



# The RESOURCE

Newsletter of the National Sexual Violence Resource Center

Spring/Summer 2003

## A Trip to the Rape Capital of the World

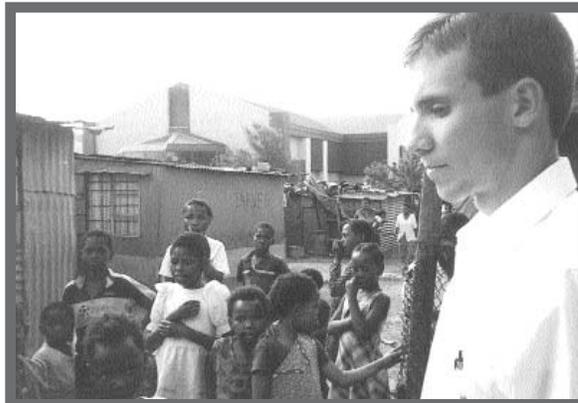
By

Nancy Hoffman, Executive Director

West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services, Inc.

In the fall of 2001, People to People Ambassador Programs, in response to the high rate of sexual assault in South Africa, organized a delegation of professionals from the United States to meet with many of our counterparts in what was becoming known as 'the rape capital of the world.' People to People International, founded in 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, was created as a component of the U.S. State Department to develop scientific, professional and technical exchanges with other countries. Presidents

Eisenhower and Kennedy later separated People to People from the State Department to establish the current non-profit corporation.



Children in Soweto, South Africa crowd around visitors. Kyle Hoffman (right) is student representative to the People to People delegation and son of Nancy Hoffman (WV FRIS).

Fifteen individuals from a variety of backgrounds (including a psychologist from Hawaii, a physician from Texas, an attorney from Washington and a nurse from Alaska) comprised our delegation. The purpose of the twelve-day trip was to share ideas and best practices in intervention and prevention strategies in addressing violence against women.

After the world's longest non-stop flight (14 hours) from New York City to Johannesburg, South Africa, we found ourselves fluctuating amidst two cultures: a modern city that could represent 'Anytown, U.S.A' and the most extreme poverty I've ever witnessed. (And I'm from Appalachia!)

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## OCR ISSUES DECISION IN HARVARD "CORROBORATION RULE" CASE

By

Wendy J. Murphy, J.D.

Visiting Scholar, Harvard Law School

In August 2002, the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) initiated a formal investigation of Harvard University because of its new rule requiring sexual assault victims on campus to produce "sufficient independent corroboration" as a prerequisite to a full investigation and adjudicative resolution of their claims. Since the inception of OCR's investigation, Harvard has substantially revised its policy. When revisions were completed, OCR issued its ruling finding no violation of Title IX and "closing the case" on April 1, 2003.

By "closing the case" and concluding after the revisions were completed that the current iteration of the policy did not constitute a violation of Title IX, OCR did not rule that Harvard's policy was lawful when first enacted.

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NSVRC

# Focus on Clergy Misconduct Name it Sexual Exploitation

By

BJ Horn, Executive Director  
Pittsburgh Action Against Rape

**S**tories of rape by clergy or sexual abuse of children by clergy make headlines on radio and TV sound bites, but there are other forms of clergy sexual abuse that rarely get reported. In particular, there is one type that may be more prevalent than the two previously mentioned types combined.<sup>1</sup>

Often referred to as clergy sexual misconduct, it encompasses a wide range of activities, but generally refers to sexual intimacy between a male pastor, priest or rabbi<sup>2</sup> and an adult female who is a member of the congregation or receiving pastoral counseling and/or spiritual guidance.

In 1990, the Park Ridge Center for the Study of Health, Faith and Ethics, reported that **10% of clergy surveyed admitted having an affair with a member of the congregation** and 25% admitted having some form of sexual contact with a parishioner.<sup>3</sup> The Rev. Lloyd Rediger in his book *Ministry and Sexuality* estimated that at least 10% of clergy were involved in sexual misconduct with another 15% on the verge.<sup>4</sup> Most people, including the victims, erroneously define this as “an affair.” They describe it as sinful and may question the personal sexual morality of those involved, but they see it as occurring between two consenting adults. As a result, it doesn’t get reported to or investigated by the congregation, its affiliated branch or denomination, or the criminal justice system.

A clergyman’s sexual or romantic involvement with a member of the congregation or someone seeking guidance is not primarily a matter of sex. It is a matter of power, or more correctly, the unequal power between the two people. In a relationship where one member is seeking counsel and guidance and the other providing guidance, there is no equality. The clergyman also controls when they meet, how long they meet and the direction of the conversation. In addition, the rabbi, priest or pastor carries spiritual authority as an official representative of his faith tradition. He is “set apart” by his title and often his attire. Even if he does not feel powerful, the person seeking guidance sees him as more powerful and knowledgeable than she is under these circumstances.

In these relationships, the clergyman replaces the needs of the woman seeking spiritual guidance with his own personal needs. Most times the woman does not recognize the shift in focus. At first, she may be flattered by his attention and personal disclosures. She is unaware of the transfer from being the one seeking care to the one giving care. When sexual contact occurs, it might, in the moment, replace loneliness and isolation, but harm not healing occurs.

Afterwards, both the victim and clergyman tend to blame the woman. While the woman feels personally responsible, the clergyman frequently see neither personal

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# Putting a Face to Rape

By  
Susan Lewis

The cover of the NSVRC's latest booklet, *Unspoken Crimes: Sexual Assault in Rural America*, displays a powerful photograph of a rural woman, Dee Babcock. The photojournalist, Nobuko Oyabu, captured this sexual assault survivor in her camera lens and provided us with a real face of sexual assault, a real person with a specific story, a person with courage. While the NSVRC acknowledges that this compelling image augments the strength of the booklet, it also recognizes that it provides a unique opportunity to talk about those people, like Dee Babcock, who speak out, who do not remain anonymous, those who find it helpful and often healing to show their faces.

