



Child witness = Child victim
FAMILY VIOLENCE

Watch out for the signs:

- ◆ Stuttering, anxiety and fears, sleep disruption, excessive crying and academic problems
- ◆ Drug problems
- ◆ Continual fighting and threatening violence at school and towards siblings
- ◆ Attention seeking through hitting, kicking, chocking
- ◆ Social withdrawal
- ◆ Temper tantrums and lashing out on objects inside/outside the home

References:

*Jaffe et al, 1990; Hilberman & Munson, 1977-78
Conte, 1988 & 1990
Elmira Police Department, NY, 2003*

Saweraa's Resource Library

If you or anyone you know subscribes to any of the publications listed below, we would be very grateful if you would pass them on to Saweraa for our resource library, after you have finished reading them.

- India Abroad
- India Tribune
- India Today
- India Post
- News-India Times
- Any other South Asian publication

Please call our office at 314-551-0006 or email us at: info@saweraa.org

Movie Discussion

Join us for a Movie discussion

Life Without Fear

This documentary produced by Sakhi, a South Asian Domestic Violence organization in New York, traces the multiple challenges and fears of an Indian raised woman living as a victim of Domestic Abuse in the U.S.

Sunday, June 25, 2006

2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Howard Johnson

4534 North Lindbergh, Ste 300
Bridgeton, MO 63044

We will watch this short video together and then discuss it.

Bring a Friend with you

Office Tel: 314-551-0006
Office Hours: 10 am to 3 pm
Monday through Friday

Helpline: 1-877-SAWERAA
1-877-729-3722

24 hour helpline
Counseling
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Language Assistance
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www.saweraa.org

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No one deserves to be abused

Domestic Violence Destroys Families

Nita and her siblings watched in horror as their father repeatedly stabbed their mother with a butcher's knife.

Abraham Abraham came to the U.S. in 1979. He lived in Elmhurst, Illinois with his wife Brissy and their three children. Abraham often got drunk and verbally abused Brissy. He would beat her and threaten to kill her. On one occasion, when he held a knife to Brissy's throat, their daughter Nita called the police. But Abraham had stopped abusing Brissy by the time the police arrived.

"He took a butcher's knife and stabbed his wife in the face repeatedly", officials said.

Abraham's abuse continued over the years and included numerous other incidents, such as attempting to burn down their house, running the car in a closed garage, stomping on and breaking his wife's foot, hitting his daughter, and lying naked on his daughter's bed. The Department of Children and Family Services finally got involved in July 1993 following yet another incident of domestic violence. In March 1994, they had Abraham removed from the home because of his heavy use of alcohol and repeated threats to his wife.

Within a month, on April 4, 1994, Abraham came back to the family home and threatened to kill Brissy their children, and himself. He physically prevented Brissy from calling the police. Hearing their mother's screams, the three children came to the room. They saw their father stab Brissy in the right eye with a butcher's knife from the kitchen. Brissy and Nita struggled with Abraham, trying to stop his assaults, but when the police arrived 15 to 20 minutes later, Brissy had been stabbed in her face, neck, and hands.

In 1995 Abraham was sentenced for 20 years each for attempted first degree murder and armed violence, and 5 years for aggravated assault.

Released from prison in November 2003, Immigration officials immediately took Abraham into federal custody. He was deported to Mumbai in February 2005.

Points to Ponder:

- How do you think Nita and her siblings were affected by so many years of watching their father abuse their mother?
- Sometimes victims of domestic violence stay, and are counseled to stay by well-meaning family and friends, in the marriage for the sake of the children. Do you think that children are better off in an intact but violent family situation or in a "broken" family minus the abusive parent (usually, but not always, the father)?
- 15 years of violence in the home, 20 years total sentence: 8 years served in prison, 15 months in INS custody. Do you think Abraham's sentence and deportation was fair?

These stories are true.....

The stories that you read in SAWERAA's newsletters are true accounts of Domestic Violence committed by South Asians living in the US and Canada. In most cases, the names are also true.

Real names are used if the story has already been published elsewhere. References are available on SAWERAA's web page: <http://www.saweraa.org/>.

Pseudonyms or fictional names are used to protect the identities of the survivors of domestic violence who have told us their stories and granted permission to write about them. Our Thanks and Admiration to these Brave Souls for coming forward to help educate our community about the reality of South Asian domestic violence.

SAWERAA'S THIRD ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

On May 7th, SAWERAA held its annual event at the Mahatma Gandhi Center, focusing on the theme "Through the Eyes of a Child."

Four accomplished leaders in the field spoke on the subject of the silent victims of Domestic Violence - children. The speakers were:

Dr. Jerry Dunn, Executive Director of the University of Missouri-St. Louis Child Advocacy Center
Dr. Ann Duncan, Practicing Psychologist
Dr. Cheri Harris, Practicing Psychologist
Dr. Uma Segal, Professor of Social Work at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

They presented the effects and treatment of domestic violence on children. The potential effects could be emotional, physical, behavioral and social.

The event showcased various other exhibits and presentations. .

We appreciated the contributions of our young adults and senior citizens in forms of readings and preparation of the snacks. Thank you to all Board Members, Volunteers and the members of the Community who attended the event.

3.3 - 10 million children observe family violence in their homes each year

Carlson, Bonnie E. (1984). Children's observations of interpersonal violence. (Ed) NY