

VOLUME I, ISSUE 10
OCTOBER 2019

GraceFUL



to add life
nourish
in small
measure
ab-maidah

radiance
suffuses
my blossoms

translucence

being

manna

Naked Chastity Affirming Virtue (2014)

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Cover Photo:
The Heights of Freedom
Citadelle LaFerriere
Nord, Haiti (2010)

FROM OUR
ALBUM



PAGE 2

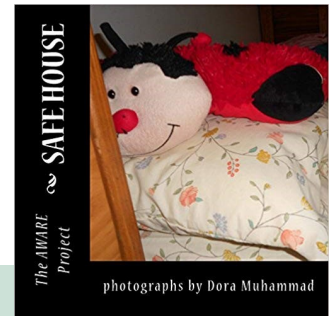
AWARE Founder Dora Muhammad
with Milagros Pongo in her home

NEW BEGINNINGS Mily, 42

For the next two months, her husband's alcoholism and jealousy poured down on her and left her with three teeth knocked out, her account drained and property sold by her husband, a monthly stipend of \$100 doled out by her husband, and shame that her fairy tale of love turned into a horror story of pain. Her family did not believe her because her spouse was a friend of her sister's husband and was popular in their circles. When he hit her son who stood in front of her to

break his blows, she decided it was time to leave.

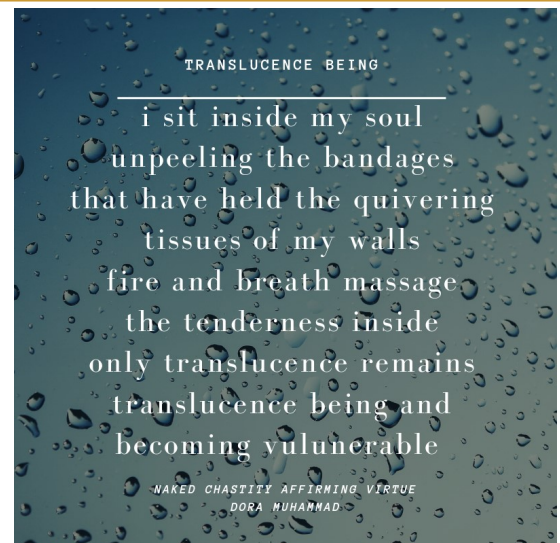
It was difficult to see the woman sitting before me at her dining table could not speak about her experiences just six months prior. She changed her telephone number to ensure that she did not have to speak to anyone. Suffering a deep depression, she would stay in bed for two to three weeks at a time, without showering, changing her clothes or brushing her hair. Still scared and looking over her shoulder at times



If you are leaving an abusive relationship, pack a bag with ID for yourself and children, medications, money or ways to get by, things to help you cope, keys and important papers such as marriage license, medical records, school records, car title and insurance cards. Hide the bag where you can get to it quickly. If your life is in danger, then leave without them.

though she has been living on her own for a little over a year, Mily surrounded herself with objects in her home that yield a sense of protection for her.

Safe House (2013)



DREAMS DEFERRED Economic Security for Survivors



The economic repercussions of intimate partner violence are often obscured in formulations of solutions. The Institute of Women's Policy Research's survey with 164 survivors in transitional housing, shelters and other domestic violence programs in 11 states and the District of Columbia reveal many of the hidden dimensions.

Seventy-three percent of respondents said economic reasons compelled them to remain in or return to the abusive relationship. The survey explored the complex impacts of intimate partner violence such as the disruption of education and training by isolating respondents, restricting mobility and controlling access to funds to pay for school.

Eighty-three percent of respondents said their former partners disrupted their ability to work, with 70 percent of that group not being able to have a job and 53 percent who lost a job due to the abuse. The financial harm blocking a survivor's road to economic

security showed up in a myriad of forms:

- About three in four respondents said their abusers took money from them against their will such as their paycheck, savings, or income received from public benefits.

- Eighty-two percent of respondents said

their abuser damaged, destroyed, or took their personal property.