When you look at the compelling photograph of this lovely person on the porch behind the sunflowers, you wonder, 'who is this woman and what is her story?' As it turns out, Dee wants you to know something about her story and the journey that led her to that photograph. She explains that although she lives in a very small rural community of 1,400 in Minnesota. She really sees her story as being more about clergy sexual assault. In fact, she asserts "I am here to put a face to clergy rape as a survivor."

Active in her United Methodist Church since childhood, Dee even served for a period as the President of the United Methodist Women. When she was 55 years old the pastor of her

church sexually assaulted her. She had no memory of the assault for four years; when she finally discovered the horrible

seven other survivors initiated a procedure for a church trial in which all 12 members (and one alternate) of the jury found the pastor in question guilty. And yet, Dee did not find the trial very comforting. She says "I went through a church 'trial,' which was a farce...the good news, it did remove him from a new appointment, but they rewarded him with early retirement benefits (for ALL the GOOD work he had done) which will continue till he dies and his wife will get widow's benefits after that."

Dee describes the effect this has had on her small town: "I live in a rural community and there were over a dozen women abused by this clergy and NO ONE talks about this...The others have been shamed back into silence...left the community...or are on Valium...This is just a tad bit of the reality from my perspective."

Dee did not fall back into silence, but has continued on a path of healing, including six years of weekly therapy.

In fact, she has moved forward with such remarkable courage that she is now helping other sexual assault victims in what she calls a women's ministry or "The Women's Well." Dee provides support to others, usually through ongoing email communications. She provides encouragement and comfort in whatever form she can. At times that



*Dee Babcock, 70, Faces of Rape & Sexual Assault Survivors Project; Photograph by Nobuko Oyabu*

truth, she says she was shocked, devastated and very angry. Eventually she discovered that she was not alone. She began to hear about others who had been sexually abused in the same rural small town.

After nearly a year of discussions and meetings with other victims, Dee and

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# Putting A Face to Rape

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has included letting a survivor stay with her for a little while. She calls it walking with them. She often tells them, "I'm here to tell you that if I can do it, you can."

Dee found her path to healing through showing her face and accepting that she is

a rape survivor.

She admits

that her

journey of

healing has

often been a

roller-coaster ride, but she

has also discovered courage and cause from this long ordeal. While Dee is

clearly a remarkable woman, in many ways, her choice to speak out and not to

be anonymous is a choice that others sometimes find helpful.

We must respect and protect the confidentiality of survivors, but we

must also recognize that for some victims, speaking publicly is a healthy

choice and important to them. In fact, for Nobuko Oyabu, also a survivor and

the photojournalist who took Dee's picture, this choice became more than

personal, it became the focus of her work. Nobuko says that, "it is my

curiosity that keeps me going to find out how others get back up after rape."

Although she recognizes that privacy

and confidentiality do matter, Nobuko has struggled with the fact that in general, journalism's treatment of rape has cost us in terms of understanding the fuller stories of rape and barred us from bearing social witness to an issue that affects all of society.

Nobuko's path to

healing has been

through her

work. She

says, "my

camera saved

my sanity and

helped rebuild my self-

esteem. My journalism helped me make the journey from rape victim to rape

survivor. Being a survivor makes me a better journalist."

Nobuko began photographing rape survivors, like Dee Babcock,

and this endeavor

has grown into

"Stand: Faces of

Rape & Sexual

Abuse Survivors,"

an entrancing

traveling photo

exhibit. Kelly McBride

(Poynter Institute, Ethics Faculty) has

written, "Oyabu has succeeded where

journalism has failed." McBride

continues, "the sum of her work leaves

the observer thinking that rape is

ordinary, which, of course, it is."

Certainly the full story of rape will always be difficult to tell, and the ways that rape victims choose to recover from trauma and get up again are varied and

creative. Survivors like Dee Babcock and Nobuko Oyabu give something to

all of us. Their faces, their stories and their work provide us with a better

understanding of rape, and in the end inspire us with the resilience and

creativity of the human spirit.

Dee's comment about her Church provides a moving example of this. We

might have expected that when, after a lifetime of religious dedication and faith

and then her rape by her trusted pastor, she would have totally lost her faith.

Instead she explains, "Faith, what has it to do with church or religion?"

It is where you are

spiritually. For me it

is no longer a

building with

stained glass

windows and

padded pews." 

***"it is my curiosity that keeps me going to find out how others get back up after rape."***

***"...the sum of her work leaves the observer thinking that rape is ordinary, which, of course, it is."***

*Creator of a traveling photograph exhibit, "Stand: Faces of Rape & Sexual Abuse Survivor," Nobuko Oyabu is a photojournalist living in Omaha, Nebraska. For more information on this exhibit visit her website at [www.nobukoonline.com](http://www.nobukoonline.com)*

## Six Elements to Public Advocacy and Promoting Social Change: Creation of the Governor's Commission on Sexual and Domestic Violence in Massachusetts

By

Catherine M. Greene, Esq., Interim Executive Director  
Jane Doe Inc., The Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence

The last article I penned for this publication (Spring/Summer 2002) provided an overview of Jane Doe Inc.'s efforts contributing to the creation of the Governor's Task Force on Sexual Abuse and Assault in April 2002. During the preceding months, Massachusetts had experienced tragic revelations of child abuse by clergy in the Catholic Church, multiple reports of rapes of young women at local high schools, and women being sexually assaulted at train stations by a serial rapist. With this confluence of events – generating public outrage, extensive media coverage and the attention of elected officials – social change seemed not just possible but inevitable. At the time, we saw the creation of the Task Force as a potential vehicle for this change.

