



Community  
Coordination  
For Women's Safety

## The Myth of “Mutual Battering” Resources

*The following resources raise important questions and concerns regarding the myth of mutual battering, and provide useful information about the context of victims' use of violence.*

*Some of these resources are available on the CCWS website—[www.endingviolence.org](http://www.endingviolence.org): Scroll down to the bottom of the home page and choose Community Coordination for Women's Safety, then choose Documents—Coordination Resources or Documents—Coordination Resources on Other Websites.*

*We will be adding more resources regularly. If you have any questions, or suggestions of other articles or links, please contact us at the phone numbers/emails below.*

### Resources relating to women's use of violence in Heterosexual Relationships

#### Articles

*Towards an understanding of women's use of non-lethal violence in intimate heterosexual relationships.* Written by Shamita Das Dasgupta for the VAWnet Applied Research Forum, 2001. Retrieved from [www.vaw.umn.edu/documents/vawnet/towards/towards.html](http://www.vaw.umn.edu/documents/vawnet/towards/towards.html). Link on CCWS website.

*Measures of Empowerment for Women Who Are Victims of Violence and Who Use the Justice System,* by Mary Russell. Prepared for Victim Services Division, Ministry of Attorney General, BC, 2001. Contact Victim Service Division at 604-660-5199 or [VSDVictimsServices@gems2.gov.bc.ca](mailto:VSDVictimsServices@gems2.gov.bc.ca) for a copy, or contact Gisela at the number or email below.

*Case Study To Be Used In Workshops On “Mutual Battering.”* Created by CCWS Project in 2004. Available on CCWS website.

*Claims About Husband Battering,* by Michael Flood. First published in the Melbourne Domestic Violence and Incest Resource Centre Newsletter, Summer 1999. Available at [www.xyonline.net/husbandbattering.shtml](http://www.xyonline.net/husbandbattering.shtml).

*Advocating for Domestic Violence Victims Who Have Been Arrested for Domestic Violence,* by Marie De Santis. Available on the website of the Women's Justice Centre in Santa Rosa, California: [www.justicewomen.com/tips\\_dv\\_victims.html](http://www.justicewomen.com/tips_dv_victims.html).

*When Women Use Force,* Erin House. Available at [www.praxisinternational.org/library\\_frame.html](http://www.praxisinternational.org/library_frame.html).

#### Reports

*Domestic Violence Handbook- for Police and Crown Prosecutors in Alberta,* 2005 . Available at [www.justice.gov.ab.ca/home/](http://www.justice.gov.ab.ca/home/)

*Spousal Abuse Policies and Legislation: Final Report of the Ad Hoc Federal Provincial Territorial Working Group Reviewing Spousal Abuse Policies and Legislation*, April 2003. This report has a section in incidence of violence in relationships which deals with statistics around dual arrest. Available at <http://canada.justice.gc.ca/en/ps/fm/reports/spousal.html#11>. Link on CCWS website.

*Assessing Violence Against Women: A Statistical Profile* prepared by Federal Provincial Territorial Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women, 2002. Available at [www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/pubs/0662331664/200212-0662331664\\_e.html](http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/pubs/0662331664/200212-0662331664_e.html).

*Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR2)*, 2002. Available at [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)

*Spousal Abuse: A Fact Sheet from the Department of Justice Canada*. Available at <http://canada.justice.gc.ca/en/ps/fm/spouseafs.html>

*Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile 2005*. Available at [http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/nfv-cnivf/familyviolence/famvio\\_e.html](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/nfv-cnivf/familyviolence/famvio_e.html)

*Stolen Sisters: A Human Rights Response to Discrimination and Violence Against Indigenous Women in Canada*, 2004. Available at <http://www.amnesty.ca/campaigns/resources/amr2000304.pdf>

*The World Health Organization Multi-Country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence Against Women*, 2005. Available at [http://www.who.int/gender/violence/who\\_multicountry\\_study/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/gender/violence/who_multicountry_study/en/index.html)

## **Books**

*Dangerous Domains* by Holly Johnson (Nelson Canada, 1996) has an excellent introduction which deals with statistical research.

*Coordinating Community Responses to Domestic Violence: Lessons From Duluth and Beyond* by Melanie Shepard and Ellen Pence (Corwin, 1999) has an excellent analysis of what constitutes "battering" and how this might be different than criminal law definitions of assault etc. Chapter 10 is most pertinent.

## **RCMP Policy and Training Documents**

*RCMP E Division Operational Manual Part 2- Criminal Code Offenses- Persons, Violence in Relationships* Section 4 Primary Aggressor, Amended 2005-02-24

*VAWIR E Division Training Bulletin* which deals specifically with defenses of mutual battering. The Bulletin number is ON-308. Issued: 97-09-23.

(These two documents available in hard copy by contacting Gisela at the number or email below.)

## **International Instruments**

*United Nations Declaration on Violence Against Women*, 1994. Available at [http://www.unhchr.ch/huridocda/huridoca.nsf/\(symbol\)/A.RES.48.104.En?opendocument](http://www.unhchr.ch/huridocda/huridoca.nsf/(symbol)/A.RES.48.104.En?opendocument)

# Resources relating to the use of violence in Same-Gender (Gay/Lesbian) Relationships

## Article

*Working with Bisexual, Trans, Lesbian and Gay Survivors of Abuse*, by the Northwest Network of Bisexual, Trans and Lesbian Survivors of Abuse, located in Seattle, Washington. Copies of this article available from the Network by calling 206-568-7777 or emailing info@nwnetwork.org.

## Book

*No More Secrets: Violence in Lesbian Relationships* by Janice L Ristock (Routledge Press, 2002), particularly pages 186-192: "Guidelines for Responding to Lesbian Relationship Violence" and pages 49-78 on lesbian's experiences of violence which includes information on abusive relationship dynamics and uses of violence.

## Manual

*Removing Barriers and Building Access: A Resource Manual on Providing Culturally Relevant Services to Lesbian, Gay, Transgender and Bisexual Victims of Violence* by Peter Toppings (The Centre: A Community Centre Serving and Supporting Lesbian, Gay, Transgendered, Bisexual People and their Allies, Vancouver, BC, 2004), particularly section 3.

## Website

<http://www.womanabuseprevention.com/html/screening.html> "Who is the abuser? A Screening Challenge"  
By: Tiffany Veinot, Education Wife Assault newsletter

## Education Project

*Safe Choices Support and Education Program*

Safe Choices - Support and Education Program is a Vancouver-based program about same-sex relationship abuse between women. It focuses on improving the health and safety of women who are currently or have been in abusive queer relationships. Safe Choices strives to empower women and strengthen our communities to respond to this issue. The Program is funded by the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, and is managed by the BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs.

Safe Choices provides free training and resources for social service and health care providers to improve their knowledge and skills in the area of same-sex relationship abuse.

For more information contact: Connie Bonsteel, Coordinator, Safe Choices Program and LGBT Anti-Violence Project, at [bonsteel@endingviolence.org](mailto:bonsteel@endingviolence.org) or 604-633-2506 ext 12.

## CONTACT THE CCWS PROJECT

Call our Vancouver office at 604-633-2506 ext. 15 or go to [www.endingviolence.org](http://www.endingviolence.org) and click on Community Coordination for Women's Safety.