

Understanding and Addressing
Women's Use of Force in Intimate
Heterosexual Relationships:
A Retrospective

Lisa Young Larence, MSW, LCSW, LMSW
Practitioner-Scholar
Doctoral Candidate, University of Michigan
lylaranc@umich.edu

Leigh Goodmark, J.D.
Marjorie Cook Professor of Law & Co-Director, Clinical Law Program
University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law
lgoodmark@law.umaryland.edu

© Lisa Young Larence & Leigh Goodmark, 2020

1

Disclaimer

- The webinar series was supported by Grant No. 2015-TA-AX-K027 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this webinar are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

© Lisa Young Larence & Leigh Goodmark, 2020

2

Who is Lisa Young Larence?

Practitioner-Scholar

© Lisa Young Larence & Leigh Goodmark, 2020

3

Training Overview

- ✦ Intervention Perspective
 - ✦ Common Experiences of Women Who Use Force
 - ✦ Experiences of Women in Marginalized Communities
 - ✦ Promising Community-Based Interventions
- ✦ Legal Perspective
 - ✦ Common Experiences of Women Who Use Force
 - ✦ Experiences of Women in Marginalized Communities
 - ✦ Promising Community-Based Interventions

© Lisa Young Larance & Leigh Goodmark, 2020

4

Intervention Perspective

Common Experiences of Women Who Use Force:

- ✦ Context is critical
- ✦ Presentation at Intake
 - ✦ IPV Typically have Survivorship Histories; However, Do Not Self-Identify with Practitioner Language
 - ✦ SA Survivorship Histories; However, May Not Be Initially Forthcoming
 - ✦ Expressing Anger; However, Feeling Grief and Shame

© Lisa Young Larance & Leigh Goodmark, 2020

5

Intervention Perspective

Experiences of Women in Marginalized Communities:

- ✦ Paradigmatic Victim (Goodmark, 2008, 2012)
- ✦ System's perspective (Miller, 2005)
- ✦ Disabled women (Ballan & Freye, 2012)
- ✦ Black Women (Potter, 2008)
- ✦ South Asian Immigrant Women (Dasgupta, 2002)

© Lisa Young Larance & Leigh Goodmark, 2020

6

Intervention Perspective

◆◆◆◆◆

Promising Domestic Gender-Responsive, Trauma-Informed Community-Based Interventions:

- ◆ RENEW, MI
- ◆ Turning Points, MN
- ◆ Vista, NJ

7
© Lisa Young Larence & Leigh Goodmark, 2020

7

Change Process

Figure 1. Conceptual Model of the Change Process.
Larence & Rousson, 2016

8

8

Next Steps for Intervention Programs:

◆◆◆◆◆

- ◆ Know your program's role and goal as a system's partner, i.e., work alongside the criminal legal system while working diligently to not reproduce power and oppression in the women's lives.
- ◆ The role of language
- ◆ Address safety & support, program documentation, & economic insecurity
- ◆ Focus on the presence or absence of coercive control in the current relationship.
- ◆ Rather than a sole focus on gender-responsive intervention, think "intersectionally responsive"
- ◆ COVID-19 complicates women's already complex circumstances

9
© Lisa Young Larence & Leigh Goodmark, 2020

9

Who is Leigh Goodmark?

Practitioner-scholar

© Lisa Young Larance & Leigh Goodmark, 2020 10

10

Legal Perspective

- ✦ Understanding the Legal Framework
 - ✦ Mandatory arrest
 - ✦ Self-defense
 - ✦ Battered woman syndrome
- ✦ Limitations of the Legal Response
- ✦ Promising Community-Based Interventions

11

11

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever does.

— Margaret Mead

© Lisa Young Larance & Leigh Goodmark, 2020 12

12

References

Ballan, M. S., & Freyer, M. B. (2012). Self-defense among women with disabilities: An unexplored domain in domestic violence cases. *Violence Against Women, 28*, 1083-1107.

Dasgupta, S. D. (2002). A framework for understanding women's use of nonlethal violence in intimate heterosexual relationships. *Violence Against Women, 8* (11), 1364-1389.

Goodmark, L. (2008). When is a battered woman not a battered woman? When she fights back. *Yale Journal of Law and Feminism, 20* (1), 75-129.

Goodmark, L. (2012). *A troubled marriage: Domestic violence and the legal system*. New York: University Press.

Larance, L. Y., Hoffman-Ruzicka, A., & Shivas, J. B. (2009). *Visto: A program for women who use force*. Morristown, NJ: Jersey Center for Nonviolence.

Larance, L. Y., Goodmark, L., Miller, S. L., & Dasgupta, S. D. (2019). Violence Against Women's 25th Anniversary Edition: *Understanding and Addressing Women's Use of Force: A Retrospective, 24(2)*, 56-80.

Larance, L. Y., & Roussos, A. (2018). Facilitating change: A process of renewal for women who have used force in their intimate relationships. *Violence Against Women, 22* (7), 876-891.

Miller, S. L. (2005). *Victims as offenders: The paradox of women's violence in relationships*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.

Potter, H. (2008). *Battle cries: Black women and intimate partner abuse*. New York, NY: University Press.
