among others. Unlike some groups, however, much of the driving force behind IPV among Latinos is related to alcohol-drinking patterns and beliefs that approve of IPV. Closely related here is the role of strain, which is inextricably bound to immigration concerns and the process of acculturation. For Klevens, the confluence of language barriers, low levels of education, and income places Latinos at a special disadvantage for accessing and utilizing services. Therefore, strategies to correct and alleviate this problem call for culturally sensitive interventions—especially those that include a Spanish language component.

In Chapter 2 we find that the rate of domestic violence is reportedly higher within the African American community, as Tricia Bent-Goodley focuses on the dynamic interplay between victims and the criminal justice system. In “Domestic Violence in the African American Community: Moving Forward to End Abuse,” Bent-Goodley asserts there is still a great deal of resistance, distrust, and fear of reaching out to police for assistance. Past practices suggest that Black women have been stereotyped as too strong, not needing services, too loud, provoking their abusers, having big mouths, or not looking enough like a victim of abuse. Consequently, rather than looking to police for help, more and more victims lean on religious faith and community-based organizations that are, perhaps, better positioned to assist.

In Chapter 3, “Domestic Violence in Asian Cultures,” Xu and Anderson report that for various reasons, domestic violence within Asian communities is extremely underreported, which tends to blur our understanding of its complexity. Concerns about close family ties and harmony within the community may discourage Asian victims from disclosing. Explained in part by deeply rooted patriarchy, immigration issues, and communication barriers, the authors claim that Asian women are disproportionately victimized by domestic violence-related homicides. Unexpectedly, victims of such homicides comprise not only the abused but the children and relatives as well.

Chapter 4 segues into Indian country as Julie C. Abril discourses about “Domestic Violence Among Native Americans,” where tribal councils and restorative justice are themes reinforced throughout the chapter. Citing a recent report, Abril notes that American Indian and Alaska Native women had higher rates of rape, physical assault, and stalking than any other ethnic group. Individual levels of collective efficacy were significantly associated with reporting violent victimization. Moreover, Abril suggests that Indians who appear more unified in their cultural values are more likely to report

violent victimization experiences. Relying on qualitative methodologies—including personal interviews with victims—she reveals a belief in the phenomena of “evil and bad spirits,” thought to influence the use of violence within groups. Overall, here research reveals a lack of attachment to culture and substance abuse as primary precipitators of domestic violence among Native Americans.

Part I concludes with a look at domestic violence across continents as Okereke, Racheotes, and Kahler offer Chapter 5, “Domestic Violence in Sub-Saharan Africa.” These authors paint a colorful portrait of domestic violence as distinguished from that found in the United States. For instance, the conception of family violence differs, for in the African context, the family is quite inclusive (i.e., extended families, house maids, caregivers, babysitters, or anyone living in the same household). Traditional notions of male patriarchy abound within marital relationships where the subordination of women is underscored by the tradition of “bride price,” which reinforces the notion that a husband has purchased his wife, including her labor and sexuality. Five theoretical perspectives are used to explain domestic violence in Sub-Saharan Africa, including weak state status, patriarchy, bias-cultural, economic austerity, and a society in transition.

Having understood and appreciated some of the racial, ethnic, and cultural differences in domestic violence across and within cultures, Part II offers a unique and rarely seen glance into the correlates, causes, and contextual manifestations of domestic violence. Chapter 6 begins the odyssey as Winton and Rash contribute the appropriately titled “Physical Child Abuse, Neglect, and Domestic Violence: A Case Studies Approach.” Here, case studies are used to portray connections between physical child abuse, child neglect, and domestic violence. Also included is an assessment of epidemiological research that focuses on the distribution of conditions within a population or society to determine which groups are at greater risk. The authors found that mental disorders and witnessing parental violence were the two biggest risk factors for child abuse, neglect, and domestic violence. In the end, Winton and Rash join others to recommend that additional attention be paid to the role of corporal punishment, sibling abuse, and bullying by non-family members as antecedents to child fatalities (due to abuse or neglect). To that end, they suggest that an integrated perspective that links individual, family, and community approaches can greatly increase our understanding of domestic violence.

If you have ever wondered what happens after child abuse is detected, Chapter 7, “The Response of Child Welfare Agencies to Domestic Violence,” authored by Shepard and Farrell, provides invaluable insight. While many of the problems experienced by children in child welfare cases may be related to exposure to domestic violence, the authors suggest that child welfare agencies do not always screen for domestic violence. Therefore, this chapter



discusses ways to adequately screen for domestic violence. However, making a determination of child neglect—based on a “failure to protect”—should be done with extreme caution, as it can result in blaming the adult victim, and in some instances strengthen the abuser’s coercive control by giving credence to charges that the adult victim is an unfit parent. The authors endorse the Greenbook Project as a model program to promote a collaborative community approach for families experiencing child maltreatment and domestic violence.

Beyond issues of child abuse, neglect, and maltreatment, Chapter 8, “The Connection Between Domestic Violence and Homelessness,” reminds readers of the forgotten victims too often caught up in the collateral damage of violence. The evidence not only suggests that these two social problems are correlated, but that domestic violence is among the leading causes of homelessness for women. Charlene Baker cites myriad reasons for this phenomenon, including mental health consequences of repeat victimization, social isolation, failure of formal systems to provide services to help-seeking women, lack of coordination between domestic violence and homeless service systems, lack of affordable housing units, and poverty. The author also encourages a paradigm shift from current practices of compartmentalizing survivors into either women who are victims of domestic violence or those who are homeless. What is required, according to Baker, is the creation of a holistic approach that considers women’s simultaneous experiences in order to create a response that supports women as they seek safety and economic stability.

Chapter 9, co-authored by Josephine Kahler, Shirley Garick, and Godpower Okereke, is titled “The Relationship Between Substance Abuse and Domestic Violence.” The literature suggests that both victims and offenders turn to commonly used substances, such as alcohol, cocaine, cannabis, and other opiates, to cope with stressful situations. Using the sensitization hypothesis, it is noted that far too often, an occasional use escalates into drug abuse and dependency. While the authors are quick to point out that substance abuse does not cause domestic violence, it is nonetheless a significant correlate that impairs the ability to exercise good judgment. The chapter closes with a case study to portray the intersection between poor mental health and issues of co-dependency. Overall, the message is clear: Once you use it, you will soon abuse it—including loved ones in one’s immediate environment.

The final two chapters in Part II look at two very unique victims of domestic violence, both of whom have been relatively neglected by previous researchers. Chapter 10, Christopher Blackwell’s contribution, is titled “Domestic Violence in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Persons: Populations at Risk.” Alluding to the irony of a general lack of scholarly attention shown to domestic violence within the GLBT population, Blackwell