More than a year later, we have a better understanding about the place the Governor's Task Force holds along the continuum of social change in the sexual assault movement. With the passage of time, we now appreciate that history may ultimately describe the Governor's Task Force as a means to an end — a critical bridge towards a more long-term goal, i.e., the establishment of a permanent Governor's Commission to address sexual assault.<sup>1</sup>

Indeed, on May 7, 2003, by Executive Order No. 450, Governor Romney established the Governor's Commission on Sexual and Domestic Violence. As we turn our attention to the new Commission, Jane Doe Inc. will rely upon six fundamental elements to shape its advocacy efforts. The evolution and birth of the Governor's Commission on Sexual and Domestic Violence is an excellent illustration of these six elements to effective policy advocacy. Regardless of the fluidity of our work, inherent in any social justice movement, we recognize the following as essential to the ultimate success of all our advocacy work.

*“...history may ultimately describe the Governor's Task Force as a means to an end — a critical bridge towards a more long-term goal.”*

**Develop and Disseminate a Statewide Report with Supporting Data and Recommendations:** As Jane Doe Inc. prepared to capture the public outrage at the incidences of sexual violence in early 2002 and to launch a concerted public action campaign calling for, among other things, the creation of a Task Force, the stage had been set by “Taking Action Against Sexual Assault: A Call to Action for Massachusetts.” This comprehensive report, complete with recommendations, was a collaborative effort between Jane Doe Inc. and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. For more than a year, we co-hosted a series of meetings with rape crisis centers and other community-based programs, state agencies, law enforcement, attorneys, health care professionals, researchers and survivors to identify gaps in services and to articulate recommendations.

“Taking Action,” widely disseminated in July 2001, laid the foundation for our subsequent call to action in February 2002. The report provided our messages legitimacy and credibility. For example, our call for mandatory judicial training could not be dismissed as a knee-jerk reaction to a single recent incidence of judicial misconduct because we had previously documented and publicly articulated the need for mandatory judicial training in Taking Action. Similarly, the report touted the importance of multi-disciplinary collaborations – thereby buttressing our call for a Task Force. “Taking Action” provided Jane Doe Inc. a foundation upon which to build a thoughtful, responsive and effective public advocacy strategy.

**Build the Strength and Support of the Coalition Membership:** As a membership Coalition of rape crisis centers and domestic violence programs, Jane Doe Inc.'s advocacy efforts must mirror its members' positions. Therefore, as we contemplate and implement various policy advocacy strategies and responses, we encourage and solicit membership guidance, input and participation. Promoting unity within the membership and strengthening support from the membership also serves to augment the Coalition's

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## OCR ISSUES DECISION IN HARVARD “CORROBORATION RULE” CASE

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To the contrary. OCR's determination that an investigation of Harvard was necessary and that the investigation forced Harvard to retract the new policy amply conveys OCR's intolerance for the standard of “sufficient independent corroboration”.

The best way to assess the significance of OCR's final ruling is to compare and contrast the policy as it was first enacted in May of 2002 to the revised policy ultimately approved by OCR in April 2003.

The “sufficient independent corroboration” rule generated a great deal of controversy when it was announced in Spring, 2002. Hundreds of students protested not only the new policy, but also the covert manner by which the policy was enacted, largely because the faculty was asked to approve the new rule without being told for what they were voting.

When Harvard insisted despite the protests that it was appropriate to require campus rape victims to produce “sufficient independent corroboration” as a prerequisite to a full investigation and adjudicative resolution of their claims, students filed a formal complaint with OCR in June 2002. The complaint was accepted for formal investigation in August 2002. It asked OCR to decide the narrow issue of whether requiring students to produce “sufficient independent corroboration” violates Title IX's mandate that student rape victims have access to “prompt and equitable” grievance procedures.

During OCR's eight-month investigation, Harvard's “sufficient independent corroboration” policy evolved in the following ways:

- Instead of “sufficient independent corroboration,” Harvard now requires only “supporting information.” This new standard contains none of the original language. The elimination of the word “independent” is important because it means a student can “self-support” her claim by, for example, simply telling a friend she was raped. The elimination of the word “sufficient” is also important because it means no person at Harvard has discretion to weigh or determine whether the “supporting

information” rises to a level “worthy” of Harvard's investigative and adjudicative resources. It is important to note that the change in the language evolved from “sufficient independent corroboration” in June 2002, to “corroborating information” in September 2002 and finally to “supporting information” later in the fall of 2002. This indicates that OCR would not accept the use of the word “corroboration” in the standard and that “supporting information” need not rise to the level of “corroborative” evidence.

- The original policy proposed that if a student victim failed to present “sufficient independent corroboration,” Harvard could decline to take any steps to respond to the complaint - including refusing to require that the accused student submit a response.

The new policy stipulates that Harvard must, at a minimum, obtain a written responsive statement from the accused student. This is the case even if the victim produces absolutely nothing but her word, and even if a long time has passed since the incident.

- The original policy proposed that if a student victim failed to produce “sufficient independent corroboration,” Harvard could exercise basically unchecked discretion not to forward the complaint to the Administrative Board (Ad Board) for any purpose.

The new policy provides that even if the victim produces absolutely nothing but her word, and even if a long time has passed since the incident, the accused student must submit a written response and the entire matter must be provided to the full Ad Board for their review and placement in their files. The Ad Board's role as a repository of all sexual assault complaints, irrespective of the existence of “supporting information,” helps to ensure a fair accounting of the number of student sexual assault cases as well as a recording of the identities of all offenders. Finally, it helps to reinforce compliance with the Clery Act (Jean Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and

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*The elimination of the word “independent” is important because it means a student can “self-support” her claim.*

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## “CORROBORATION RULE” CASE

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Campus Crime Statistics Act). Simply put, there is no longer a concern that Harvard can decline to report publicly the true number of sexual assaults under the Campus Reporting Act - because all complaints must be disclosed and counted regardless of the availability of “supporting information.”

- The original policy was announced by Harvard as applying only to sexual assault and sexual assault-based discrimination cases. This placed a disproportionately unjust burden on women suffering a gender-based form of violence by subjecting them to a higher degree of scrutiny than that which was imposed on other “types” of students.

Harvard recently announced that, under its revised policy, students reporting any form of discrimination, based on race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, etc., are all subject to the same requirement of “supporting information.”

### The Clery Act

Originally known as the the Campus Security Act, the “Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act” was signed into law in 1990.

