

Establishing International Knowledge Networking Against Domestic Violence
---- Review Report on 9th International Conference on Family Violence

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Many Thanks For Ford Foundation

The 9th International conference on Family Violence—Advocacy, Assessment, Intervention, Research, Prevention and Policy took place in San Diego, the United State from 19th to 22th, September 2004. I was involved into this conference as a researcher from CASS and a website manager of Domestic Violence Network. This report will introduce and review this conference from 4 aspects: (1) Background; (2) Gains from conference; (3) China participation; (4) Summary and proposals.

1. Background

The 9th International Conference on Family Violence focus on the domestic violence, elder abuse, child maltreatment, youth violence, sexual assault and trauma, co-hosted by Family violence & Sexual Assault Institute (FVSAI), Children's Institute Incorporated, and Alliant International University (AIU).

1.1 FVSAI

The FVSAI is a nonprofit international training and resource center. For me, **its activities are more like organizing a knowledge network on domestic violence.**

The FVSAI was founded in 1984 by Robert Geffner, Ph.D., was established to address the need for a national resource and training center that focused directly and specifically on family violence issues. In 1991, FVSAI became a nonprofit 501c3 organization. FVSAI re-located to the west campus of the California School of Professional Psychology, Alliant International University, based in San Diego, CA, in 1999. The mission of FVSAI is to improve the quality of life for individuals on an international level by sharing and disseminating vital information, improving networking among professionals, and assisting with program evaluation, consultation, and training that promote violence-free living. FVSAI has been providing training, education, consultation, publications, and resource materials for over 20 years.

1.2 About annual international conference

Each year, the FVSAI has hosted the International Conference on Family Violence in San Diego, CA, since 2000 (5th international conference). Before 2000, the four annual conferences are:

May 8, 1992—First Annual Conference:” Violence in Our Community: It’s time for a change!” Tyler, TX;

Apr. 1993—2nd Annual Violence in our Community Conference, Tyler, TX;
Apr. 1994—3rd Annual Violence in Our Community Conference: Violence: The Problem, The Cause, The Cure, Tyler, TX;
Oct. 21, 1998—4th International Conference: Children Exposed to Family Violence, held in San Diego, CA, where it remains.

The conference covers all aspects of family violence prevention, intervention, and research as well as child maltreatment, teen abuse and youth violence, judicial issues, sexual assault, law enforcement, disabilities, treatment of offenders, intimate partner violence, elder abuse, trauma and more in a broad sense, not only domestic violence against women. The goal of the annual International Conference is to coordinate efforts, bridge gaps, and comprehensively examine strategies that prevent family violence by bringing together national leaders, as well as those working on the front lines with children, adult victims, and offenders. The International Conference on Family Violence draws professional, advocates, researchers, policy makers, and others from major organizations, foundations, educational institutions, government, universities, clinics, agencies and shelters. The conference is unique in its cost effectiveness, the large number of networking opportunities, and the large number of collaborating organizations (over 100 each year).

1.3 About 2004 conference

The special theme this year is “Dynamics of Change”, for celebrating FVSAI’ 20th anniversary (founded September 1984) with a special historical track and presentations. Pioneers in each field will participate in sessions and panel discussions concerning a reflective look back over the last 20 years, where we are today, and directions for the future. Pioneers include advocates, researchers, practitioners, and policy makers. The conference collaborating organization, exhibitors, presenters, and participants bring with them many different experiences, ideas, theories, programs, and techniques. The vision of sponsors is to bring people and communities together to make a significant positive impact on eliminating family violence, child/teen/elder maltreatment and sexual assault.

Totally 159 workshops or panels were conducted by this conference besides opening conference, closing conference and mid-conference. Above 1000 attendees involved this event. They are: social workers, advocates, psychologists, physicians, judges, attorneys, researchers, policy makers, nurses, teachers, counselors, marriage & family therapists, substance abuse counselors, clergy, crisis center workers, shelter workers, health care providers, law enforcement personnel, probation officers, educators, survivors, volunteers, administrators, and many others. Above 400 speakers, including 5 Chinese speakers from Domestic Violence Network based on Beijing, presented their researches, programs and experience on this conference.