- Fifty-nine percent of respondents said they had an abusive partner who harmed their credit score in one or ways, such as not paying bills or paying them late, taking out more credit, maintaining high credit card balances, or defaulting on a loan. Among

those who reported having their credit score harmed, 66 percent said it prevented them from getting a loan, 63 percent said it prevented them from getting housing, and 21 percent said it prevented them from getting a job. In addition, 21 percent said that having their credit score harmed had

another impact on their life, such as keeping them from returning to school or setting up utilities in their name.

- Four in ten survivors said they had a partner who tried to get them pregnant against their will or stopped them from using birth control. These unplanned pregnancies diminished their educational and work opportunities and generated a range of costs associated with raising a child.

- Nearly one in four respondents said they were encouraged, pressured, or forced by their partner to engage in an illegal activity, and subsequently responsible for legal fees, fines or penalties.

Read the full report for recommendations to support survivors achieve economic freedom: [Dreams Deferred](#)



Innovative Tech Support for Domestic Violence Survivors

While Vodafone has taken bold measures to support employees surviving domestic violence such as granting them paid leave, its charitable arm has expanded its support on a global level.

Since April 2018, the Vodafone Foundation, in partnership with the UK-based crisis support charity Hestia, has funded Bright Sky, a mobile app available in the UK that provides resources to support survivors.

Users can locate their nearest support center, assess the safety of a relationship, steps to consider if leaving an abusive relationship, and how to help a friend affected by domestic abuse. They can also log incidents in a secure digital journal, using a text, audio, video or photo function without any content being saved on the device itself.

The app's availability has now been expanded to nine countries—Czech Republic, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Romania. Resources and information will be integrated with each country's local support infrastructure for survivors.



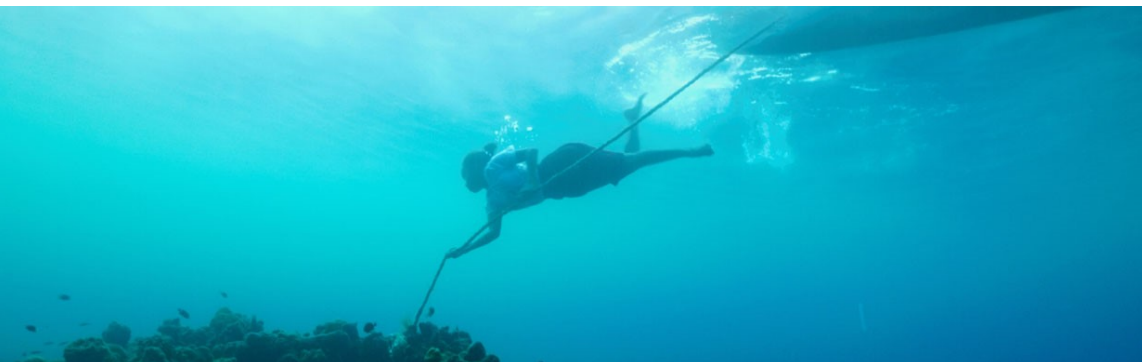
1. Watch for signs of abuse: Bruises and cuts, name-calling and put-downs, isolation and demands for all of their time.
2. Find out about local resources. Offer to call or visit together.
3. Set up a time to talk. Be sure it is a safe, private place.
4. Be specific about concerns. Share recognized signs of abuse.
5. Plan for safety. Help leaving the relationship as safe as possible.
6. Be patient and keep the door open. It can take time to decide.

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE 1.800.799.SAFE (7233) Free, 24 Hours.



Vai

One of the feature films showcased in the 20th Annual imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival, a global indigenous hub of creative work, hosted in Toronto, Canada, *Vai* chronicles the journey of empowerment through culture over the lifetime of one woman, Vai. This extraordinary work was produced by nine female Pacific filmmakers and filmed on seven Pacific islands, with eight actresses depicting one phase of her moving story of family, home, identity, love and hope.



Screenshots of *Vai* taken during its showcase at imagineNATIVE, Toronto, Canada, October 2019.