It applies to public and private institutions of higher learning that participate in any federal student aid program and requires schools to publicly disclose basic security policies and campus crime statistics from the last three years. Jeanne Clery was assaulted and murdered in her sleep by a student who had committed 38 violent yet undisclosed crimes on campus in the previous three years.

- The original policy made no mention of the need to educate the Ad Board on the nature of sexual assault, the proper approach to investigations, etc.

Harvard has since created the “Leaning Committee,” headed by Professor Jennifer Leaning, which has been examining the adequacy of sexual assault education and related prevention resources. Harvard also hired Susan Marine as their formal Sexual Assault Prevention Coordinator. Ms. Marine coordinates

sexual assault education, information regarding student services, counseling and other resources.

While it is problematic that there is no formal approach to providing students with legal advocacy, students are working together to form their own resource groups to ensure that student victims are made aware of their legal rights at the earliest possible opportunity. Students are also exploring ways to provide victims with *pro bono* zealous “legal advocacy” by building relationships with private attorneys outside Harvard.

Harvard retains the authority to refuse to conduct a “full investigation” and adjudicative hearing of claims based on the word alone, of a student reporting rape or discrimination based on race, sexual orientation, or religion.

This is potentially problematic because even with the new revisions in place, Harvard’s system may encourage those who would engage in hate-based misconduct on campus not only to be particularly covert in their actions, but also to take steps to deter victims from telling anyone about the misconduct.

Students would be wise to monitor Harvard’s implementation of the revised rule to ensure that students on campus are encouraged to fully and formally report all forms of discrimination and harassment on campus as well as any attempts to discourage disclosure or otherwise inhibit the ability of student victims to seek redress.

Students can and should build coalitions on campus and work together to ensure that campus disciplinary policies and procedures work effectively to deter hate-based misconduct including sexual assault. The newly revised standard at Harvard will only work to the benefit of students if there is a student-run mechanism in place to hold Harvard accountable for responsible implementation.

At a minimum, students should create their own data-gathering services, conduct their own surveys and create their own annual “reports” of discrimination and harassment on campus. In this way, students can help to ensure that the public receives honest information about the problems and risks facing students, and that the educational environment is respectful of the constitutionally guaranteed rights of all students to an equal educational opportunity.





## MCADSV Expands Sexual Violence Programs

By Inga Nelson

The year 2003 brings an expansion of programming and services addressing sexual violence in Montana. The *Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence* began the year by hiring a new Sexual Violence Outreach Coordinator, a position that had been vacant for some time. As a result, MCADSV will be able to expand its efforts in four key areas.

### Media

MCADSV developed and launched a media campaign this past April, which will run through the end of June. This campaign targets teenagers and addresses dating violence. The campaign urges teens to “Speak Up and Speak Out” when they witness or suspect dating violence. Teens will be reached through frequent ads on radio stations across the state and via posters in their schools.

### Campus Program

In April, representatives working to end dating and sexual violence on Montana’s College and University campuses came together for The Summit: Rape and Dating Violence on Montana’s Campuses. As the first meeting between the state’s campuses, “The Summit” gave representatives from large universities, small colleges, colleges of technology and private colleges an opportunity to network, set goals and assist with the

development of MCADSV’s sexual violence programming. The Summit marks the beginning of extensive outreach to and coordination with the State’s campuses. Priority areas identified include: incorporating domestic and sexual violence into professional programs’ curricula, increasing training and networking opportunities for activists and counselors, and lobbying the state Board of Regents, which oversees all the public colleges and universities. For MCADSV, this marks the beginning of a very active campus program.

### Coordination & Communication

MCADSV is also expanding its coordination with other statewide organizations. It will be working with MT NARAL and the Intermountain Planned Parenthood to assess and expand the availability of emergency contraception for victims of sexual assault. MCADSV will also be reaching out to strengthen relationships with a wide-variety of organizations including the Association of Social Workers, the Montana Nurses Association, Children’s Protective Services, Batterer’s Intervention Programs, Sex Offender Treatment Programs, Employers and Clergy.

*The Summit marks the beginning of extensive outreach to and coordination with the State’s campuses.*

### On-the-Ground T. A.

MCADSV will also be expanding its outreach and technical assistance to member organizations. On-site trainings for members and their communities, and assistance with community organizing and developing

*MCADSV will also be expanding its outreach and technical assistance to member organizations.*

SANE - SART programs will be a priority this year. Increasing the availability of SANE trainings in Montana from the current one location, once-a-year training, will assist with this. MCADSV is also working with the state crime lab to arrange for of the sexual violence outreach coordinator and sexual violence task force chair to be trained to teach medical personnel across the state to utilize new rape kits.

*MCADSV will be working with MT NARAL and the Intermountain Planned Parenthood to assess and expand the availability of emergency contraception for victims of sexual assault.*

Overall, 2003 will be a very exciting year for the Montana Coalition. We are excited about increasing our work to end sexual violence and look forward to the benefits of increased outreach, communication and coordination with the Montana public and the professionals working to stop sexual violence.



# Spotlight



## Housing High Risk Sex Offenders — a Washington Partnership for Community Safety

By Suzanne Brown

Often, communities and policy makers devote considerable time and resources responding to high-risk offenders (and the public’s reaction to them) on a crisis-by-crisis basis. In response to this issue, the *Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs (WCSAP)* has become a co-chair of **The Partnership for Community Safety** which seeks to move the state away from a paradigm of crisis management to one focused on community education, effective offender management, resources for victims and whole-systems solutions. Through the diverse composition of its members, the Partnership is promoting a multi-system collaborative effort focused on housing and the factors that promote educated and appropriate community involvement in offender management.

*The Partnership seeks to move the state away from a paradigm of crisis management.*

Throughout Washington State (and the nation), significant public concern exists about the release of high-risk sex offenders from correctional institutions, many of which upon release are no longer under correctional supervision. Balancing the importance of community safety with the rights of these individuals to return to and live in the community has presented corrections, treatment

providers, victim’s advocates and community members with a daunting challenge.