2. Gains from conference

2.1 The broadest definition and specialization of family violence

I have worked for three years for Domestic Violence as a manager of www.stopdv.org.cn, and have focused on the domestic violence against women. But, more and more, I have found that the domestic violence against women should be discussed in the wide range and should include violence against children at least. This conference provided a chance to rethink domestic violence issue in all areas of family violence, child maltreatment, and sexual assault in the broadest of definitions.

I have conducted a statistics analysis on the issues from the 159 workshops as Table 1.

Table 1 Frequency on the issues of 159 workshops (multiple choices)

	N	Sum	Percent
Child abuse, and Child maltreatment	159	29	18%
Clinical	159	28	18%
Legal, Laws & policies, Law enforcement	159	23	14%
Victims/survivors	159	23	14%
Trauma	159	23	14%
Advocacy	159	18	11%
Sexual assault, sexual crime or sexual abuse	159	18	11%
Intervention	159	17	11%
DV offenders	159	17	11%
Prevention	159	15	9%
Healthcare	159	13	8%
Child custody	159	13	8%
Children exposure in family violence	159	12	8%
Youth violence, rape violence, dating violence	159	11	7%
Multicultural	159	11	7%
Research	159	10	6%
Elder abuse	159	9	6%
Youth offenders	159	5	3%
Others (gay or lesbian violence; violence against disability, or ethic)	159	8	5%

Table 1 shows that child abuse/maltreatment is most issue in these workshops. If we incorporate child abuse, child custody, children exposure, youth violence, and young offenders into one “child issue”, it is about 44% and has become a

most important issue on the conference.

Besides “child issue”, elder abuse, violence against disability, gay or lesbian violence, men victims and other violence are also discussed on this conference. Family violence also includes trafficking of women and girls into the U.S. One panel discussed this issue from a human rights perspective, with respect to violence against women socially and globally, including root causes, scope and dimensions of modern-day slavery. They said that when implemented at home, these rights have the power to preclude violence as a personal behavior choice. But, human rights are predicated on equality and the intrinsic dignity and worth of all human persons.

Although most family violence is against women, the conference didn't ignore other violence. Any violence is illegal and against human rights, and any violence actually intensifies unequal power controlling relationship in our society. We have seen that most violence based on gender is very related to social structure, social resource and social culture. The essence of Violence culture is unequal power controlling relationship. We must break this relationship if we want to eliminate the violence against women.

This conference highlighted the sexual violence issue. Totally about 14% of presentation is related to this topic, including sexual assault, sexual crime or sexual abuse and young offenders. According to Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape, “sexual violence breaks a person's trust and feeling of safety. It occurs anytime a person is forced, coerced, and/or manipulated into any unwanted sexual activity. The continuum of sexual violence includes rape, incest, child sexual assault, ritual abuse, date and acquaintance rape, statutory rape, marital or partner rape, sexual exploitation, sexual contact, sexual harassment, exposure, and voyeurism”. In the U.S, sexual violence can happen to anyone—regardless of gender, race, age, socio-economic status, or religion. It is estimated that 1 in 3 women and 1 in 6 men will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime. Most workshops of sexual violence focused on the Intervention, measuring child abuse, healthcare (forensic evidence collection), clinical (treating children with sexual behavior problems), and young offenders (working with juvenile sex offenders in the community, sex offender risk assessment tools).

It is very important that we explore the similarities and differences of different family violence in Chinese context. This exploration will help us to find root cause of domestic violence and the most effective intervention and prevention methods.

In this conference, it is not difficult to find that the intervention and prevention of domestic violence has become some very professional fields. For

intervention, there are many discussions on advanced clinical, legal and law enforcement, law and policies, divorce and DV, victims/survivors, trauma, DV offenders, healthcare, multicultural and advanced researches. For example, about 23 workshops explored the victims/survivors issue, including adult women, children, migrant women, disable women and elder victims. Even one workshop topic is only about fair housing for battered women. This workshop pointed out that many women lose or are barred from renting housing because they have been victims of domestic violence, and this denial of housing severely compromises battered women's safety. Legal and advocacy should challenge this kind of housing discrimination. For victims, the psychology consultation, family therapy, peer support, law enforcement, trauma model and other practical techniques were introduced, discussed and reviewed in this conference. That is why so many professionals were involved into this conference, such as: psychologists, physicians, judges, attorneys, nurses, counselors, marriage & family therapists, crisis center workers, shelter workers, health care providers, law enforcement personnel, social workers and administrators. It is obvious that there have been not so many professionals involving into intervention of domestic violence in China.

