

**OCSWSSW**  
**Annual Meeting & Education Day**  
**2010**  
**Marking Milestones:**  
**Landmarks & Discovery**

Sue Gallagher RSW  
Waterloo Region Sexual Assault/Domestic  
Violence Treatment Centre  
sgallagher@smgh.ca

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Today...**

- Waterloo Region Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Treatment Centre
- Unique role for social work
  - Clinical response
  - Team model
  - Community model
  - Education and advocacy
- Discussion

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Who we are**

- One of 35 centres in Ontario
- Team of nurses, social workers & physicians
- On call 24/7 to respond to victims of domestic violence or sexual assault
- Also available office hours for consultation and counselling
- Offer training in the community, present to a variety of groups on issues of sexual and intimate partner violence

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Waterloo Region Sexual  
Assault/Domestic Violence  
Treatment Centre**

- Operate out of 2 local hospitals
- Based on feedback and input from women in our community
- Designed to decrease and/or eliminate barriers to service
- Barriers include...?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**SMGH**



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Sexual Assault Domestic Violence

- By definition – any unwanted contact of a sexual nature: fondling, kissing, forced intercourse
- We see men, women and children who have been sexually assaulted
- Intimate partner violence i.e., husband, boyfriend, ex-husband, ex-boyfriend, same sex relationships
- Abuse may be emotional, verbal, financial, physical
- All women 16 yrs and over screened at triage

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Sexual Assault Definition...

- Sexual assault is any form of unwanted sexual activity including fondling, touching, and/or penetration that is forced upon another person without that person's consent.
- Consent is an active choice and the voluntary agreement of two adults to engage in sexual activity. Someone who is under the influence of medication, drugs/alcohol is not in the position to give consent.
- Community Legal Education Ontario. (2001, July). Sex, young people and the law. Toronto, Ontario. <http://www.cleo.on.ca>.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Options for care...

- Crisis support
- Provide information
- Police involvement
- Preventative medication
- Forensic evidence collection
- Counselling



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Myths, misconceptions and psycho-education

- A lot of what we do is dispelling myths
  - What is sexual assault?
  - Who is sexually assaulted?
  - Who sexually assaults?
  - 'Myth of the hymen'
  - Cognitive work ~ responsibility

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Impact



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Public Education and Awareness

- Rethinking "prevention"
- Targeting high schools, colleges, universities
- Need to have 'champions'
- Focus on what is real and relevant...
- Frank video?



---

---

---

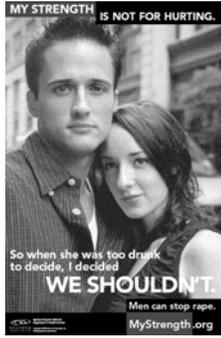
---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

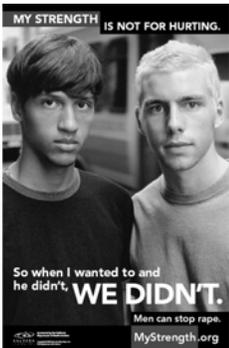
---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

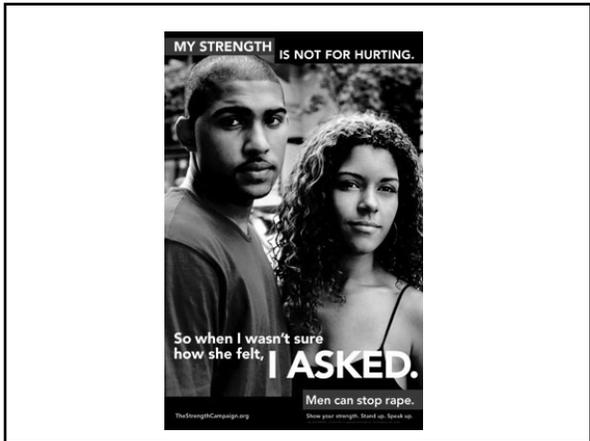
---

---

---

---

---




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is any use of physical or sexual force, actual or threatened, in an **intimate relationship**. Although both men and women can be victims of domestic violence, the overwhelming majority of this violence involves abusing women.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Descriptive Factors of all Domestic Violence Fatalities (2002-2007)

Category	Variable	Number of Cases	Percentage %
Gender of Victim	Female	152	92%
	Male	14	8%
Gender of Perpetrator	Female	14	8%
	Male	152	92%
Cause of Death for Victims	Stabbing	57	34%
	Shooting	34	21%
	Strangulation	28	17%
	Other	47	28%
Cause of Death for Perpetrators	Shooting	26	48%
	Other	28	52%
Location of Domestic Homicides	Residence	132	80%
	Other	34	20%

Annual Report of the Domestic Violence Death Review Committee - 2008

---

---

---

---

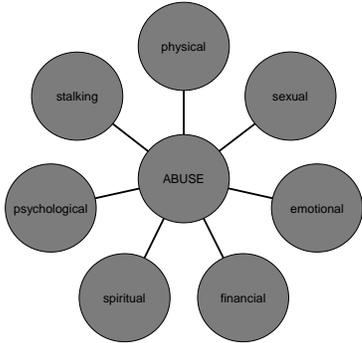
---

---

---

---

## Types of Violence and Control



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Options for care...

