

KAGL & AFFILIATES

KEEP SEARCHING ... IT'S OUT THERE!



Volume 1, Issue 5

Dedication of Issue to Violence against Immigrant/Refugee Women

March 2007

Announcing a Call for A US Amendment to Federal Laws For Safe *Haven* Shelters

Dr. K. Garth-James

We cannot ignore that domestic violence (DV) affects us all of us. The socio-economic costs of DV or intimate partner violence (IPV) in industrialized nations are respectively, \$4.2 billion in Canada, United Kingdom \$5.7 billion; and, the US spending is about \$8 billion (CDC Report, 2003). The *World Health Organization* (WHO) Reports (2004), indicate that on average, countries spend 4 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) on violence against women (DV, sexual assault (SA))--South America spends 1.9 percent of GDP on violence; respectively, 4.3% of Brazil's and El Salvador's budget expenditures are on DV/SA; and, 1.3 percent of Mexico's budget is for services. The US spends roughly 2% of the GDP on DV and SA, or about 65 billion dollars when you include crimes as assaults and homicides that are the result of violence against women.

KAGL & Affiliates in partnership with the Safe Haven Shelter and the African Community Resource Center, a
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51st UN Commission on the Status of Women February 26-March 9, 2007, New York, NY.

This year, Dr. Garth-James, was invited to the 51st UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), to discuss the Policy and Violence against Immigrant Refugee Women Project (PVAW). The focus is on amending federal laws to support shelters that are culturally sensitive to African and Middle-eastern women who escape violence in conflict countries and find safety in the US. In the US, sometimes, survivors find IPV relationships and more violence. Some don't understand how and why these brave women find DV and SA in their new homeland of America.

The *Safe Haven Shelter*, in Los Angeles, is a unique place that offers food, and a safe place to African and Middle-eastern immigrant/refugee women escaping violence. Dr. Gerri Rosen and Dr. Nikki Tesfai founded *Safe Haven* more than twenty years ago: "We wanted to help the African women because they need us" says Dr. Tesfai. Dr. Gerri Rosen shares the medical reasons that survivors from Africa (Burundi, Darfur, Ethiopia) and the Middle-East (Iraq, Afghanistan), relive the trauma of violence and may not make the best safety decisions such as the Post-traumatic Stress Syndrome and (ICRW, 2000; DeBecker, 1990) and the Power and Control Wheel for immigrant/refugee survivors (Minnesota Model).

Dr. Rosen states that the "one best way to break the power and control that is a part of abuse, is education and counseling support programs offered
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nonprofit refugee resettlement agency that advocates for women and located in Los Angeles, California, are fighting for support to help immigrant/refugee women from the Africa Diaspora become FREE!

The UN Charter on Human Rights and the US Constitution and body of laws embody the principles of life, liberty and pursuit of happiness. These democratic principles have long been enshrined in who we are as American people. The US Congress must assist African women escaping violence and coming to freedom land in America; by issuing a resolution for funding of shelters assisting African immigrant/refugee women achieve their freedom from DV/SA and Trafficking. Only then can African women survivors truly live the American Dream!

SUPPORT A US Resolution to the VAWA Act to allocate a modest amount of funding to support shelters for the African immigrant/refugee women.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SPECIAL EVENT **GET INVOLVED!**

US Amendments to VOCA & VAWA Acts for funding of Safe Haven Shelter Programs for African Survivors

Contact: Dr. K. Garth-James to support an email campaign to California State Capitol and US Congress

Email Campaign: Kagl@aol.com

SAFE HAVEN SPECIAL TRAINING PROGRAMS ON VIOLENCE AGAINST IMMIGRANT/REFUGEE WOMEN:

African Women and Children in Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking, please call for dates/times: Business: 213 637-1450 Fax: 213 637-1455

www.africancommunitycenter.org

Dr. Garth-James, preparing for the morning session, UN Conference Room #1



at the *Safe Haven Shelter*. *Safe Haven* services are summarized:

Personal Development Services	Educational and Employment Services	Community Services (local partners)
<p>Homeless services(food and safe shelter, laundry, support groups, counseling with Family Counselor)</p> <p>Culturally relevant services by qualified African and Middle-eastern multilingual professionals</p>	<p>Workforce Investment Act, Title II, Adult Education and Work, weekly literacy, literacy for jobs and Civic literacy classes</p> <p>Family Program, weekly parenting classes by Family Education and Cultural Specialist.</p>	<p>African Working Groups for safe return to the community (food banks, check cashing, clothing) (32 different African partners)</p>

Materials are culturally relevant to the recovery and well-being of the African immigrant/refugee survivor. More information www.africancommunitycenter.org.



