



National Family Justice Center Alliance  
Webinar Training  
CEU Accreditation  
Provider # PCE 5095

### **Webinar Course Description**

**Title:** Domestic Violence Programs and the African American Church

Presented by Dr. Oliver Williams, and hosted by the Family Justice Center Alliance, March 2012, this webinar training explores how faith leaders and the church as a whole, can respond to how violence produces a crisis of faith with victims of abuse. This webinar will specifically look at the African American community and how a Family Justice Center can forge new partnerships and reach out to the faith based community to provide more holistic and efficient services to its clients. This session is approved for 1 CEU credit.

**Presenters:**

Oliver Williams, Ph.D., Director, Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community

# Welcome!

*While waiting for the presentation to begin, please read the following reminders:*

- The presentation will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. Pacific Time
- If you are experiencing technical difficulties, email [natalia@nfjca.org](mailto:natalia@nfjca.org)
- To LISTEN to the presentation on your phone, dial **+1 (314) 627-1514** Access Code: **586-726-928** or listen on your computer speakers
- Attendees will be muted throughout the presentation
- To send questions to the presenter during presentation:
  - Click on “Questions” in the toolbar (top right corner)
  - Type your comments & send to presenter
- There will be a Q & A session at the end of the presentation.
- The presentation will be recorded & posted on [www.familyjusticecenter.org](http://www.familyjusticecenter.org)
- Please complete the evaluation at the end of the presentation. We value your input.

# Your host today:



Casey Gwinn, J.D.  
President

Family Justice Center Alliance

# Thank You to Our Sponsor

Thank you to the US Department of Justice,  
Office on Violence Against Women  
for making this training possible!

This project is supported all or in part by Grant No. 2007-TA-AX-K032 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

# April 1<sup>st</sup> Last Day for Hotel Room Rates!

## 2012 International Family Justice Center Conference

### April 17-19 2012 in New Orleans, LA



[www.familyjusticecenter.org](http://www.familyjusticecenter.org)

The three-day conference will include discussions on issues related to the handling of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, and elder abuse cases in the context of the Family Justice Center model. The conference faculty includes nationally and internationally recognized subject matter experts, advocates, and survivors. During the conference participants will have the opportunity to meet with survivors and professionals who currently work in Family Justice Centers in the United States and internationally.





# The FJC Alliance TA Team



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# Webinar Download Reminders

This webinar presentation is being recorded and will be posted on our website by the end of today's business day. We would like to remind you that in order to download webinar files and other materials from our Resource Library on our website, FJC Alliance Membership is required- it's free, quick, and easy to do. Members can log in to access members-only information.

**Please note that registering for today's live webinar training does not sign you up as a member of the FJC Alliance.** If you wish to become a member and obtain login credentials, please visit our website at [www.FamilyJusticeCenter.org](http://www.FamilyJusticeCenter.org) and click on “**Get Involved**” → “**Become a Member**”. Please allow 24 hours for your application to be reviewed. Once your membership application is approved, you will be notified via email.





# California Continuing Education Credits

- This session is approved for 1 CEU credit. The National Family Justice Center Alliance is a California approved provider for MFTs, LPCCs, LEPs and/or LCSWs as required by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences(PCE#5095). Professionals in states outside of California should check with their own state board to determine whether these credits are approved in their jurisdiction
- A checklist detailing how to obtain the credit will be included in the course materials and available for download
- The checklist will also be emailed after the webinar training

# Today's Presenter:



Dr. Oliver J. Williams, Professor of Social Work, University of Minnesota School of Social Work

Co-Director: Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community

# SPEAKING OF FAITH: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAMMING IN THE AFRICAN AMERICAN CHURCH

Webinar for the Family Justice Center Alliance

San Diego Ca.

March 20, 2012

Presented by

Dr. Oliver J. Williams, Professor of Social Work,  
University of Minnesota School of Social Work and ,  
Co-Director

Institute on Domestic Violence in the African  
American Community

# Agenda

- What influenced us to do this project?
- What was the process we used to develop materials (DVD and Readers Guide)?
- Observation of the churches that include DV among their church ministries
- Philosophy of Ministers doing the work to address Domestic Violence in the African American Church
- What do Ministers need to know?
- What can Churches do?



# What influenced IDVAAC to do this project?

IDVAAC is made up of people of Faith but we are not Ministers. It was Reverend Diane Smalley, from Detroit Mi. that approached us to do this project because of her concern over the plight of African American women that turn to the church for help in the midst of being abused. These women suffer not only a physical and emotional crisis but also they struggle with a spiritual crisis.

