

FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION THROUGH EDUCATION

Intra-family violence done to people of color historically has been deemed permissible; with the most permissible violence being against women of color by men of color or white men with whom they are in a relationship. In the United States as in Milwaukee, there is also a high correlation between family violence homicide rates and being poor and Black. Rev. Dr. Alice Belcher, is considered an expert in the field of family violence. Her approach to the genre, is providing holistic-cultural prevention and healing solutions for Family Violence in the African American Community through education.



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**“Together we can end family violence.
Each one, reach one, teach one.”**

—A. Belcher

16 Ways to Stop Domestic Violence in Your Community

16days.thepixelproject.net



“Stop Domestic Violence” graphic by
Sebastian Smith.

*Information provided by the pixel project, and compiled
by CWP Ministries & Impact Coalition for Families*

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Domestic Violence Intervention Tip #1

Domestic Violence Intervention Tip #1: Know the signs. The first step to action is to familiarise individuals and the community with the possible signs and indicators of domestic violence.

Domestic Violence Intervention Tip #2:

Get your community educated! A good start to eradicating Domestic Violence from your community or neighborhood is to start educating as many people as possible about Domestic Violence, its impact and how to intervene safely.

Domestic Violence Intervention Tip #3:

Get your community organized! There is safety and influence in numbers when intervening to stop an abuser or making your community a place where Domestic Violence will not be tolerated. So just as many neighborhoods have neighborhood watch to stop crime, start organizing a network of folks who will commit to intervene in Domestic Violence situations, help victims leave their abusers safely and provide a communal support structure for survivors.

Domestic Violence Intervention Tip #4:

Boost your community support network with technology! If you have a smart phone and the victim has a smart phone, consider downloading a safety app for women, many of which have been designed to automatically alert your support network if you are in danger.

If the victim does not have a smart phone, consider pooling money with a few friends and neighbors to get her one and pre-load it with a safety app that is connected to all your phones so you can become a de facto support net for her.

Free safety apps currently available include the award-winning Circle of 6 App <https://www.circleof6app.com/> and the iAMDEFENDER app at www.iAMDEFENDER.com.

Domestic Violence Intervention Tip #5:

Stopping the violence is good for business. Domestic Violence has cost economies and companies millions of dollars in lost time, medical care, productivity etc. In the U.S., the cost of Domestic Violence to the economy is estimated at \$8.3 billion a year.

Domestic Violence Intervention Tip #6:

(For Individuals). Ring the bell. If you are the neighbor of a family experiencing Domestic Violence, please take the time to ring their bell when you hear a violent situation happening. You could use the old neighborly approach of asking to borrow a cup of sugar or some milk as an excuse.

Domestic Violence Intervention Tip #7:

Bring a back-up. Intervening with Domestic Violence situations can be dangerous especially if the abuser has a weapon (e.g. a gun) and is intoxicated by drink or drugs. If you are unable to get help from the local shelter or police, make sure to bring another friend or family member along with you when you respond to the victim/survivor's call in person.

Domestic Violence Intervention Tip #8:

BE the back-up. If your neighbor, friend, co-worker, classmate, mother, sister, daughter, daughter-in-law, niece or cousin is facing Domestic Violence at home, let them know that you will be willing to be a witness or to intervene on their behalf while you are around. Also let them know that they are welcome to take refuge in your home should they need somewhere to go.

Domestic Violence Intervention Tip

#9: Make the call, NOW. If the situation is beyond simple neighborly intervention (e.g. the abuser has a gun and threatens it during the abuse), call the police or your local emergency services (such as 911 in the U.S.) IMMEDIATELY.

Domestic Violence Intervention Tip #10:

Listen to empower. If a victim of domestic violence reaches out to you, listen. Let her know that you believe her and do not judge her choices

Domestic Violence Intervention Tip #11: Be on standby If you suspect your friend, co-worker, staff, or family member of suffering from Domestic Violence, offer to be on standby for her text or call for emergencies.

Domestic Violence Intervention Tip #12: Have an intervention plan. Work out a plan to get an intervention operation in action

Domestic Violence Intervention Tip #13: Provide some relief. If you know a Domestic Violence victim/survivor who is being kept at home without relief, do a random act of kindness for her: Offer to babysit the children for a few hours while the abuser is out so she can have a breather. Every small gesture helps provide relieve and also build the victim's confidence in eventually reaching out to you for help (or accepting your help).

Domestic Violence Intervention Tip #14: Check in regularly. If you fear for your friend, co-worker, classmate, or family member's life, call or text her once a day at a random time to see if she is all right. If it's your neighbor, keep an eye out on the house and your ears pricked for any signs or sounds of violence.

Domestic Violence Intervention Tip #15: Be a resource. Help her find the assistance she needs, whether it is legal information, local domestic violence programs, or finding a safe place through a battered women's shelter. The greatest danger women face in these situations is often the actual process of leaving, so finding a safe place may be key. Knowing this information beforehand may be helpful, but assisting her in the research and even making phone calls for her will also help speed things up.

Domestic Violence Intervention Tip #16:

Document! Document! Document! Document any incidents that you witness. Take note of dates, times, injuries, and any other observations. Your ongoing documentation can help bolster a victim's courage and credibility when they are finally willing to pursue legal action against their partner.

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