

May-June 2015 CA Online Program

The following was the introductory email sent to participants in late May. A lively discussion followed over the next several weeks.

We have selected 6 videos and 2 websites to review. No need to watch the videos in one sitting, but try to watch in the order listed. Running times are shown. If you only have limited time, we recommend the excerpt from the Steinem video mentioned in #1 (25 minutes), the Jason Katz 19 minute video mentioned in #3 and the “Addressing Violence Against Women Globally” video mentioned in #4 (19 minutes).

- 1 **General overview:** Start with Gloria Steinem’s speech to the NYC Bar Association earlier this year: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EasKrQwJ5-o>. If the link doesn’t work, go to [Youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and type in “Gloria Steinem at the NYC Bar” in the search box. This is a long video, but you only need to watch an excerpt of about 25 minutes starting at the 14 minutes 26 second mark. You can go directly to that section of the speech if you place your cursor on the little round circle under the video and move it to the right along the line that shows how time is elapsing—stop at the 14:26 point. Continue viewing until 37:40 mark. What follows after that is interesting, but it is on the importance of voting, not about violence. NOTE: as some of you may already know, Gloria is a very low key speaker. She looks great, especially for 81, but she doesn’t often look at her audience. However, the message is clear and definitely a worthy starting point for this program. She provides a comprehensive overview of the problem.
- 2 **Definition:** Here is a good definition of domestic violence:: http://www.stopvaw.org/Expert_s_Corner. Look at the document listed with the title “Coercive Control.” There are many other excellent articles and commentaries listed on this page. Indeed the entire website is an excellent source of information, but we suggest you come back for more after you finish the videos suggested below. For a list of the “warning signs” of an abusive relationship, you can click on the “Safety and Empowerment” tab and then “Signs of an abusive relationship” on the Center for Domestic Peace website: <http://www.centerfordomesticpeace.org/>.
- 3 **Stories and Perspectives on Domestic Violence:** The Center for Domestic Peace in Marin County provides services to abused women (and men). There are many similar organizations with excellent websites, but this one has links to several of the videos we recommend you watch. Again, the link to the website is: <http://www.centerfordomesticpeace.org/>.
 - a On the welcome page, watch Stories of Marin Abused Women’s Services—it is the second of the three videos on the home page (16 minutes). It personalizes the issues abused women face.
 - b Next click on the Social Transformation tab at the top of the home page and go to Men Speaking Up. Scroll down to the two Jackson Katz videos, more or less in the middle of the Men Speaking Up page. The first of these runs about 7 minutes. The second is about 20 minutes. There is a growing movement to engage men in addressing the problem of violence against women.
- 4 **Connections to The Global Problem of Violence Against Women:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ecKGUAIAFvo> “Addressing Violence Against Women Globally,” highlights similarities of domestic violence issues world-wide (19 minutes). It suggests some ways to address the issues. Also check out the following:
 - a <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H83bT6kujlk>. “The World’s 5 Most Dangerous Countries for Women.” (4 minutes)

- b** If you have the time to return to http://www.stopvaw.org/Expert_s_Corner (the website noted in #2 above), it has a wealth of information on the problem of violence against women globally. The article titled “Presentation on Women in Armed Conflict” is a reminder not only of the effect of war on women, but the importance of bringing women into the peace process as war ends.

Thoughts to ponder as you watch:

- 1 None of us like to think about violence against women, but the statistics are so astounding, why is it not an issue that is front and center in all our minds and in our actions?
- 2 Some of us, perhaps, are actually living with the reality of domestic violence ourselves or in our families, or know someone else who is. Do we all know the signs? Do we know what help is available?
- 3 Violence against women, and domestic violence, in particular, is a major issue throughout the world, on all populated continents, in countries as diverse as Afghanistan, Argentina, Sweden, India, China, Saudi Arabia, Cameroon, Italy, Uganda, the United States and Canada. Actually NO country is exempt and violence against women crosses all economic and religious boundaries. Why then is it so easy to ignore? Are the root causes basically the same?
- 4 Why do cultural norms, accepted by both men and women, tend to equate masculinity with violence? How can we change this?
- 5 Given how pervasive violence against women is around the world, what can we as individuals do to help change the paradigm?
- 6 Are we complicit in the level of violence in our society by ignoring the issue and not address overarching societal and cultural causes?