2.2 Violence against children

As I mentioned above, about 44% workshops discussed family violence against children, including child abuse, child maltreatment, child custody, children exposure in family violence, youth violence, young offenders and others. I noticed that dating violence, children exposure in violence, and bullying in school are identified as family violence. It is also very related to prevention of family violence, because educating young boys and girls say no for violence can help them to eliminate violence in their future lives and our society. I would like to highlight five topics in the conference: child abuse/maltreatment, children exposure in violence, dating violence, bullying, and prevention.

2.21 child abuse/maltreatment

Unlike China, child abuse in family is identified as crime, domestic violence against children, and issue of the rights of the child. Child abuse/maltreatment is also taken as trauma, it means that any child who was abused need psychological therapy. Comparatively, most Chinese people think that parent beating their children is usually an educational method, and battered children needn't healing process. In this conference, many workshops discussed the clinical and healing methods, such as utilizing drawings or arts to heal traumatized children. Usually, battered children do not have words to describe the intense affect they experience as a result of chronic traumatization. However, they can easily unveil unconsciously what they have experienced through art without abreacting the traumatic memories. Therefore, traumatized children can safely process their experiences and recover using a vehicle that

is expressive and symbolic. In addition, rebuilding trust with traumatized children, child custody and other important issues were discussed on the conference.

2.22 children exposure in violence

According to this conference, each year in the United States more than five million children are exposed to some form of traumatic stress. Three to four million American households experience parental physical conflict every year. An estimated 3.3 million children in the United States, between the ages of three and 17, have been exposed to at least one violent incident between their parents. Exposure to a violent event is most commonly defined as being within visual range of the violence and seeing it occur. Hearing the violence or seeing the effects afterwards is also considered exposure. This area of vicarious victimization has gained increased attention because so many young children are exposed to violent acts within their own households. Children in violent households are at increased risk of physical abuse and often experience heightened levels of depression, anxiety and aggression such as:

- Anxiety about being hurt or killed
- Fighting with others
- Temper Tantrums
- Suicide attempts
- Substance abuse
- Eating disorders
- Bed-wetting or regression to earlier developmental states
- Over achieving
- Medical problems like Asthma, arthritis, ulcers, headaches, and/or stomachs
- Sleeplessness, nightmares, fear of the dark
- Stealing or other juvenile crimes.
- Identification with the aggressor
- Withdrawal from other people and activities
- Denial of any problem¹

One of the studies presented in the conference indicated that there is a strong relationship between childhood exposure to domestic violence and the development of PTSD (posttraumatic stress disorder) symptoms in adulthood. Childhood exposure to domestic violence definitely had a negative long-term impact on an adult. Besides the risk of observing traumatic events, some studies also showed that children in violent homes face another two risks: the risk of being abused themselves, and the risk of being neglected. Therefore,

¹ Effects of Domestic Violence on Children,

children exposure to domestic violence should be handled with the same urgency as sexual abuse, physical abuse, and neglect. I have read a poem from U.S National Domestic Hotline (http://pages.ivillage.com/debi_1111/) : "My father did not tell me how to live. He lived and let me watch him do it". This poem has presented the importance of intervention for children exposure to domestic violence.

In this conference, I took part in the workshop " Restorative parenting: parent-child relationships in the shadow of DV", presented by David Mathews, director of Therapy Domestic Abuse Project. When violence happens in a family an unspoken contract at the heart of the child/parents relationship is broken. David Mathews presented a structured process for assisting parents to heal their relationship with their child after family violence. He also introduced "Restorative Parenting: A Group Facilitation Curriculum Activities". It is very detailed and practical curriculum including "the effects of trauma, loss and transition on my children", "letters to my children", "father messages", "on the restoration journey", "taking care of myself", "approaching my child from new space", "developing a new communication style", "a father's restorative process", "self-care plan", " my experience as a child", "how my child sees me" and others.

