

Striving to survive

Human rights for all

One woman's story of survival give other

Domestic violence is not the only number one public health issue facing women and children in the United States today, but is also an important human rights issue.

Today, in our own communities, hundreds of thousands of women and children, as victims of violence, are experiencing violations of their basic human rights, including the right to live with respect and dignity - free from fear. No one at home or abroad deserves to be hit, beaten, threatened, humiliated, or otherwise subjected to physical or emotional harm.

The following articles from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations in 1948, describe some of the rights to which we are all entitled, rights which are often denied in a battering relationship.

Article 1: All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights

Article 12: No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with (her) privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon (her) honor and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

Article 5: No one shall be subjected to torture, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

Article 28: Every one is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in the Declaration can be fully realized.

Article 3: Everyone has a right to life, liberty, and security of person.

The other end of the spectrum The silent minority: prisoners of their own pride

Brandon Powell

Staff Reporter

Though 90% of rape victims in America are female, there is still the 10% of male victims.

Though this statistic may seem relatively small, male rape and sexual assault is often an underreported crime. Male rape victims may feel issues of homosexuality or questions of their masculinity may arise as a result of reporting the crime.

In 1999 there were 60,000 reports of rape by male children under 12.

In 1999, were responsible for 93% of them women and 86% of the men assaulted or raped, but there still are

many male victims.

Of women stalked in America, men stalked 78%. This leaves the remaining 22% of victims male.

Male rape and violence against males is an ever-present reality in today's culture. Social stereotypes often prevent abused men from seeking assistance.

Rape crisis centers around country are there to support not just women, but male victims of rape and sexual assault.

If you are a victim of rape or sexual assault, please contact the Rape Crisis Center of Lompoc at (805) 736-8535 or the hotline at (805) 736-7273.

Jennifer Lei

Staff Reporter

Some say that a woman's strength is apparent in the strength of her family. But what if a woman's attempts to keep her family together meant endangering all of their lives? As a Lompoc woman testifies, domestic violence is a disease that may no longer be swept under the rug of society's awareness.

Jodi* is a woman with a poignant and astounding past. Two

her, when his two friends realized what was happening, got scared, and ran out. That stopped him from killing her that night, and he left shortly after his friends did.

That was the last time Jodi was with her ex-husband Ed. In all 13 years of their marriage, he cheated on her and beat her. Jodi had left him several times, carefully planning her escapes with her children, but had never managed to stay away from him for good until two years ago.

A former Marine and sheriff, Jodi appears an unlikely victim. However, she is quick to point out that any woman could be a victim, even an ex-marine.

"At first it was like, 'Oh no, I don't think so. I carry a big gun!'" But then it was almost a relief when he hit me because I took it as a sign that he loved me,"

said Jodi. "When you're being abused, you see things one way. I thought we were normal. I expected him to hit me."

Growing up in a large family with 10 children, she learned from her parents' behavior that violence was normal and acceptable.

"You just never knew where you stood, you never knew if it was going to be a good day or a bad day. Holidays were always bad," said Jodi.

Both of her parents were alcoholic, and her father was abusive toward his wife and family. Since Jodi didn't talk to Ed's family until 7 months after they were married, she didn't know that he had a similar abusive past. He was from an abusive family where both parents used drugs and alcohol, and his father hit him and his mother on a regular basis.

Fifteen years, four children, and a few extremely hard lessons

years ago in August, she was forced to leave her first husband after a final, violent encounter. They had been married thirteen years, and he had hit her for the first time 4 months after they were married, when she was pregnant with their first son. The beatings continued, until one final, almost fatal episode two years ago. Jodi's sister in law had given her tickets to Marine World, and she apparently disobeyed him by taking her children one morning without him. When she returned that night, she faced his wrath.

Jodi could tell that Ed had been drinking when she returned, and he became extremely violent. He forced her into the hall of their house, and beat her for 45 minutes while two of his friends drank in the living room. He took her into their bedroom, raped her, and slit her throat. He then put her in the closet and was about to kill

Violence against women in

MURDER Every day, four women die in this country as a result of domestic violence, the euphemism for murders and assaults by husbands and boyfriends. That's approximately 1,400 women a year, according to the FBI. The number of women who have been murdered by their intimate partners is greater than the number of soldiers killed in the Vietnam War.

BATTERING Although only 572,000 reports of assault by inti-

mates are officially reported to federal officials each year, the most conservative estimates indicate two to four million women of all races and classes are battered each year. At least 170,000 of those violent incidents are serious enough to require hospitalization, emergency room care or a doctor's attention.