**The Partnership for Community Safety** is a statewide consortium of providers created to address a key element of this challenge: the lack of appropriate and stable housing for the highest risk sex and dangerously mentally ill offenders. Starting with the premise that without housing, these high-risk offenders often pose an increased risk to the community: the partnership identified that stable housing can support effective monitoring, compliance with treatment and availability for supervision. As offenders return to urban, suburban and rural communities throughout Washington State, stable and appropriate housing becomes a key element contributing to the safety and well being of the general public.

The Partnership was charged with developing a collaborative plan to increase community-housing opportunities for these target populations: level III sex offenders (those with highest risk of reoffending) and dangerously mentally ill offenders (as defined by Washington state statutes). The Partnership is comprised of key stakeholders from a range of constituencies including faith-based organizations, sex offender management providers, sexual assault advocacy programs, corrections, low income and

emergency housing agencies, mental health treatment providers, landlords, law enforcement, state policy makers, local government and other professionals with expertise in offender supervision, housing and management. An important, and intentional element of the selection of stakeholders was the identification of the two disciplines that would help provide leadership for the group under the titles of co-chair: the Washington State Catholic Conference and the Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs. These organizations represent the partnerships’ commitment to community-based solutions that reflect the values of community safety, protection of victims, and effective community education.

*“A key element of this challenge: the lack of appropriate and stable housing for the highest risk sex and dangerously mentally ill offenders.”*

Over the course of the last year, the Partnership has done a great deal of work identifying the barriers to housing high-risk offenders and the tools that will be necessary to create whole-system solutions to this problem such as community education, access to safe affordable housing, pre-release planning, and support services for victims and families. This work has been published in a Phase One Report and has become the foundation for phase two of the Partnership work at the local community level, which involves four community pilot programs.



## A Trip To The Rape Capital of the World

*(Continued from Page 1)*

It seemed that we traveled between the different centuries – often in the same community. One night we had dinner with a tribal chief and his five wives and 54 children, the next day we stayed at a luxurious lodge with sunken marble baths. There is great disparity in wealth in South Africa.

At our first meeting, hosted by the Gender Studies program at the University of Pretoria, we learned how the issues of culture and tradition intertwine with violence against women. Certain cultural issues, such as witchcraft violence, largely resolved in this country long ago, were still so prevalent that they warranted a public awareness campaign the year before. We met with a doctor/social activist who told us that in some tribes, women are not allowed to speak in public. Apparently when the women then whisper to each other behind closed doors, some of the men believe they are sharing secrets and have special qualities. Our host had a friend, a female Episcopal priest, who was killed because she was suspected of being a witch.

Understanding the culture gives great insight into the scope of the problem of violence against women in South Africa. Being a sex worker is illegal; going to one is not. The George area (pop. 80,000) has four police officers and one police car. With such a lack of formal social controls, the violence is considerable.

The extreme poverty throughout the country compounds the violence issue. In our travels we passed hundreds of shanty villages – fenced areas enclosing thousands of shacks. In Soweto we visited one shanty settlement: 7,500 people (about ten people per one room shanty), no electricity, 90 portable toilets, and three water faucets. South Africa has no public welfare system. The previous year the government had

AIDS deaths in North America was 450,000 people. In sub-Saharan Africa it was 13,700,000.) With the AIDS epidemic, many cannot afford medical treatment. We went to a Thuthuzela Care Center in Cape Town where 50 percent of the total patients have AIDS. Daily, 5-7 patients die there of AIDS, most between the ages of 18-24. Their special sexual assault care center sees 2-6 children daily who have been raped.



*Women inside a shanty in a shanty village in Soweto, South Africa, 2001.*

considered implementing one that would create a monthly subsistence allowance approximately equal to \$10 per month.

In Soweto the illiteracy rate was 80 percent. Illiteracy makes it difficult to disseminate AIDS prevention and treatment information, and thus may contribute to the high rate of sexual assault. A commonly-held myth contends that having sex with a virgin will cleanse you of the AIDS virus. Therefore the rate of sexual assaults, particularly of young females, has skyrocketed. (To put the epidemic in perspective, through 1999 the total

Fortunately, we discovered some positive efforts and accomplishments. For example, the Thuthuzela Care Center, with its special facilities and well-trained medical personnel, is truly a model for the world. Equally impressive was our visit to a regional sexual offenses court. This pilot project features increased training of professionals, improved evidence collection,

video testimony rooms for children, and court coordinators. There are no jury trials and no sex offender treatment programs. A judge makes the decisions. This multi-disciplinary approach has improved their conviction rate from 12 to 65 percent.

Finally we met some inspiring women who struggle with difficult circumstances. The general oppression of women was evidenced in the lack of available resources. Although geographically South Africa is the size of China, there are only nine shelters there. We had the opportunity to visit one of the shelters that is also the site of

a rape crisis center. All of the programs are grassroots-based. Until the early 1990s the sexual assault programs were totally run by volunteers. The perseverance, determination, and creativity of the women we met inspired us. The shelter we visited had the typical amenities plus a job skills training center.

Probably one of the most moving meetings was our trip into the wine country in Stellenbosch. There we met with 23 women who were part of the Women on Farms Project. We spoke with them through a translator. The project began in 1992 to address the problems the women farm workers were

facing. Farmers traditionally gave bottles of wine as bonuses to their workers, which fueled problems of rape, domestic violence, and alcoholism.

Compounding the safety issues for women is the practice that only men (or single women) can officially contract to rent housing on the farm. Therefore a married woman in an abusive relationship cannot retain occupancy of the home through a protective order. With no shelters in the region, a woman who is abused has no recourse. So the women banded together to create safe homes for each other. Even in the midst of extreme poverty, the women have created their own 'hotline.' One

of the older, revered women, Auntie Evelyn, carries a cell phone, so she can call the police to protect an abuse victim until they can get her into one of their homes.