I noticed that several states in the U.S have broadened their definitions of child maltreatment to include children's exposure to domestic violence. In 1998, Alaska amended the definition of "child maltreatment" in its child protection statutes to include, among other things, exposure to conduct by a household member against another household member that constitutes homicide, assault or sexual assault. Three other states-Delaware, Georgia and Utah-define domestic violence in the presence of a child as a form of criminal child maltreatment but have not amended their child abuse reporting statutes to require reporting of such crimes². Though this broadened definition aroused some arguments, it has displayed the ponderance of children exposure to domestic violence and the efforts of child protection by our society.

2.23 dating violence/young violence

Most participants believe that violence is a learned behavior in socialization, and is a means of controlling victims through hurting them physically, sexually, psychologically and economically. Today's youth are faced with such challenges as acculturation, poverty, gangs, domestic violence and school bullying. They have so many chances to learn violence from mass media, domestic violence, school bullying, community violence, local culture, and other channels. Consequently, programs for interdiction and intervention of

² NCSL State Legislative Report--Analysis of State Actions on Important Issues: Children's Exposure to Domestic Violence: Is It Child Abuse? By Steve Christian, <http://www.ncsl.org/programs/cyf/slr271.htm>.

young people learning violence have become an important issue more and more.

In this conference, I joined a workshop “Teen Dating Violence in Incarcerated Male Youth: Evaluating a Pilot Intervention”, which was presented by Annie Windrem from San Diego County Office of Violence Prevention, Audrey Hokoda, Natalie Stewart, Laura Whyte, Shayla Green and Zenia Palmeno from San Diego State University. They conducted a survey for examining the prevalence of teen dating violence in incarcerated male youth (aged 14-17 years), and also worked with these young people in a pilot intervention programs run by the County of San Diego, Office of Violence Prevention at two youth facilities.

The young researchers used Social Learning Theory to explain the relationship between family violence and violence in youth (Wolfe & Foshee, 2003), also an Information Processing Model by Huesmann (1988) (when children are repeatedly exposed to family violence, they adopt aggressive “scripts”) was adopted into this program. On this basis, they established an expanding model: “Family Violence--interpersonal cognitive mediators and teen dating violence”, which is that exposure to family violence (parental abuse, interadult violence and sibling aggression) will induce to Increased Risk of Violence Offending and Increased Risk of Teen Dating Violence through Interpersonal mediators (justification for violence, acceptance of violence beliefs and patriarchal beliefs).

140 male youths incarcerated in a juvenile detention facility in San Diego County were assessed in this survey by four scales including the Justification of Violence Scale (JVS) (Margolin & Foo, 1992), the Acceptance of Couple Violence (Foshee, Fothergill & Stuart, 1992), the Attitudes Toward Women (Dahlberg, Toal & Behrens, 1998), and the Conflict in Adolescent Dating Relationships Inventory (CADRI) (Wolfe et al., 2001). These scales contained five kinds of violence: physical abuse, threatening behaviors, sexual abuse, verbal-emotional abuse and relational aggression. The study found that more perpetration of psychological/ emotional abuse than male youth recruited from regular high schools; higher engagement in threats of dating violence than male youth recruited from regular high schools; more physical abuse than male youth recruited from regular high schools; more sexual abuse than male youth recruited from regular high schools; and more justification for dating violence when humiliated than male college students. The pilot intervention workshop was conducted after first assessment. The researchers trained young offenders through participatory activities. Afterwards, the second assessment was conducted. The researchers found that the mean attitudes towards the acceptance of violence decreased from pre-intervention to post-intervention; patriarchal attitudes towards women decreased from

pre-intervention to post-intervention; and Justification for male-perpetrated violence decreased from pre-intervention to post-intervention. This program was recommended as a successful example.

2.24 bullying

Almost first time, I have heard the word “bullying”. Bullying is a serious prevalent problem. In the U.S, 15%~20% of all students encounter bullying during their school years according to some studies³. The direct bullying or overt victimization involves physical violence such as kicking, punching, and fighting⁴. The indirect bullying, or relational aggression includes gossiping, breaking confidences, and excluding people from social gatherings⁵. The indirect bullying is a kind of social manipulation and is as harmful as direct bullying. There are many negative psychological effects associated with indirect bullying (e.g. anxiety, loss of self-esteem, depression). In this conference, some workshops deal with the direct bullying and indirect bullying issues. But any person can find that discussion on the indirect bullying was much less than direct bullying.