We held a roundtable with 15 female and male ministers from around the country to ask them about their perspectives on domestic violence and how to address it with in many African American Churches.

# What Influenced IDVAAC to do this project?

What I will share with you are a few insights that come from these Faith leaders but also writers that contributed to the readers guide and the DVD IDVAAC developed for this project:

Reverend Dr. Sharon Ellis-Davis

Reverend J.R. Thicklin and

Minister La Donna Combs

# Who are leaders doing this work?

- ▣ Reverend Marie Fortune, with the Faith Trust Institute, Seattle Washington
- ▣ Reverend Al Miles, Honolulu Hawaii
- ▣ Reverend Dr. Sharon Ellis-Davis, Chicago, Illinois
- ▣ Reverend J.R. Thicklin, West Palm Beach, Florida
- ▣ Minister La Donna, Combs, Detroit, Michigan
- ▣ Bishop, Charles Ellis III, Detroit, Michigan
- ▣ Bishop, Roderick Mitchell, Greenville, Mississippi
- ▣ Reverends' Diane and William Young Memphis, Tn.
- ▣ Reverend, Aleese Moore-Orbih, in North Carolina
- ▣ Reverend Abura Love, Atlanta, Georgia
- ▣ And many others across the United States not listed here

# Our Process in developing Materials for this project

In the discussion among Faith leaders about domestic violence, we learned a lot from the aforementioned contributors. But we also learned so much from observing the work being done in four Churches in the United States:

- A mega churches (w/over 10,000 members at the home church and several churches around the world) the home church is based in a large urban northern city
- A well attended church in a small rural southern community
- A small church in an improvised suburb outside a large city in the Northern United States
- And finally a small church in a southern midsized urban city



# What was a thing we learned from Observing these churches?

We learned that regardless of the size of the church or the resources they had at their disposal, they were committed to doing something.

- They were trained to work with battered women and some with men who battered
- They all preached about the sin of violence against women
- They were able to listen to her story and accurately understand her situation
- They either created or collaborated with community resource that where safe places for her and her children
- They knew how to hold the batterer accountable; some churches even developed batterers education; being ever mindful of the battered women's safety
- Some churches also had programs for children of domestic violence

# Philosophy of doing the work to address Domestic Violence in the African American Church

There are Ministers that interpreted the Bible in a particular manner that frames what it means to be a shepherd for their congregations, families; and to act as a tool to help their faith community and secular community; to reach outside the church walls to help others.

# Philosophy of doing the work to address Domestic Violence in the African American Church

- Churches must respond to the needs of their congregation
- Victims of abuse suffer physically, emotionally and often suffer from a crisis of Faith
- Churches must respond to the needs of the victim of domestic violence
- Faith leaders and the church membership must hear her, believe her and help her with safety and support

# Philosophy of doing the work to address Domestic Violence in the African American Church

- Churches must confront batterers; hold them accountable for their violence; and if possible they should encourage him to no longer be a threat, encourage healthy non-abusive behavior and where possible reintegrate him to a church community
- Faith leaders must be trained on the issue — to listen, accurately understand and to respond in helpful ways
- Faith leaders must collaborate and encourage collaboration with secular organization but recognizing doing this work requires mutual respect



# Why did we do this project?

- ▣ Because many battered women could recount when the church was a hinder rather than a help
- ▣ Because some church leadership did not accurately understand or care what battered women were going through and provide helpful resources
- ▣ Because many Ministers believe domestic violence programs goal is to break up marriages and families rather than save lives and protect people due to abuse
- ▣ Because many Ministers did not confront the batterer and often acted as a character witness for him in court
- ▣ Because some Ministers misinterpret scripture with the intent to subordinate women when that was not the intent of scripture (e.g. Ephesian Chapter 5:22—before and after)

# Why did we do this project?

- ▣ Because many ministers view domestic violence as a misunderstanding rather than a crime by someone who will repeat harmful behavior with one or another person
- ▣ Because so many women talked about how they turned to the church first but left without being understood
- ▣ Because we need more access points for safety and support with in African American communities
- ▣ Because there are churches that understand the problem and are committed to doing the right thing
- ▣ Because many Faith leaders believe in helping women and children find safety and to confront men and hold them accountable — and where possible encouraging transformation — is a responsibility for the church and is what God expects

# Why did we do this project?

- ▣ Because in the church some adults witnessed their mother's abuse as children—some are Ministers now both (male and female)
- ▣ Because Ministers that have been abused know how important the church is and how it could contribute to helping
- ▣ Because there are Ministers that want to know how to help address domestic violence

# What Ministers need to know!

Dealing with a crisis of faith where victims often wonder the following (IDVAAC Readers Guide "Speaking of Faith"):

- Why is God allowing this evil to happen to me?
- Why has God left me?
- Will I still be a good Christian, if I divorce my husband?
- Am I suffering due to past sins I have committed?
- Is my suffering the "bed I made " so I must lay in it?