I'm glad we ended our visit to South Africa with our trip to the farms. Despite the overwhelming problems I witnessed and the feelings of despair that I often felt for the people of this country, what remained embedded in me is a vision of Auntie Evelyn. She embodied a spirit and determination that can inspire each of us to daily continue doing the work that we do.



## Six Elements to Public Advocacy and Promoting Social Change

*(Continued from Page 5)*

advocacy efforts at the state, and even national, levels. The strength of any coalition rests within its membership.

The certainty of a new Governor taking the helm in 2003 presented the sexual assault movement with yet another opportunity<sup>2</sup> to elevate the issue of sexual assault to its rightful place as an issue deserving statewide attention and response. But what specific messages should Jane Doe Inc. relay to the new Administration? We could not begin our public discourse until the membership had met to discuss, identify and agree upon its objectives and messages.

Jane Doe Inc. facilitated three key meetings with its membership to discuss, in part, whether to advocate for a single Commission-like entity to address both sexual assault and domestic violence, or to advocate for two independent Commissions. Initially, serious concerns were raised about sexual assault issues "getting lost" in a single Commission and/or issues particular only to sexual assault being ignored.

However, after careful analysis, a consensus emerged from the membership. At the conclusion of these meetings, Jane Doe Inc. with substantiated authority was positioned to advocate on behalf of its statewide "constituency" for a single Commission.

### **Build Broad-Based Collaborations and Partnerships within Community:**

Also important were, and continue to be, our on-going efforts to cultivate, build and maintain mutually respectful relationships with a broad range of constituencies and interested stakeholders. It is undisputed that the most effective sexual assault intervention and prevention work is the result of multi-disciplinary collaborations. As a natural corollary, the Coalition, its membership, survivors and the sexual assault movement as a whole benefit when artificial barriers are broken, dialogues initiated and working relationships forged.

To be sure, working with diverse constituencies poses significant challenges. The diversity that deepens our shared understanding about the complexities of sexual violence intervention and prevention work is the very same diversity

*(Continued on Page 14)*

*To be sure, working with diverse constituencies poses significant challenges.*

## Focus on Clergy Misconduct

(Continued from Page 2)

nor professional liability for the “affair.”<sup>5</sup> Nancy Myers Hopkins, who works with congregations after sexual misconduct has been reported, believes males at risk for these kinds of behaviors are attracted to ministry “because of opportunities to be center-stage and to be in control...He (the pastor) often is a superficially attractive person who will literally seduce many in the congregation, not all sexually, but in myriad other ways with the force of his personality. He is often charming, an electrifying preacher and an attentive pastor...A complicating factor is that churches often grow with such a leader...There will be many people in the pews who are there because they have fallen in love with the cleric, rather than with God.”<sup>6</sup>

Under such circumstances, even if the woman recognized and defined the sexual contact as exploitive, she would be unlikely to report it. Her complaint would fall on deaf ears, and she would probably be ostracized for speaking the truth.

Until women understand and name this as sexual exploitation and not “an affair”, they will continue to carry the unnecessary burdens of secrecy and shame. Mary Koss’ research and Robin Warshaw’s book, *I Never Called It Rape*, helped many to name what happened to them as rape. We need to do the same for victims of clergy sexual misconduct.



### Notes

<sup>1</sup> In the last edition of *The Resource* (Fall/Winter 2002), rape by clergy was identified as extremely rare-.06% women and .01% men. See *The Prevalence of Rape by Clergy and Other Types of Perpetrators. Abuse Problem is Clouded by a Lack of Data* by Alan Cooperman quotes former priest A. W. Richard Sipe as estimating 6% of priests in the United States have had sexual contact with minors. *Washington Post*, March 10, 2002.

<sup>2</sup> While female clergy can be the perpetrator, in almost all cases the perpetrator is male. In this article, clergy will be referred to in the male gender.

<sup>3</sup> *Baptized, Confirmed, Abused: Sexual Child Abuse within the Church*, David Clohessy, *Moving Forward*, Vol.2 #2, Jan/Feb 1993. Using data from the American Religion Data Archive, I estimated that in 2000 there were over 325,000 congregations in the United States representing 153 denominations or branches including Christian, Jewish, Islamic and 6 Eastern religions. While some congregations have more than one pastor, priest or rabbi, others share or have none. This number would also not take into account the number of clergy who are retired or do something other than work in a congregation. If 10% of clergy have “affairs” with just one victim, this is significant.

<sup>4</sup> *Sexual Misconduct in the Ministry: What Clergy at Risk are Doing About It*, James A. Sparks, Robert O. Ray and Donald C. Houts, *Congregations*, Nov/Dec 1992.

<sup>5</sup> *Dynamics of Sexual Exploitation and Responding to Victims*, Pamela Cooper White, ELCA Leadership Training Event, Dec. 4-6, 1998.

<sup>6</sup> *How Far Have We Come? Where Are We Going: ELCA Strategy for Responding to Sexual Abuse in the Church*, Nancy Myer Hopkins, ELCA Leadership Training Event, Dec. 4-6, 1998.

## NSVRC Adds Five to Advisory Council

In 2003 the NSVRC added five new members to its Advisory Council, thereby increasing the body to 23 members. Selection to the Council is based on the experience and areas of expertise and interest of the nominees as well as the specific needs of the NSVRC and its strong commitment to ethnic, racial, gender and geographic diversity. The five new members are:

**Anna Fairclough**, Executive Director of Standing Together Against Rape (STAR) in Anchorage, Alaska; **Nan Gelman**, Police Officer at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan; **Kellie Greene**, Director and Founder of SOAR (Speaking Out About Rape) in Orlando, Florida; **Clema Lewis**, Co-Director of the Women’s Coalition of St. Croix in the Virgin Islands; and **Kimber Nicoletti**, Special Projects and Minority Outreach Coordinator of CARE: Communities Against Rape in West Lafayette, Indiana.

Karen Baker, NSVRC Project Director applauds these new members and notes that they will add even greater strength to the NSVRC’s already impressive Advisory Council.