Some workshops introduced the programs about bullying. One of programs is a training program for prevention by Oklahoma State Department of Health. By year three, this program had trained 6000 faculties, and developed a Train the Trainer session, documenting significant improvement in participants' knowledge and perception. Another program is anti-bullying program for schools and peer abuse prevention program by Holly Pedersen and Victoria Simon presented. This program provided the definition of bullying, research on the effects of bullying, characteristics of bullies and victims, and a description of an innovative program that targets bullying and student conflicts through teacher/staff training and student involvement. Some social workers also promote the intervention program into community. They found that regular attendance at a community-based youth organization could reduce youth violence.

2.25 prevention

Many different prevention programs have been developed for teen and young children. The ACT (adults and children together) against violence training program sponsored by the American psychological association (APA) in collaboration with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) aimed at preventing violence in early childhood. The program focuses on the influential adults in young children's lives- parents and other caregivers- and emphasizes the role of adults and communities in preventing

³ Batsche, G.M., & Knoff, H.M. (1994). Bullies and their victims: Understanding a pervasive problem in the schools. *School psychology Review*, 23, 165-175.

⁴ Crick, N.R., & Grotpeter, J.K. (1995). Relational aggression, gender and social-psychological adjustment. *Child Development*, 66, 710-722.

⁵ Crick, N.R., & Grotpeter, J.K. (1995). Relational aggression, gender and social-psychological adjustment. *Child Development*, 66, 710-722.

violence. The program goals are to make early violence prevention part of the community's efforts to prevent violence and to educate adults. The objective is to train professionals to work with others in the communities to disseminate the ACT program message, knowledge and skills on early violence prevention. Another program is very practical program for child sexual abuse prevention through "It's My Body!", a comprehensive personal safety curriculum designed to teach children to recognize, resist and report sexual violence. In some programs for young children, puppets, songs, skits, or children literature were adopted to discuss child abuse, make children learn to recognize potentially abusive touch, identify feelings engendered by the encounter, and have the vocabulary to describe the abuse.

I am glad to have a chance to take part in the workshop "It takes a village: preventing child abuse through promoting social capital", by Amy L. Shadoin, Ph.D., Mary K. Laska, Ph.D., & Melissa Evans, B.S. from the National Children's Advocacy Center. They bring forward the Full-Service Philosophy -- Children dwell within the circle of family; families and schools reside within the larger circle of community. It brings family, school, and community systems together into Full-Circle Schools. Full-Circle Schools promote the goal of educational excellence by integrating the entire community into a circle of support for students and their families. A Full-Service Schools model called The Circle Project is designed to build social capital and thereby reduce social vulnerability.

Full-Service Schools serve as a central point of delivery for services that local communities determine are relevant to support a child's success in school and in the community. Full-Service Schools offer a customized array of services including: emergency assistance; assistance with food, clothing, utilities, transportation and other basic needs; financial and insurance assistance; childcare and kinship care assistance; assistance and referrals for medical, dental and vision care; assistance and referrals for mental health care; assistance and referrals for substance abuse treatment; parenting education and workshops, tutoring in academic subjects; child and new parent mentoring; support groups for children with deployed military parents, and home visiting services for at-risk families and children. This program reminds us that we may need to change our system for children protection.

2.3. Advocacy

In my factor analysis on conference issues, the prevention (.887) and advocacy (.891) formed a common factor among 21 factors (Cumulative rate: 67.183%). That means that advocacy is mainly used as prevention method. Because my major is media study, I am very interested in advocacy issue. Here is introduction on media workshops, video sessions and conference art displays as advocacy.

