



Men's
Referral
Service



NEWS AND INFORMATION LINKS UPDATE

December 2011

Welcome the No To Violence / Men's Referral Service *News Links Update*. See below for a list of links to information, stories, articles, analysis and commentary about family violence issues published in the Australian and overseas media across the month.

References, literature and policy

[Men Speak Up: A toolkit for action in men's daily lives](#)

A report by Dr. Michael Flood. White Ribbon Policy Research Series No.4.

[Family and Domestic Violence Statistics, 2011](#)

An on-line reference point for sources of data relating to Family and Domestic Violence. Collected by, or on behalf of, Australian and State and Territory Government agencies.

[Domestic violence in Australia - an overview of the issues](#)

From the federal Department of Parliamentary Services.

[Sexual assault and problem drinking](#)

A study that examines coping and enhancement motives as potential mediators to the sexual assault-problem drinking relation.

[When Can I help? A conceptual framework for the prevention of sexual violence through bystander intervention.](#)

This article reviews the literature on sexual violence bystander intervention and presents a conceptual framework that lays out a continuum of bystander opportunities.

[VCOSS state budget submission](#)

While most young people go on to live healthy, happy, and productive lives, many need help to get there, particularly those who have experienced family violence, abuse, homelessness, out-of-home care, or disruption to their education.

[Evolving men: initial results from the international men and gender equality survey.](#)

The multiple research components of the project aim to provide policymakers with evidence-based, practical strategies for engaging men in gender equality, particularly in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, reducing gender-based violence, fatherhood and maternal and child health, and men's health needs. (Nascimento M. International Center for Research on Women and Rio de Janeiro: Instituto Promundo).

[Will my Rabbi believe me? Will he understand?](#)

Responding to disclosures of family violence in a rabbinic context. (The Jewish Taskforce Against Family Violence) For further inquiries or to purchase a copy, please call The Jewish Taskforce Against Family Violence on 9523 6850.

[Violent fathering and the risks to children: the need for change](#)

This book explores the harmful impacts of domestically violent fathering in heterosexual relationships, and emphasises the urgent need for changes in policy and practice to improve the safety and wellbeing of the children concerned.

[Sterilization of women and girls with disabilities: a briefing paper](#)

In many parts of the world, women rely on access to a range of methods to control their fertility, including voluntary sterilization. However, too often, sterilization is not a choice.

Responding to the national plan to reduce violence against women and their children

This September edition of Parity is now available in print.

DHS Social Media Policy For Employees

"Workplace bullying and harassment includes any bullying or harassing comments employees make on-line, even on their own private social networks or out of office hours...."

Conferences, Workshops and Events

Inaugural anti-slavery Australia Freedom Awards announced

Minister for Home Affairs and Justice Brendan Connor paid tribute to Australian individuals and organisations who are leading the fight against slavery, people trafficking and forced labour.

Interfaith and family violence - violence against women

The Interfaith forum was held at the Islamic Centre of Victoria for observance of the International Day of Elimination of Violence against Women and coincided with White Ribbon Day.

Campaigns

NTV's 16 Actions, 16 Days Campaign

This campaign aims to help eliminate violence against women by encouraging thought and action. From Friday November 25, 2011, we are asking men throughout the country to do just one thing every day to prepare, skill and support themselves and other men in stopping violence against women before it occurs.

NTV joins *MenEngage* Global Alliance

An alliance of non-governmental organisations that seeks to engage men and boys in effective ways to reduce gender inequalities and promote the health and well-being of women men and children.

Business should be part of the *16 Days of Activism*

Unless effective action is taken to address domestic and family violence, it was estimated that the cost of associated productivity losses would rise to \$609 million by 2021-2022. Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Elizabeth Broderick said it was important for the business community to appreciate the role they can play.

An open letter to White Ribbon Ambassadors

"First, we want to thank you for your stated commitment to ending men's violence against women and children ... We write today to plead with you now to walk the walk in more obvious ways..."

Violence against women is endemic to our sick culture.

2Day and Fox FM sponsors: cancel advertising until Kyle Sandilands is dumped from radio

News outlets are labelling him "vile" and his comments "filthy" but advertisers that keep his show on air continue to stand by his comments.