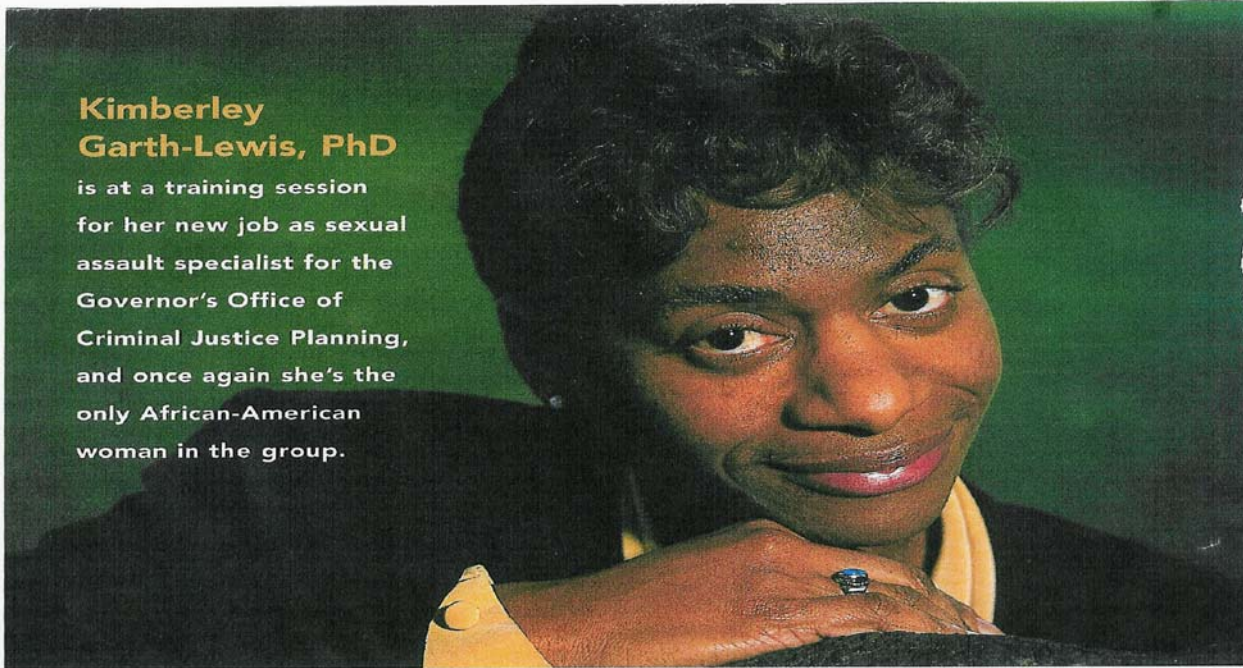
After her presentation on *Violence Against Immigrant/Refugee Women*, Dr. Garth-James mingles with the NGOs at the UN 51st CSW, 2007 New York, NY

**Stop Violence Against I/R Women!
Celebrate International Women's Day
March 9th**

Remembering ...

Kimberley Garth-Lewis, PhD

is at a training session for her new job as sexual assault specialist for the Governor's Office of Criminal Justice Planning, and once again she's the only African-American woman in the group.



BY K KAUFMANN

Making Waves and

This is the second day of a four-day training on strategies to prevent violence against women, and there's only one black man, an investigator from Fresno," says Garth-Lewis, Golden Gate University's very busy Alumna of the Year, during a phone interview from her hotel room in Napa. "He came up to me today and said, 'I see there's only two of us here,' and I said, 'They don't even have any people of color as trainers,' so I'm sure I'm going to be making some suggestions about that."

Making suggestions, and making waves, seems to be what makes Garth-Lewis tick. In the past 12 years alone, the Sacramento-based educator and administrator has tackled

government watchdog, the Little Hoover Commission. She also heads up her own consulting firm, KAGL & Associates, which promotes public-private partnerships and develops programs to help African-American teens succeed in high school and college.

This whirlwind of activity appears to be second nature to Garth-Lewis, who comes from a family of trail blazers with strong roots in the Bay Area African-American community. Her mother, Fran Garth-Bradley (her parents divorced when Garth-Lewis was 10 years old) was one of the first African-American women to attend Boalt Hall Law School at the University of California, Berkeley in the 1960s. Her father, Nat Garth, worked for the California Youth Authority (CYA), the state's Institution and

in the organization.

"What I got from my parents was a determination to go out into the world and try to educate myself and get into positions where I can actually make a change," Garth-Lewis recalls. "Everyone in our family wanted to make communities healthier by working to provide services to groups of people and by motivating and improving the self-esteem of individuals."

Garth-Lewis started her own career in 1981 with a BA in biological science from the University of San Francisco (USF). She landed a position as a researcher in the Neurology Department at UCSF Medical Center working on brain edema studies. "I was good at removing brains," she says. An early marriage to an Air Force service-

The year 2006, was a time of gains and losses. The wonderful opportunity to spend an evening with Justice Janice Rogers-Brown, former US Attorney General Edwin Meese and Governor Pete Wilson, will always be remembered. My husband, LaCharles James and I were able to renew old acquaintances and secure new friendships and say Good-bye! Celebrating the life of **Justice Robert K. Puglia**, was an



Dr. Garth-James gets well-wishers from **Governor Pete Wilson**

Inspiration to aspiring women jurists and scholars. Justice Rogers-Brown's tribute was poignant. He was a "treasure of Sacramento's Legal community... The Third District Court of Appeal (1974-1998)... across the street the words of a poem by Foss, *A Man to Match My Mountains*. Her tribute in an article in **McGeorge Law Review (2005)** carries this poetic title.