2.31 about mass media

There were two workshops related to mass media. One workshop “Capturing public denial about pedophilia and abuse: an expose of misinformation in the media” explores how an award winning documentary distorted facts about the prosecution of a publicized case of sex abuse, relied on myths about sexual abuse to support its skepticism about the guilt of two confessed child molesters, and was used to lead to campaign to overturn a conviction. The first presenter analyzes the myths upon which the film relied. The second presenter describes information omitted from the film that the director has access to. The final presenter draws upon a variety of sources including the popular media, empirical research and publications targeted toward pedophiles to show how efforts to market pedophilia have resulted in raising the tolerance for this crime in our society. Another workshop named “Media Coverage of Sex Crimes and Family Violence Case”, it was organized by three advocates (Wendy Murphy, Toby Kleinman, and Ruth Busch) from the New Zealand. They analyzed how the media portrays sex crime cases in New Zealand to legitimize the view that the victim may have provoked her death by her actions, or that the murder was somehow “understandable” in the circumstances of the separations that were occurring is also presented. Suggestions for using media to obtain positive results in reducing DV and sexual assault are also given in this workshop. Ruth Busch said that “ Monitor! Monitor! Monitor! Keep monitor program” is an effective intervention method. Wendy Murphy listed five methods for NGO’s advocacy: reframe the questions; complain; letters to editors; meet with the editorial board; and make your own news.

2.32 Video Sessions

Totally 24 videos were presented at this conference. Some NGOs produced these videos to be used for training practitioners working with victims or abusers or volunteers to help them gain a better understanding of the issues related to family violence. Also video is a means of intervention, prevention and advocacy.

2.33 Silent Witness Project

When we entered into the meeting places, we could see some red wooden models. These female art silhouettes that displayed at the conference represent the women who have died at the hands of domestic violence perpetrators.

The Silent Witness Project is a traveling memorial honoring the 26 women who were murdered in Minnesota in 1990 in acts of domestic violence. The exhibit is made of 26 life-size wooden figures, each of the figures bears a name and the story of that particular woman's death. The figures were painted fire-engine

red-- no features, just the flat outline of women's bodies, simple as paper-dolls. The genius of the Witnesses' design is the fact that they take up space. It's been said that this is art's function, "to make the invisible visible." The exhibit was conceived and produced by Arts Action Against Domestic Violence -- in collaboration with women's organizations in Minnesota. In October, 1998, the first Silent Witness National March was held in Washington D.C. with participants representing Silent Witness projects in all 50 states and the island of Guam. The Silent Witness National Initiative has set a goal of zero deaths from domestic violence by 2010 and is coordinating efforts all across the country to reach that goal. At this conference, Women's Resource Center provided the silent witness exhibits.

2.34 Clothesline Project (CLP)

Another conference art display is Clothesline Project (CLP). The Clothesline Project is a nation-wide grassroots movement which bears witness to the violence that people experience. Each of these shirts has been made for a specific individual (victim/survivor). At this conference, some T-shirts for children who were killed were presented on two whiteboards.

The CLP originated from a statistics. According to the Men's Rape Prevention Project in Washington DC, 58,000 soldiers died in the Vietnam War. During that same period of time, 51,000 women were killed mostly by men who supposedly loved them. In the summer of 1990, that statistic became the catalyst for a coalition of women's groups in Massachusetts to consciously develop a program that would educate, break the silence and bear witness to one issue - violence against women. They wanted to find a unique way to take staggering, mind-numbing statistics and turn them into a provocative, "in-your-face" educational and healing tool.

One of the women, visual artist Rachel Carey-Harper, moved by the power of the AIDS quilt, presented the concept of using shirts - hanging on a clothesline - as the vehicle for raising awareness about this issue. The idea of using a clothesline was a natural. Doing the laundry was always considered women's work and in the days of close-knit neighborhoods women often exchanged information over backyard fences while hanging their clothes out to dry. The concept was simple - let each woman tell her story in her own unique way, using words and/or artwork to decorate her shirt. Once finished, she would then hang her shirt on the clothesline. This very action serves many purposes. It acts as an educational tool for those who come to view the Clothesline; it becomes a healing tool for anyone who make a shirt - by hanging the shirt on the line, survivors, friends and family can literally turn their back on some of that pain of their experience and walk away; finally it allows those who are still suffering in silence to understand that they are not alone.

In this CLP, survivor is defined as a woman who has survived intimate personal violence such as rape, battering, incest, child sexual abuse, and victim is a woman who has died at the hands of her abuser. The Clothesline Project honors women survivors as well as victims of intimate violence. Any woman who has experienced such violence, at any time in her life, is encouraged to come forward and design a shirt. Victim's families and friends are also invited to participate.