ASU campaign: Ballieu it's time to deliver!

Prime Minister Julia Gillard announced that the federal government supports community sector workers pay rises. We still have to convince the Victorian and Tasmanian Governments.

Two-second poll asks: What do you think about the Federal Government's decision to fund a pay rise for community sector workers?

Investigate prospective spouse visas for underage girls petition

According to news reports, one 17-year-old Thai girl was sponsored by a 57-year-old man, and one Iraqi teenager was sponsored by a 50-year-old man. The government must launch an inquiry into these shocking figures, in order to ensure the visa process is transparent and that the safety of these girls can be ensured.

Proposed public art installation in St Kilda

The artwork comprises three sculptural pieces, each 2.4 metres high, featuring provocative female figures dressed as police officers. Submit your feedback online and have your say.

Moustache politics: Movember or Fauxvember?

This year a rival charity has been set up in reaction to the controversial leadership of Jeff Kennett, chairman of beyondblue, an organisation that received \$10.3 million from Movember last year.

Opportunities

Federation of Community Legal Centres (Vic): online survey

The Federation of Community Legal Centres (Vic) will be submitting that domestic/family violence victim/survivor status should be added to the discrimination list. To strengthen the submission, they are seeking examples/case studies where victims/survivors may have been discriminated against. The deadline is Monday December 19.

Supporting sexual violence researchers: online survey

To gain a better understanding of how to support sexual violence researchers internationally by developing researcher safety guidelines and publications on the issue of doing research on sexual violence and vicarious trauma. For more information on the survey please contact Jan Coles, Associate Professor, Department of General Practice, Monash University by email jan.coles@monash.edu.

Australian news, features and comment

National:

Never acceptable, never excusable, never tolerable

Unfortunate reality, both in Australia and around the world, is that high levels of violence against women are still accepted, excused and tolerated by individuals and communities.

Violence in the home a global epidemic

United States Ambassador to Australia Jeffrey Bleich, who was an adviser to former US president Bill Clinton, called for America and Australia to commit to an alliance against domestic violence.

Family violence and *The Slap*

As anyone who has read Christos Tsiolkos' novel *The Slap* (or watched the serialisation on ABC television) would know, violence is intimately connected with power, ego, frustration and sex, and isn't easily abhorred, or even seen for what it is.

Children and Family Roundtable meets for the first time

The federal Parliamentary Secretary for Community Services, Julie Collins, chaired the first meeting of the new roundtable, which has been established to provide advice to Government on child and family policy and discuss emerging issues in these areas.

National domestic and family violence orders scheme agreement

All state and territory police ministers have agreed to support a new nationally coordinated scheme for domestic and family violence orders (DVOs). One of the biggest difficulties for victims of domestic violence is to end the violence permanently. Some women and children move inter-state to avoid contact with the perpetrator.

Australian workplaces program to combat violence against women

The federal government's \$1.1 million workplace program combating violence against women is structured around three key elements – the appointment of ambassadors, accreditation of workplaces and awards.

Australian Association of National Advertising code revision

Objectification of people proscribed.

Counting the social cost of masculinity

When men behave badly society suffers, and that's the nub of a problem too easily ignored.

Married parents' children do better than peers

The Australian Institute of Family Studies report says marriage has a positive effect on a child's learning and development because married couples tend to be better educated, are more likely to be employed and have a better financial base.

150,000 of Australia's lowest paid workers are set for a pay rise

Including 120,000 women working in sectors such as disability carers, family counselling, running homeless shelters and working with victims of domestic violence or sexual assault.

Victoria:Funding for sexual assault counsellors and advocates

Community Services Minister Mary Wooldridge announces ongoing funding of \$100,000 for the Statewide Sexual Assault Workforce Development (SSAWD) program. The funding will provide training to counsellors and advocates employed in sexual assault services funded by the Victorian government.

Domestic violence program gets a lifeline

A Victorian domestic violence program that was facing closure, has been given a lifeline from the federal government.

State's new top cop on family violence

Ken Lay, Victoria's new chief commissioner of police, said there were big challenges on the operational front, including increased assaults, violence in the home and organised crime.