The answer to such questions can result in a person feeling supported or re-victimized.



# What Ministers need to know!

## Understanding feeling of guilt, shame and grief

To understand the difference between guilt , shame and grief. Many battered women come to church to ask for forgiveness then the Minister finds out they were a victim of abuse. In these cases the victim is takes responsibility for the cause of abuse (taking on the blame), embarrassment and burden; believing the abuse is their fault. When she is a victim she must understand that she did not cause the abuse and that shame is likely the true emotion they feel. Ministers can release her from these feeling by understanding the difference between guilt and shame.

Also women may grieve the loss of trust, loss of the relationship and a loss of a sense of stability. Helping her understand that grief does not make her weak but understanding that grief is a natural set of emotions that she can work through is reassuring.

# What Ministers need to know!

## Understanding the deep impact that violence has on the victim

There are faith leaders that don't understand the deep impact that abuse has on victims of abuse. They don't know the harm that victims experience from hospital visits, broken bones, loss of some bodily function due to the abuse or the impact on family members, like children that witnessing it.

There may be some who see domestic violence as a response to a conflict rather than the terroristic behavior that it often is. Ministers must seek out ways to understand her story (the speaking of Faith DVD from IDVAAC and other DVD products from the Faith trust Institute are method to hear these experience from victims).

## Do not provide Marital/Couples counseling in domestic violence cases

Ministers must understand that if a victim of abuse and the abuser view this behavior as a result of a conflict, the abuser will not take responsibility for the abuse and the victim will continue to feel some responsibility for the abuse.

Every relationship has conflict from time to time but when abuse occurs, it is usually the responsibility of the abuser. He will abuse her or someone else unless he changes.

He must go into batterer education classes first to address his violence. Because there is no justification for his violent and abusive behavior. She must be told too that batterer education is no guarantee of his change. And that he may not learn how to change in the current relationship. Plus she must have a safety plan in place; and he must contract with the Minister to allow her to leave. If they are determine to do couples counseling, the issue of his abuse must be addressed first. And she must understand the difference between issues related to conflict and causes for abuse. She should be encouraged to consider her safety and that of her Children, if the abusive behavior continues.

# What Ministers need to know!

## Church policy and pronouncements

After ministers are trained to understand and respond to domestic violence, they should let the congregation know what church policy is on this issue. Then they must be consistent and follow through. This policy also applies to them and other church as well. Many pastors wives have been victims themselves while their husbands have been counseling couples, in appropriately about martial conflict and abuse. They report that have not found support to address their victimization.

## Spiritually Healthy Culture

Clergy must be aware of their own biases, practices and teachings concerns and the role of women in the church. Also perspectives about martial relationships. What consequence occurs without such a review can be harmful to victims and abusers



# What Ministers Need to Know!

- Understanding what caring means
- Reconcile feelings of impatience
- Reconcile concerns over criminal justice responses to domestic violence
- Know the function and purpose of domestic violence organization
- Require the Ministers of the church and lead lay people to get trained about domestic violence and services
- Proof text scripture associated with domestic violence but also learn how to teach and support healthy interdependent relationships
- Know that domestic violence organizations do not break-up families rather it is the abuse that breaks up families

# What Churches Can Do?

- Don't remain silent
- Raise awareness by displaying family violence brochures, pamphlets and referral cards in the Church foyer and in women's restrooms
- Educate the congregation through monthly news letters, weekly bulletins, and through all pre-marital counseling classes
- Speak out against domestic violence from the pulpit
- Create a platform in churches that treats domestic violence as a serious spiritual issue
- Lead by example. Have codes of ethics that addresses healthy relationships for all in leadership
- Offer or have meeting places for support groups for victims
- Offer accountability programs like MASH (MEN AGAINST SPOUSAL HARM) Program at Bishop Roderick Mitchell's church in Greenville, Mississippi
- Collaborate with community domestic violence service providers and advocates
- Develop theological materials that emphasize a women's right to safety and an abuser's responsibility for ending the violence
- Know the law as it pertains to domestic violence and protection orders
- Develop a faith based outreach effort to assist associated with domestic violence

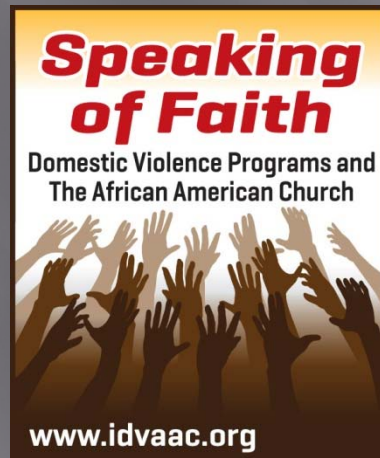
# Please contact us!

The Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community  
[www.idvaac.org](http://www.idvaac.org) or 612-624-5357.

Or contact Dr. Oliver Williams at: [owilliam@umn.edu](mailto:owilliam@umn.edu) ; (612) 624-9217

Ask for the DVD "Speaking of Faith: Domestic Violence Programming in the African American Church" and the companion readers guide for "Speaking of Faith"

-Please email us if you would like to receive a copy of the DVD





# April 1<sup>st</sup> Last Day for Hotel Room Rates!

## 2012 International Family Justice Center Conference

### April 17-19 2012 in New Orleans, LA



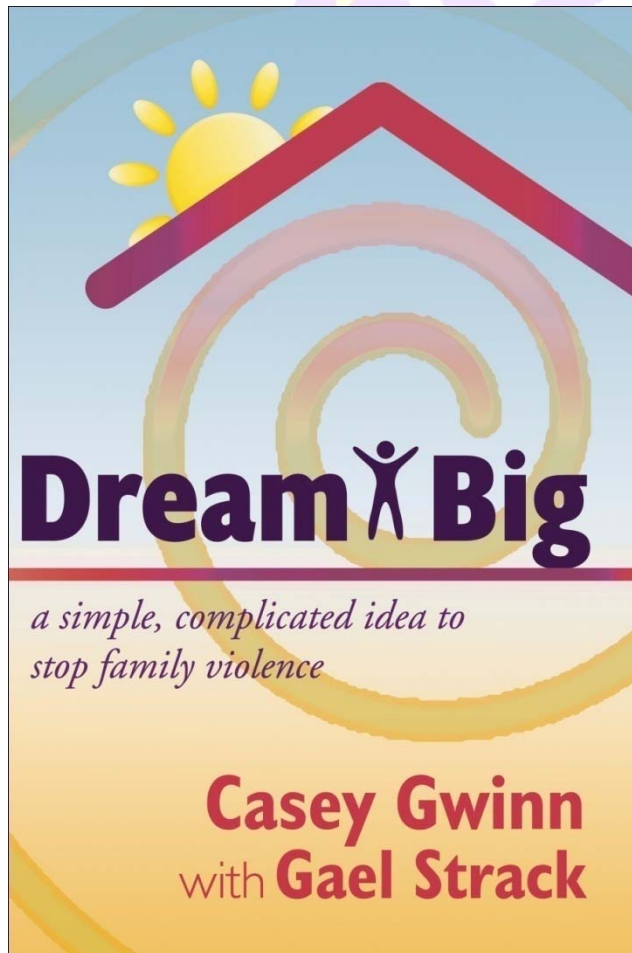
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# Dream Big



Though help is out there for victims of domestic violence, it's not always easy to find. The people who seek it often go from agency to agency, telling their story again and again. The rapidly developing Family Justice Center movement seeks to bring all community services for family violence, elder abuse, stalking, and sexual assault under one roof.

In Dream Big, the visionaries behind the family justice center movement use testimonies of survivors, staff in existing Centers, and domestic violence movement leaders to paint a future where families come first, and professionals come together to stop family violence. Everyone can play a role. Dream Big will show you how.

Go to the "Store" at [www.familyjusticecenter.com](http://www.familyjusticecenter.com) to purchase *Dream Big*



# National Law Enforcement First-Line Supervisor Training on Violence Against Women

- The IACP in collaboration with OVW is sponsoring a 4-day training to those who hold primary responsibility for overseeing first responders.
  - Interested sworn law enforcement who have supervisory oversight are eligible
    - **For those selected all reasonable travel and lodging expenses associated with participation will be covered by the IACP!**
    - For more information contact:  
Michael Rizzo, Project Manager [rizzo@theiacp.org](mailto:rizzo@theiacp.org)