### Scared at School

*Sexual Violence Against Girls in South African Schools*

By Human Rights Watch

Daily South African school girls of every race and economic group encounter sexual violence and harassment. This report documents school-based sexual violence and its impact and discussed the failure of the government to respond effectively.

**Human Rights Watch** **\$10.00**

### I Will Survive

*The African American Guide to Healing From Sexual Assault and Abuse*

By Lori S. Robinson

This resource for African-American survivors of sexual assault incorporates personal stories, civil rights history and a call for community activism. It includes a step-by-step guide to the legal system, critical medical advice and a guide to emotional and spiritual healing.

**Seal Press** **\$15.95**

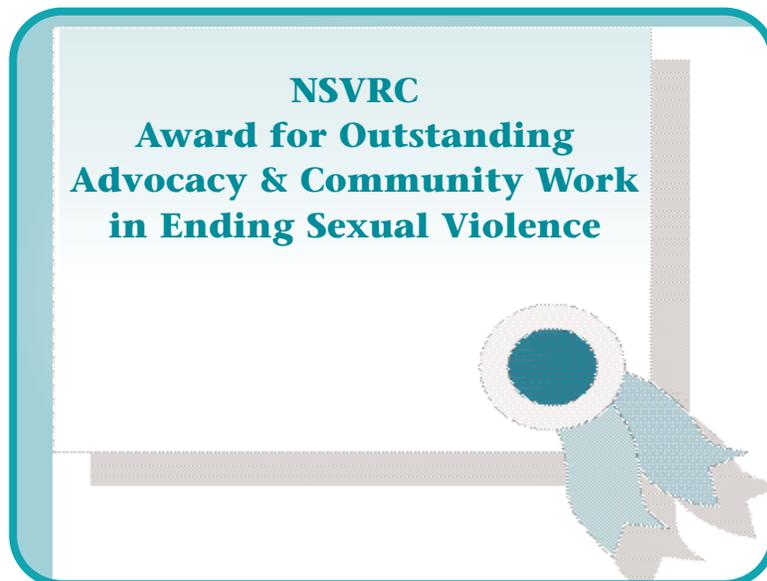
# NSVRC Honors 18 Nationwide with Awards

In April 2003, the NSVRC honored eighteen individuals with awards for Outstanding Advocacy and Community Work in Ending Sexual Violence. The initiative for giving these awards grew from a desire to salute some of the many individuals across this nation who accomplish so much and receive such little recognition. Each state, territory and tribal coalition was asked to submit the name of one person who they felt deserved such recognition. Selection of each person was based on whatever criteria the coalition deemed appropriate. Participation by coalitions was on a voluntary basis. Eighteen coalitions submitted a name of an individual to receive the award.

The NSVRC recognizes that countless individuals across the country passionately and tirelessly work to support sexual assault victims, and struggle to raise awareness and promote safety in our communities. Most who work in the anti-sexual violence movement do so out of a sense of commitment and need, and not for personal gain; they often work long hours, with few resources, and minimal compensation. Many others work totally on a volunteer basis.

Because this scenario describes the reality of our work, the NSVRC believes that it is especially important to engender supportive attitudes and initiatives. As a result, the NSVRC intends to give these awards annually to one individual from each state, territory and tribal entity. Although we do not specify how awards are selected, we hope that it will not be thought of as

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## Recipients of the NSVRC 2003 Award for Outstanding Advocacy & Community Work in Ending Sexual Violence.

<i>Recipient</i>	<i>Nominating Coalition</i>
Marla Willcox Eddy	West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information & Services
Ann Hyman	Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape
Adriana Ramelli	Hawaii Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Wendy Perkins	Indiana Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Melissa Lewis	Kansas Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence
Carol E. Jordan	Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs
Jane Dubbe	Montana Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence
Elizabeth G. Plante	New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence
Carol Vasile	New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Lucia Lowe Wheeler	New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Elisabeth Carey-Davis	Sexual Assault & Trauma Resource Center of Rhode Island
Daniele Dosch	South Dakota Network Against Family Violence & Sexual Assault
Kathy Walsh	Tennessee Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence
Christine Watters	Utah Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Bobbi Gagne	Vermont Network Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault
Cathy Rose	Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Terry Anderson	Georgia Network To End Sexual Assault
Mary Mingus	Women's Coalition of St. Croix

## Six Elements to Public Advocacy and Promoting Social Change

(Continued from Page 11)

that, at times, gives rise to serious conflict. However, given stakeholders' different roles, responsibilities and organizational/institutional limitations, these conflicts are to be expected. The key is to understand these roles and institutional limitations, to openly acknowledge existing differences, to agree that in order to preserve important relationships the best course of action may be to "agree to disagree," and to be respectful – damaged relationships can be a long time in the mending! Natural tensions will remain but these can be overcome when the shared commonality bringing everyone together remains the focus of the work.

Jane Doe Inc. worked with the existing Governor's Commission on Domestic Violence, participated in many discussions and helped convene a statewide meeting of

interested stakeholders to examine the pros and cons of addressing

sexual

assault and domestic violence together or individually. Support for a single Commission emerged in multiple forums. In its advocacy efforts, Jane Doe Inc. can only speak on behalf of its membership. However, this general support was crucial because, as Jane Doe Inc. advocated for a single Commission, we knew that others were delivering similar messages, and of equal importance, that no one was delivering contradictory messages.

**Develop Consistent Messages:** The complexities of sexual assault notwithstanding, it is important to identify fairly simple, general messages to frame both short-term and long-term advocacy work. Public advocacy efforts must be communicated in clear and concise basic messages that can be embraced and articulated by the public at large. Developing consistent messages that can be voiced by a variety of constituencies magnifies the impact of the messages and, ultimately, the effectiveness of advocacy efforts.