- Crisis support
- Provide information
- Police involvement
- Injury documentation
- Counselling



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Family Violence Project



400 Queen Street South, Kitchener

- SA/DV Treatment Centre
- Mosaic Counselling Services
- Mosaic Credit Counselling
- Community Action Program for Children
- Elder Abuse Response Team
- Community Care Access Centre
- Victim Services Unit
- Victim Services of Waterloo Region
- Women's Crisis Services of Waterloo Region
- WRPS Domestic Violence Investigation Unit
- Family and Children Services Domestic Violence Team
- DV Crown Attorney's Office

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Barriers to leaving

- Fear of more violence
- Shame/humiliation
- Believes she's partly to blame
- Hope that he will change
- Fear of losing children
- Family pressures
- Religious beliefs/pressures
- Isolation
- Immigration issues
- Loss of social status
- Immobilized by psychological trauma
- Belief that marriage is until death
- Financial controls
- Unaware of laws

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Common Risk Factors from DVDRC Review

Risk Factors	2008		2003-2008	
	N (n=15)	Percentage	n (n=77)	Percentage
Actual or pending separation	13	87%	62	81%
History of domestic violence	14	93%	61	79%
Obsessive behaviour displayed by perpetrator	9	60%	48	62%
Perpetrator depressed in the opinions of professionals (e.g., physician, counsellor) and/or non-professionals (e.g., family, friends, etc)	6	40%	45	58%

Annual Report of the Domestic Violence Death Review Committee - 2008

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Importance for social workers and social service workers

- Impacts all areas of practice
- Awareness of the issue is key
- Risk always a consideration
- Huge systemic costs
- Often not identified by victims
  - behaviour must be labeled
  - those from healthy families

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Public Education and Awareness

- Clear, specific, relevant
- Rethinking language
- Targeting youth
- Educating community partners
- Seamless approach
- We all need to know

■ *“In reality, to remain neutral is to collude with the abusive man, whether or not that is your goal.”*

Lundy Bancroft

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Intervention with youth...

- **Only half of all kids 11-14** claim to know the warning signs of a bad/hurtful relationship
- **2 in 5 kids 11-14** in relationships know friends who have been verbally abused -called names, put down, or insulted - via cell phone, MSN, Facebook, etc
- **More than 1 in 3 teens** report that their partners wanted to know where they were and who they were with **all** the time
- **Among teens who** took a course on dating abuse, 75% say it helped them learn about the signs of abusive relationships

[www.loveisnotabuse.com](http://www.loveisnotabuse.com)

---

---

---

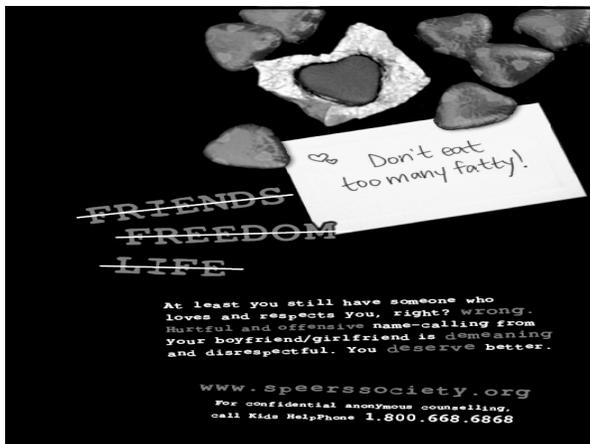
---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

~~FRIENDS~~  
~~FREEDOM~~  
~~LIFE~~



At least you still have someone who loves and respects you, right? wrong. Control over your time, activities and who you hang out with, limits your freedom and isolates you. You deserve better.

[www.speerssociety.org](http://www.speerssociety.org)  
For confidential anonymous counselling, call Kids HelpPhone 1.800.668.6868

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

~~FRIENDS~~  
~~FREEDOM~~  
~~LIFE~~



At least you still have someone who loves and respects you, right? wrong. Rude and humiliating "put-downs" from your boyfriend/girlfriend disrespect you and degrade your relationship. You deserve better.