October of 1990 saw the original Clothesline Project with 31 shirts displayed on a village green in Hyannis, Massachusetts as part of an annual "Take Back the Night" March and Rally. Throughout the day, women came forward to create shirts and the line kept growing. At the moment it is estimated that there are 500 projects nationally and internationally with an estimated 50,000 to 60,000 shirts. The CLP has spread their movement in 41 states and 5 countries. This ever-expanding grassroots network is as far-flung as Tanzania and as close as Orleans, Massachusetts.

2.35 A Window Between Worlds

A Window Between Worlds (AWBW) is a non-profit organization dedicated to using art to help end domestic violence. For over ten years, AWWB has provided art expression as a recovery tool for battered women and children in the shelter setting. Through creative expression, battered women and children recover a sense of renewal and power. Their images of hope, survival and strength educate the public and become "a window between worlds" for survivors taking steps to change their lives.

AWBW was founded in 1991 when Los Angeles artist Cathy Salser conducted a national tour, bringing creative art workshops and training to more than 450 residents and 60 staff in 32 battered women's shelters and resource centers in 18 states from California to Massachusetts. Upon returning home to Los Angeles, she began a pilot program with Sojourn Services in West Los Angeles, training shelter staff and volunteers as art facilitators to use art as a healing tool. In 1993, AWWB's second national tour was supported by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence and brought over 100 workshops, exhibits and trainings to many shelters and their communities. In October 1994, the AWWB art exhibit was displayed in the Senate Building Rotunda in Washington, D.C. to launch Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

During 1996, AWWB was asked by the Los Angeles Domestic Violence Council to create an art program for the children in the county's domestic violence shelters. The Children's Windows Program assists these Children in finding a sense of safety, power, and hope through painting, drawing, sculpting and writing. Children from violent homes are often the "unseen victims," without the words to express their feelings about having witnessed or

experienced violence. While in a shelter, they have opportunities to work through their trauma and increase their self-esteem. Art projects stimulate their creativity and accelerate the healing process. Through this program, the art process intervenes in the cycle of domestic violence by offering the young survivors a safe way to express and release their emotions of pain and confusion. The successful launch of the Children's Windows Art Program brought art workshops to 17 shelters and reached a total of 1,406 children during its first year. During 1998, the Children's Windows Program reached over 2,800 children at 24 shelters. In the same year, the Women's Windows Program at 18 shelters served an average of 200 women per month, totaling 2,400 women. Since 1991, over 16,800 women and 24,000 children have benefited by processing their feelings through the creative arts in over 50 shelters across the country. Currently, both the Women's and Children's Windows Programs are available for any domestic violence shelter or other agency wishing to implement them. In addition, AWBW offers a range of art exhibitions for agencies to use as a part of their community outreach activities.

2.36 Lifetime Television for Women Posters

Lifetime Entertainment Services is dedicated to offering the highest quality entertainment and information programming and advocating a wide range of issues affecting women and their families. Lifetime Television is the cable network in primetime and the leader in women's television. It serves over 85 million households nationwide, and is available on more than 11,000 cable systems and alternative delivery systems. Lifetime Television has worked for years to stop violence against women and girls. At this conference, Lifetime Television joined advocacy by providing women posters. With their exhibit, "Speak with us", they paid tribute to these leaders and activists who have broken the silence to educate on violence against women and demand that action be taken. On these posters, these leaders and activists said,

"When more people speak out against domestic abuse, reach out to help victims, and teach the next generation of boys that violence against women is always wrong, our entire society will be stronger."

– Esta Soler, Executive Director of Family Violence Prevention Fund

"Domestic violence feeds on silence. Your voice can save her life!"

---Rita Smith, Executive Director, National Coalition Against Domestic Violence

"Rape and domestic violence were kept quiet for years. When women started telling their stories, the shame began to lift and justice was finally within reach. Women and men need to speak out. Violence depends on silence."

---- Kim Grandy, President, NOW

"I speak out about my experience with rape to give a random act of violence a

purpose. I discovered that I'm able to make a difference in other people's lives and that I'm able to give people hope, encouragement, and courage."

---- Kellie Greene, Founder/Director, SOAR

"If we don't start to believe that violence can end, then it won't."

---- Eve Ensler, Playwright and founder of V-day

The Advocacy is not only a slogan or poster from up to below. The successful advocacy I saw at this conference is a creative work rooted in survivors needs from below. Also it is taken as an empowering means for women and children.