New PC calls for a public campaign to reduce domestic violence.DPP Focuses on Family Violence Victims

The Director of Public Prosecutions has introduced measures to identify and respond to victims of family violence involved in serious criminal matters. As part of a new approach, the Office of Public Prosecutions (OPP) will earmark all criminal matters involving family violence to ensure they are dealt with appropriately.

DPP policy**Regional Victoria:**Warrnambool defies upward regional trend of violence in the home.

Family violence incidents in the Geelong and Surf Coast region have increased by 25% in five years.

Other states:NSW responses to domestic violence fail

A scathing report has found most victims still do not report the incidents to police, and those that do are unlikely to get a lasting solution because of an uncoordinated systems response. Domestic violence has contributed to 36 deaths on average a year and a \$4.5 billion annual loss in economic activity.

NSW: Libs say NSW Labor failed victims

Unlike Victoria, Western Australia and parts of England, New South Wales does not have a common framework to identify domestic and family violence, assess risk, prioritise need and refer people to services.

NSW: Mother gets apology from court for removal of children

A Sydney mother has received a written apology from the chief of the Federal Magistrates Court after her three children were removed from her care for refusing to visit their father.

International news and featuresWorld: Mobilising men to end violence against women

Since it launched in 1997, the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women has distributed more than \$78 million to 339 projects around the world, but even these resources fall far short, meeting less than 5% of demand.

World: UN women executive director outlines policy agenda to end violence against women

Prevention, protection and provision of services are key.

Africa (north and south): GBV Prevention Network competition

The *What's Your Way?* competition gives everyone a chance (and challenge!) to reflect and share the different actions they take to prevent violence against women. The GBV Prevention Network is an affiliation of activists and practitioners committed to preventing gender based violence in the Horn, East & Southern Africa.

Canada: New family violence prevention project engages men, boys

The Alberta government is investing seized proceeds of crime in a new grassroots program.

Canada: Working with South Asian men to prevent partner abuse

Lack of counselling options, and waitlists for the few men's counselling programs that are available, create undue hardship for the entire family (Justice Institute of British Columbia).

Bangladesh: Spotlight on violence against women in Australia

Dhaka Metropolitan Police to introduce 24-hour emergency hotlines to provide services to victims of violence against women. The Australian High Commission in Dhaka jointly organised a discussion titled "Recognising gender -- At home and abroad".

NZ: Half of women tell of emotional violence

A family violence expert is calling for a national discussion about relationships after finding that more than half of New Zealand women have suffered psychological and emotional violence from their partners.

NZ: Bikers fight family violence

Riders dressed in black are touring the country armed with a strong White Ribbon message – violence is not okay.

PNG: Parliament passes bill for more women

There was singing and dancing outside Papua New Guinea's parliament today after the passing of the Equality and Participation Bill. The Bill guarantees 22 seats to women at the next national election

South Africa: Rape – a sense of entitlement

In South Africa, studies show that 70% of men who rape felt "entitled" to do so.

UK: Pet cruelty 'warning sign' of domestic violence

The RSPCA and Against Domestic Violence and Abuse Devon (ADVA) have been working with police to highlight the issue.

UK: Women bloggers call for a stop to hateful trolling by misogynist men

Anonymous trolls regularly threaten female writers with rape.

USA: Impact of domestic violence seen across America

Domestic violence remains one of the most prevalent crimes in America, impacting one in four households, according to some studies. According to the National Family Violence Survey, more than 10% of Americans will experience violence at the hands of an intimate partner during their lifetime.

USA: New Jersey domestic violence law signed

Legislation that imposes more stringent bail restrictions on those charged with violating domestic violence-related restraining orders has been signed into law.

USA: Honor Our Voices - Children's Perspectives of Domestic Violence

Over half of the residents of domestic violence shelters in the United States are children.

USA: Note to Vice President Biden: cops aren't the answer to rape.

Joe Biden recently threw the rape card at opponents of Obama's failed jobs bill, saying they would prevent the hiring of cops needed at the crime scene. Wendy Murphy calls it a spurious argument.

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