

Violence Against Women and Children

Worldwide

At least 1 out of every 3 women has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused, usually by someone she knows. (UNICEF)

Every year, at least 700,000 women, children, and men are sold into prostitution and forced labor. (US Department of State)

At least 130 million women and girls alive today have suffered forced Female Genital Mutilation. (WHO)

At least 5,000 women and girls are murdered each year in so-called “honor” killings by members of their own families. (UNFPA)

In the United States every year

At least 1.3 million women are physically assaulted by a partner*. (CDC)

At least 1,300 women are murdered by a partner*. (CDC)

At least every 6 minutes one forcible rape is **reported**. This is 6 each hour, 144 each day and 52,560 rapes each year. (FBI)

At least 1,490 children are murdered. (National Child Abuse and Neglect Center)

At least 324,000 women are battered by a partner* during pregnancy. (Maternal and Child Health Journal)

At least 503,485 women are stalked. (National Institute of Justice)

At least 18% of girls and boys are threatened or injured with a weapon in school. (CDC)

The average age of children forced into prostitution: girls, 14 and boys, 12. (Estes and Weiner)

In Michigan, at least 54,018 women are battered and 70 are murdered, by a partner*. (Michigan State Police)

* Partners and former partners.

Sources from 2000-2006; full citations available upon request

A community of hearts bearing witness

Who We Are

We are witnesses.

We are anyone from anywhere.

We care deeply about ending violence against women and children.

We find each other in neighborhoods, in gardens, in the supermarket, in the unemployment line, on the internet, on the bus, at the pharmacy.

We listen and we talk. We tell our stories – from our hearts – about how violence has harmed us and our families, communities and the world.



© Photo courtesy of Harriette Hartigan

Sometimes we bear witness silently, just to ourselves.

Sometimes we bear witness softly, just to those close to us.

Sometimes we bear witness loudly, so that everyone may hear.

Every time we know the truth in our own mind we are bearing witness. Every time we work in the Memorial Garden we are bearing witness. When we bear witness, **in whatever way is right for us**, we become a community – an alliance of people – committed to an end to violence.

***This is how we form
a community of hearts.***

What We Do

We bear witness

To bear witness means to make a conscious choice to see clearly, know what is true and remember.

The Battered Women and Children’s Memorial Garden bears witness as the first international garden where all who have survived, witnessed or care about ending violence against women and children can find support, healing and a powerful voice. For those who were killed by or lost to perpetrators, the Garden is a memorial.

Bearing witness is taking action.

We bear witness when:

We wonder about the bruises we see on children

We care about the suffering of others

We know that the batterer is to blame for the battering

We tell others where sex offenders live

We reveal that we were battered

We know that victims are created by perpetrators

We demand that a parent stop hitting their child at the grocery store – or anywhere else, and also call the police

We tell a newspaper our story, our whole, true story

We refuse to stay friends with him when we find out that he beats his partner

We demand that public officials hold batterers accountable



We all witness violence.

Sometimes we tell what happened.

Sometimes we keep silent.

Some of us do not survive.



BATTERED WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL GARDEN

Where We Stand

The Battered Women and Children's Memorial Garden is an alliance of people desiring an end to violence. We form a beacon of hope to honor the disempowered, remember those lost and inspire justice through bearing witness, education, advocacy and service.

Together, we create a world in which each child, woman and man values one another equally.

We choose these fundamental principles for guiding our thinking, conduct and practices as an organization.

- ☞ Remain loyal to the disempowered
- ☞ Lead the discussion
- ☞ Ask questions
- ☞ Challenge gendered assumptions
- ☞ Expose and oppose oppression
- ☞ Apply accountability
- ☞ Honor diversity
- ☞ Practice responsible environmental stewardship
- ☞ Speak truth to power
- ☞ Make privilege visible
- ☞ Eradicate misogyny

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How We Witness

Gather Locally and Globally: Attend *Speaking of Women and Children Conversation at the Garden* and other events. Volunteer through or facilitate the Volunteer Orientation Program. Join **HiPS ~ Hiding in Plain Sight**: a project that harnesses the existing skills of women to teach other women. Browse, participate in a podcast, add your contributions to the virtual Memorial Garden: www.memgarden.org.

Learn and Teach: Develop social action projects. Compile battered children's artwork and writing. Create educational materials consistent with the Mission, Vision and Guiding Principles. Develop children's nonviolence education projects. Write for the *Speaking of Women and Children Newsletter*.



Contribute: Lend your financial support. Share gardening tools. Furnish office supplies, computers, books and artwork. Donate land. Raise funds. Serve on the Land Acquisition, Social Action, Children's Services, Diversity, Imagining or other Advisory Council. Collect and archive global articles about battered women and children. Develop earth-friendly goods for the GardenHouse.

Lead the Discussion: Join the Speaker's Bureau. Speak out against violence. Tell your story. Develop legal strategies and challenge unjust laws. Serve on the board. Advance the healing Mission, Vision and Guiding principles of the Memorial Garden.

BATTERED WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL GARDEN

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We are a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax deductible.



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bearing witness*