# Thank You

Thank you for joining today's presentation

Family Justice Center Alliance

707 Broadway, Suite 700

San Diego, CA 92101

888-511-3522

[www.familyjusticecenter.com](http://www.familyjusticecenter.com)

*\*Reminder: This presentation will be available for download on the Online Resource Library within 24 hours*





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Providers: National Family Justice Center Alliance  
Provider No: CEU: #5095  
Subject Matter/Title: Domestic Violence Programs and the African American Church  
Date and Time of Activity: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 at 10:00am  
Location: San Diego, CA  
Length of Presentation: 1 hour

<b>Directions: Please circle "Yes" or "No" to indicate your evaluation of this course.</b>		
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
1. Did this program meet your educational objectives?		
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<b>Please rate the faculty on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest)</b>	
Faculty:	<b>Dr. Oliver Williams</b>
Overall Teaching Effectiveness	1 2 3 4 5
Effectiveness of Teaching Methods	1 2 3 4 5
Significant Current Knowledge of the Subject	1 2 3 4 5

Comments:

Name of Participant: \_\_\_\_\_ (optional)





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**Official Record of Attendance**

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ELIGIBLE CALIFORNIA CEU (MFTs & LCSWs) CREDIT: 1	
TOTAL HOURS:	1
Legal Ethics:	
Elimination of Bias in the Legal Profession:	
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- ✓ Attend the entire webinar training
  - If you are planning to watch the recorded version, the webinar is available for download on the online Resource Library<sup>1</sup>. For this session, the webinar will be available under the “Spiritual Support” category and then: **“Spiritual Support - Webinar Recording – Domestic Violence Programs and the African American Church – Dr. Oliver Williams & NFJCA 3-20”**.
- ✓ Obtain all of the course materials necessary for the training
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  - The materials will be available for download on the online Resource Library. For this session, all of the materials will be available in one file under the “Spiritual Support” category and then: **“Domestic Violence Programs and the African American Church - Webinar PowerPoint & Course Materials - Domestic Violence Programs and the African American Church – Dr. Oliver Williams & NFJCA 3-20”**.
- ✓ Return the completed Record of Attendance and Evaluation Form to the Director of Technical Assistance via email ([Natalia@nfjca.org](mailto:Natalia@nfjca.org))
- ✓ A Certificate of Attendance will be emailed to you once the latter information is submitted

*Professionals outside of California wishing to obtain credit must file for credit individually. All of the information necessary to apply for credits is noted above.*

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Natalia Aguirre  
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National Family Justice Center Alliance  
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[Natalia@nfjca.org](mailto:Natalia@nfjca.org)

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<sup>1</sup> Membership is required to access the online Resource Library. Membership is free and registration is easy. Register [here](#).



**Instructor:** Dr. Oliver Williams

**Instructor's Biography:**

Oliver J. Williams, Ph.D., Professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Minnesota, in St. Paul. From 1994 to 2011 he was the Executive Director of the Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community (IDVAAC). In October 2011 he will begin serving as Co-Executive Director of IDVAAC.

He is also the Director of the Safe Return Initiative that addresses the issues of prisoner reentry and domestic violence. He has worked in the field of domestic violence for more than thirty years. Dr. Williams has been a clinical practitioner; working in mental health, family therapy, substance abuse, child welfare, sexual assault, and domestic violence. He has worked in battered women's shelters, developed curricula for batterers' intervention programs and facilitated counseling groups in these programs.

He has provided training across the United States and abroad on research and service-delivery surrounding partner abuse. He has been appointed to several national advisory committees and task forces from the Center for Disease Control, US Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, US Office on Women's Health, and the US Department of Education.

He has been a board member of various domestic violence and human service organization including National Domestic Violence Hotline. In 2000, he was appointed to the National Advisory Council on Domestic Violence by the US Secretary of Health and Human Services and US Attorney General. In 2010 he participated in a Roundtable with the US Attorney General on issues related to fatherhood and participated in a Whitehouse Roundtable on Fatherhood and Domestic Violence.

He has conducted training for the US Military Family Advocacy programs and presented to numerous Family Violence, Research and Practice organizations in the United States and Abroad. Dr. Williams' research and publications in scholarly journals, books and DVD's have centered on creating service delivery strategies to reduce violent behavior. Dr. Williams has also received many awards including the International "Telly Award" for his documentary work and the National "Shelia Wellstone Institute Award" related to his work on Domestic Violence. Dr. Williams received a bachelor's degree in social work from Michigan State University; a Masters in Social Work from Western Michigan



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University; a Masters in Public Health and a PH.D in Social Work both from the University of Pittsburgh.