[www.speerssociety.org](http://www.speerssociety.org)  
For confidential anonymous counselling, call Kids HelpPhone 1.800.668.6868

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

~~FRIENDS~~  
~~FREEDOM~~  
~~LIFE~~



At least you still have someone who loves and respects you, right? wrong. Excessive calling or "checking up" from your boyfriend/girlfriend only isolates and controls you. You deserve better.

[www.speerssociety.org](http://www.speerssociety.org)  
For confidential anonymous counselling, call Kids HelpPhone 1.800.668.6868

---

---

---

---

---

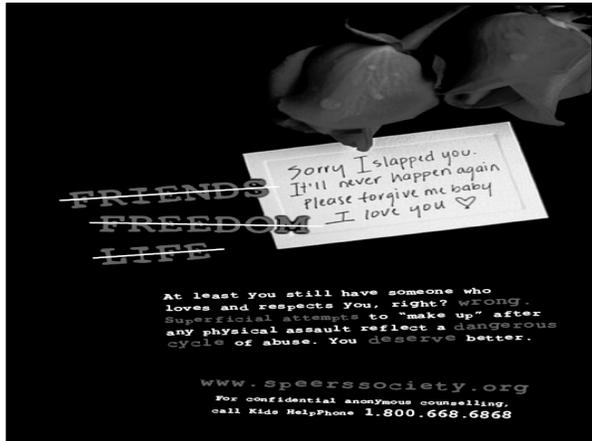
---

---

---

---

---




---

---

---

---

---

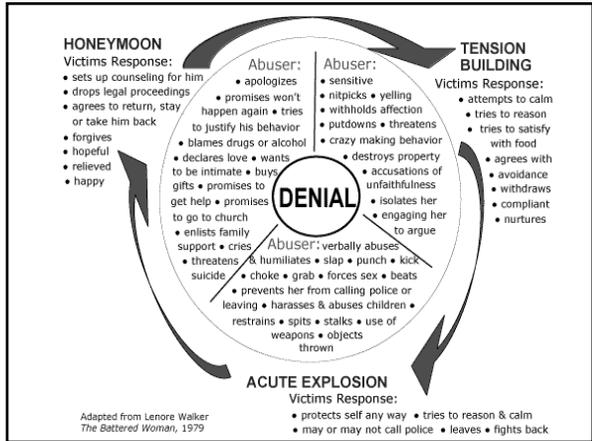
---

---

---

---

---




---

---

---

---

---

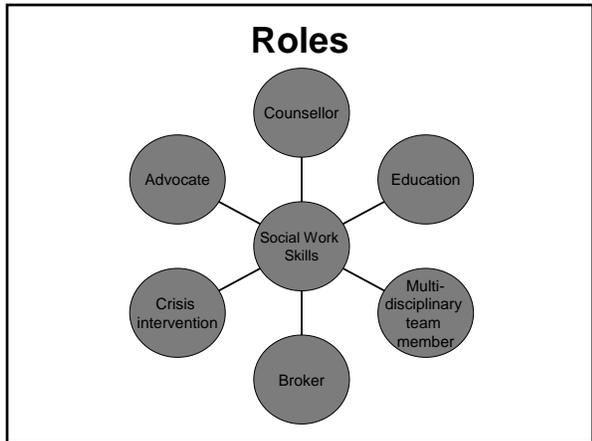
---

---

---

---

---




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Web Sites

- [www.keepingssafe.ca](http://www.keepingssafe.ca)
- [www.neighboursfriendsandfamilies.on.ca](http://www.neighboursfriendsandfamilies.on.ca)
- [www.fvpwaterloo.ca](http://www.fvpwaterloo.ca)
- [www.sexualityandu.ca](http://www.sexualityandu.ca)
- [www.scarleteen.com](http://www.scarleteen.com)
- [www.rfsu.se/Bildbank/Dokument/Praktikor/praktika-Vaginal\\_corona2009.pdf?epslanguage=en](http://www.rfsu.se/Bildbank/Dokument/Praktikor/praktika-Vaginal_corona2009.pdf?epslanguage=en)
- [www.mystrength.org](http://www.mystrength.org)
- [www.metrac.org](http://www.metrac.org)
- [www.owjn.org](http://www.owjn.org)
- [www.sacc.to](http://www.sacc.to)
- [www.ontla.on.ca/library/repository/ser/243013//2009.pdf](http://www.ontla.on.ca/library/repository/ser/243013//2009.pdf)
- [www.mindyourmind.ca](http://www.mindyourmind.ca)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## QUESTIONS?

[sgallagher@smgh.ca](mailto:sgallagher@smgh.ca)



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---