In addition to calling for a permanent government entity to address both sexual and domestic violence, the various meetings we had with our membership and others gave rise to four key messages.<sup>3</sup> A review of Jane Doe Inc.'s printed advocacy materials, correspondence with elected leaders and

senior officials, and the media we generated and/or responded to for more than a year, reveals a dogged repetition of these four messages. This constant reinforcement of consistent messages not only helped to legitimize the messages themselves, but also served to distill a complex and challenging issue into something mentally manageable and, more importantly, actionable.

**Develop Relationships with the Governor's Office and Other Elected Officials:** Effectuating meaningful change requires a commitment and follow-through from top elected officials. The Governor's Office and its Administration have the enormous capacity, opportunity, ability and expertise to make a significant impact on efforts to end sexual assault. Specifically, the Governor has the power to "encourage"

collaborations and to "foster" the statewide public-private prioritization of sexual assault intervention and prevention work. Likewise, state legislators have the ability to significantly impact sexual assault intervention and prevention efforts – not only through state funding, but also with respect to supporting crucial policy, legislative, education and public awareness efforts.

Faced with this pending change in Administration, Jane Doe Inc. embarked on a concerted effort to actively build a working relationship with the gubernatorial candidates. In this respect, the citizens of Massachusetts were fortunate because both candidates made a commitment to prioritize sexual assault and domestic violence. This allowed Jane Doe

Inc. to focus its energies during the campaign on building relationships, sharing information and ideas, and beginning substantive dialogues with the future Administration.<sup>4</sup>

**Implement Proactive and Responsive Media Strategy:** An effective media strategy seeks to raise public awareness, increase public education and complement policy advocacy efforts underway. It is essential to develop a media plan that parallels short and long-term policy objectives and therefore important to develop the media strategy in conjunction with the organization's general messages. The

*Natural tensions will remain but these can be overcome when the shared commonality bringing everyone together remains the focus of the work.*

*Public advocacy efforts must be communicated in clear and concise basic messages.*

(Continued on next page)

## NSVRC Awards

(Continued from Page 13)

a competition, but rather as a good opportunity to say thank you to deserving individuals.

As part of this initiative, the NSVRC collected brief work-related biographical sketches of each award recipient; these biographies will become part of a document or booklet. The NSVRC believes that such a document will provide broad recognition of outstanding work and also become a part of the social history of the anti-sexual violence movement. Finally, the NSVRC hopes that over time this award initiative will also serve as a mechanism for coalitions to further encourage community partnerships and recognition.



*Adriana Ramelli of the Hawaii Coalition Against Sexual Assault poses with State Representative Romy Mindo after presentation of the NSVRC's Award*

The NSVRC encourages each coalition to think about participating in this award initiative next year. Coalitions that participated this year have voiced much appreciation for the opportunity to express deserved appreciation.



## Six Elements to Public Advocacy

(Continued from Page 14)

media is a key “voice” to carry messages and support policy efforts. In this capacity, the media not only engages and sustains the public’s attention, but also provides legitimacy to particular messages.

A number of established messages served as the framework for Jane Doe Inc.’s media strategy. For more than a year, these messages were proactively generated through an editorial, two opinion-editorials, a letter to the editor, and coverage of two key press conferences in The Boston Globe alone. Additionally, whenever appropriate, they were interwoven

*The media is a key “voice” to carry messages and support policy efforts.*

throughout Jane Doe Inc.’s response to media inquiries. All told, during this period, Jane Doe Inc. had approximately 60 media opportunities to convey its message about the need for a coordinated statewide entity to address sexual assault.

To be sure, the creation of the Governor’s Commission on Sexual and Domestic Violence, in and of itself, does not make change inevitable. It does, however, take the sexual assault movement one step closer to prioritized statewide multi-disciplinary collaborations that do, inevitably, lead to change. The challenge now before Jane Doe Inc. is to work with the Administration, the Commission and other interested stakeholders to ensure that this new body is positioned to most effectively advance its advocacy agenda. As we enter this new phase along the continuum of social change, our advocacy focus may shift but all six elements outlined above will be featured prominently in our efforts.



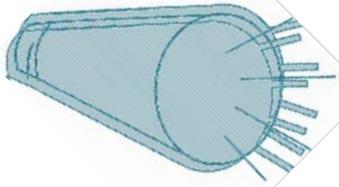
### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> The Task Force held statewide public hearings, created an inventory of existing sexual assault and abuse services, formed multi-disciplinary working groups and delivered a comprehensive report entitled “Toward a Commonwealth Free from Sexual Violence,” with 43 specific recommendations. Whether this work is used as a blueprint or otherwise incorporated by the Governor’s Commission on Sexual and Domestic Violence remains to be seen.

<sup>2</sup> Part of our challenge is to be vigilant in our efforts to look for, and seize upon, opportunities for change. And, as Margaret T. Brickman said, “[c]hance favors the prepared.”

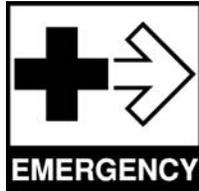
<sup>3</sup> The essence of these four messages is: 1) that sexual assault poses a serious threat to both our public safety and our public health; 2) that effective change requires demonstrated leadership from top elected officials; 3) that multi-disciplinary collaborations are necessary to improve intervention and prevention work; and 4) that there must be a commitment to shared public-private partnership.

<sup>4</sup> We were also fortunate because, when Governor Romney won, his running mate Lieutenant Governor Healey brought with her an experienced background in the issues and a commitment to improve sexual and domestic violence intervention services and prevention work. Clearly, working with a receptive Administration makes advocacy efforts easier.



# Call for Victims' Voices

**The National Sexual Violence Resource Center**  
is seeking stories from victims and advocates concerning lack of access  
to Emergency Contraception (EC) in emergency departments.



If you have experienced problems  
obtaining information about or  
access to Emergency Contraception  
for victims in your county,  
please contact Karla  
at 877-739-3895 Ext. 117.  
NSVRC is collecting stories  
about these experiences.

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*For information or a brochure on EC, please call Karla.*

This newsletter is available in large print, text only  
format on our website: [www.nsvrc.org](http://www.nsvrc.org)

# NSVRC

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A Project of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape

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