3. China Participation

In the conference, we five members from Network for Combating Domestic Violence of China Law Society organized and conducted a Workshop "Understanding and Intervention in Domestic Violence in China" On 22 September. This workshop included five speakers: Zhu Xiaoqing, "Introduction on Network for Combating Domestic Violence", Tu Lijuan, "Approach of Oral Accounts of Battered Women to Domestic Violence", Tian Xiaomei, "The Efforts of Rural Sub-project", Bu Wei, "Advocacy for Stopping Domestic Violence against Women – the NGO Network Communication Strategy in China", and Xue Ninglan, "The First NGO's Draft Proposal of Law on Domestic Violence in China". We tried to presented more works done by the Network since 2001 from survivors' perspectives to legislation.

Totally 18 persons joined the China Workshop. After presentation, they brought forward some questions such as:

"Is there any law for abusers? What kind of punishment they should inflict on them?"

"Where do survivors if they face threaten situation?"

"Is there any injunctive in China for male abusers? When violence happens, is there law to help women stay at their homes and force men leave for another place? "

"How many women inquisitors in China?"

"How many battered women who killed their husbands are at present jail?"

"Is there any research or program on violence against children in your network?"

The chair of China workshop is Marti Glenn, PhD. She is founding president of Santa Barbara Graduate Institute, which offers the first graduate degrees in Prenatal and Perinatal Psychology and the first doctoral degrees in Somatic Psychology. Marti is a professor of counseling psychology as well as a pioneering psychotherapist. For over 25 years she has developed innovative methods and programs for the treatment of early trauma focusing on the

relationship as healing agent. Though not many persons took part in the workshop, she thinks that it is informative workshop about China. She wrote in her email such as “I was especially impressed with the amount of results you have achieved in such a short time. You have used so many different modalities and approaches to begin making a big difference. I was also struck by the similarities in the difficulties you have experienced there and the ones we have here”.

Undoubtedly, China Workshop is a good thing for introduction China action into international movement to stop domestic violence. But it doesn't mean China team really participation and involvement into this conference and international movement. China participants seem like to dissociate from the themes “Historical Track for FVSAI 20th Anniversary” of conference. Nobody joined these historical parallel plenaries like Reflections and System Changes for victims of DV, child sexual abuse, children exposed to family violence, domestic violence, sexual assault victims: past experiences, present realities, future goals. On the other hand, we have not more professionals to participate into most professional workshops like healthcare, prevention/advocacy, Intervention/law enforcement, youth violence, trauma/victims/survivors, child maltreatment/children exposed, elder abuse, sexual assault/sex crimes/incest, legal/divorce/custody issues, multicultural, advanced clinical, advanced research and offenders. We can see that most fields on intervention domestic violence are left blank.

4. Summary and proposals

As a knowledge network, this conference is very informative and helpful for our intervention and prevention of domestic violence in china. I feel gradually that exploring, developing a knowledge network for stopping domestic violence is most important thing for China. This network should include healthcare, prevention/advocacy, law enforcement, clinical for survivors and offenders, family therapy, child maltreatment, shelters, sexual assault and custody issues. Disseminating knowledge to our society is also missions of this network. Thus, we need more professionals and more people to participate this network.

Secondly, this conference makes me rethink issue about domestic violence against women. In fact, dating violence (rape), incest, sexual violence, high birth ratio in China is also domestic violence against women. Moreover, children exposure to domestic violence against women should be taken as a kind of violence against women. We should put more kinds of violence related to power relationship in family and human rights on our agenda, because violence based on gender is not exist in isolation in our society.

Thirdly, one of keys of prevention and advocacy would be educating children and young people. Unluckily, we have seen so many violent events among

children and young people. Violence culture is attacking and affecting on young generation through mass media, popular songs and movies, models of adult, war, and others. Intervention and prevention/advocacy should be conducted as soon as possible in elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, universities and other workplaces.

In the last one, I would say that advocacy is not only a slogan or poster from up to below. The successful advocacy should be a creative work rooted in survivors and the public's needs from below, is also an empowering means for women and children. As a social mobilization, advocacy should organize more different groups like volunteer, parents, kids, teacher, business leader, religious leader, civic organizations, youth organization, criminal justice workers and other groups to participate into movement to stop domestic violence.

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