SEXUAL ASSAULT Every year, approximately 132,000 women report that they have been victims

of rape or at more than half attackers. It's to six times the raped, but do every year, 1.2 forcibly rape male partner once.

THE TARGET times more li victimized by women, who

le

ers hope of a happy ending

Jodi has come to terms with experiences with domestic violence, and lives to tell about it. She conducts public speaking sessions about domestic violence, is affiliated with the women's shelter in Lompoc, and her family go to counseling a week. Jodi pointed out that she's un-der the stereotypical weak, sub-

missive battered woman, having served in the U.S. Marine Corps, and then the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. This is a testimony to the fact that domestic violence can happen to anyone, and it is a disease that can transfer from one generation to the next. Here are a few 'red flags' that one should look for if suspecting an abusive mate.



Photo by Brennan Nye

ould happen to you: Escaping from eleven years of domestic violence, former ex-marine and LA Sheriff's Office Jodi recounts her tale of physical and psychological abuse to an incredulous audience.

Myths and facts about domestic violence

MYTH 1

Domestic violence does not affect many people

FACT

- A woman is beaten every 5 seconds
- Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women between ages 15 and 44 in the United States - more than accidents, muggings, and rapes combined.
- Battered women are more likely to suffer miscarriages and give birth to babies with low birth weights.

MYTH 2

Battering is only a momentary loss of temper

FACT

- Battering is the establishment of control and fear in a relationship through violence and other forms of abuse. The batterer uses acts of violence and a series of behavioral intimidation, threats, psychological abuse, and isolation to control the other person. The violence may not be often, but it remains as a hidden (and constant) terror.
- One in five women victimized by their spouses or partners report they had been victimized over and over again by that person

MYTH 3

Domestic violence only occurs in poor, urban areas.

FACT

- Women of all cultures, races, occupations, income

and ages are battered - by husbands, boyfriends, or lovers.

- Approximately one-third of the men counseled (for being batterers) are professional men who are well respected in their jobs and communities. These have included doctors, psychologists, lawyers, ministers, and business executives.

MYTH 4

Domestic violence is just a push, slap or punch - it doesn't produce serious injuries.

FACT

- Battered women are often severely injured - 22 to 40 women who visit medical emergency rooms are there for injuries related to ongoing partner abuse.
- One in four pregnant women have a history of partner abuse

MYTH 5

It is easy for battered women to leave their abuser.

FACT

- Women who leave their batterers are at a 75% greater risk of being killed by the batterer than those who stay.
- Nationally, 50% of all homeless women and children are on the streets because of violence in the home.
- There are nearly three times as many animal shelters in the United States as there are shelters for battered women and children.

Sobering Statistics

- 18,000 become seriously and permanently disabled
- 1.3 women are raped every minute. That means over 75 per hour, 1,800 per day, 56,000 per month or over 600,000 per year.
- Only 1 out of 10 sexual assault cases that go to court are prosecuted
- Females between the ages of 3 and 4 are at the highest risk of sexual molestation
- Young women ages 15 to 25 are at the highest risk of being sexually assaulted

Stats from the North County Rape Crisis and Child Protection Center

A cry for help... and the answer

Lena Gilmore

Staff Reporter

Many women suffer from some sort of violence everyday. Some are physically, emotionally, and even sexually abused, and think there is nowhere to turn for help. Thankfully in the United States there are places in every city where you can go to have your cry for help answered. These places offer a safe and secure emergency shelter for abused women and their children. These organizations share a concern for women and their children that live with

violence and abuse and the families, which suffer as a result. Each charitable group recognizes the strengths of each woman. All services are safe, supportive, non-judgmental and confidential. Some even offer counseling and crisis support groups, for emotional guidance and determining options.

For more information about centers in your area call...

Shelter Services for Women
(805) 736-0965
Help line
(805)734-2711

Agencies open 24- hours

info from www.cpsdv.org/DV/domestic.htm, www.ndvn.org/ndvn2.htm, www.cybergm/views/dv/book/lovewheel.htm, www.ramvt.com/othersts.htm, www.now.org/issues/violence/stats.htm

the United States

attempted rape, and of them knew their estimates that two at many women are do not report it. Ev- million women are ed by their current s, some more than

divorced or single, low-income women and African-American women are disproportionately victims of assault and rape. Domestic violence rates are five times higher among families below poverty levels, and severe spouse abuse is twice as likely to be committed by unemployed men as by those working full time. Violent attacks on lesbians and gay men have become two to three times more common than they were prior to 1988.

ETS Women are 10 kely than men to be an intimate. Young are separated, di-