'WE SWEAT AND CRY SALT WATER, SO WE KNOW THE OCEAN IS REALLY IN OUR BLOOD'

Teresia Teaiwa

LOVE OUR GIRLS The Face of Human Trafficking Today

Girls on the Global Center Stage



In 1995, the fourth World Conference on Women adopted the landmark

Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action. That historic document designed a blueprint for the empowerment of women and girls. The International Day of the Girl Child, declared by the UN December 2011 and first observed October 11, 2012, was born out of those commitments. The Platform demands:

1. Eliminate discrimination against girls in health, nutrition, education and training
2. Eliminate negative cultural practices and attitudes against girls
3. Strengthen the role of family in improving the status of the girl child
4. Eliminate the exploitation of child labor and protect girls at work
5. Eradicate all forms of violence against girls
6. Increase awareness of the needs and potential of girls
7. Promote the participation of girls in social, economic and political life
8. Protect the rights of girls



International Day
of the Girl Child

#AChildIsAChild

Having come from a lineage of African peoples who were kidnapped and sold into slavery, Black bodies have been devalued as property, a commodity, merchandise for centuries in this country and abroad.

Nevertheless, as stories splash across the news of missing children—notably Black girls—an incredible anguish torments with relentless force. As a community collectively waits to exhale with news of either a family reunion or a tragic loss of life, a sense of powerlessness can become overwhelming.

Such was the case of Cupcake. When the body of three-year-old Kamille McKinney was found discarded in a Birmingham landfill earlier this month, it called to mind the countless bodies of girls found in like manner for decades in Central and South America.

Although she was found after a week, the hidden horrors running parallel to her story are the Black girls reported missing



but not found—or more disturbing, discovered dead with missing organs.

Both scenarios speak of the dehumanization of Black bodies in human trafficking—whether for body parts or wholesale prostitution. Gone are the days when sex traffickers primarily operate on the streets—the trade has centralized online.

Homeland Security defines human trafficking as “modern-day form of slavery involving the illegal trade of people for exploitation or commercial gain.”

According to the FBI, Blacks comprise 40 percent of sex trafficking cases. That percentage drastically increases within metro areas, such as Los Angeles where it is 92 percent. Furthermore, 59 percent of juvenile prostitution arrests in the country are of Black youth.

Similar to the societal dichotomy of the characterization of

drug addicts—where whites are considered victims in need of help and Blacks are condemned as criminals that must be penalized—white girls have become the face of sex trafficking who need to be rescued while Black girls are disgraceful whores lost to the criminal justice system.

This paradigm must change. Investing in families and communities to address the root causes is a priority. But equally essential is mitigating the impact on survivors by shaping intervention policies and recovery programs that uphold the dignity and reinforce the value of Black girls and women.

*Love
Girls*

GIRLS SPEAK OUT Unscripted & Unstoppable

Celebrating the brilliance of the one billion girls worldwide on the International Day of the Girl Child—themed this year, “GirlForce – Unscripted & Unstoppable,” a coalition of more than 80 NGOs gathered at the UN



headquarters in New York for the Girls Speak Out Summit. Girl Advocates from the UN-recognized Working Group on Girls moderated the event held in the chamber of the UN’s Economic and Social Council.

One of the highlights of the program was a staged performance depicting the real stories of girls living from Ethiopia to Singapore, struggling with gender-based-violence, workplace inequality, and other injustices.

Coinciding with this transformative activism, six young women representing a consortium of advocacy groups unveiled of the Global Girls’ Bill of Rights in a special meeting with UN Women’s Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngeuka. More than

1,000 females, age 13 to 22, from 34 countries, contributed their thoughts. Then a team of 15 young women worked together across seven time zones, via WhatsApp, to develop the document.

“The UN will continue to advocate for your rights,” said UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed in her remarks to Girls Speak Out Summit, “and to support governments in providing you with a safe childhood, access to quality education and skills, and an environment where you can make informed decisions about your own lives.”

THE GLOBAL #GirlsBillOfRights

written by girls, for girls

ALL GIRLS HAVE THE RIGHT TO...

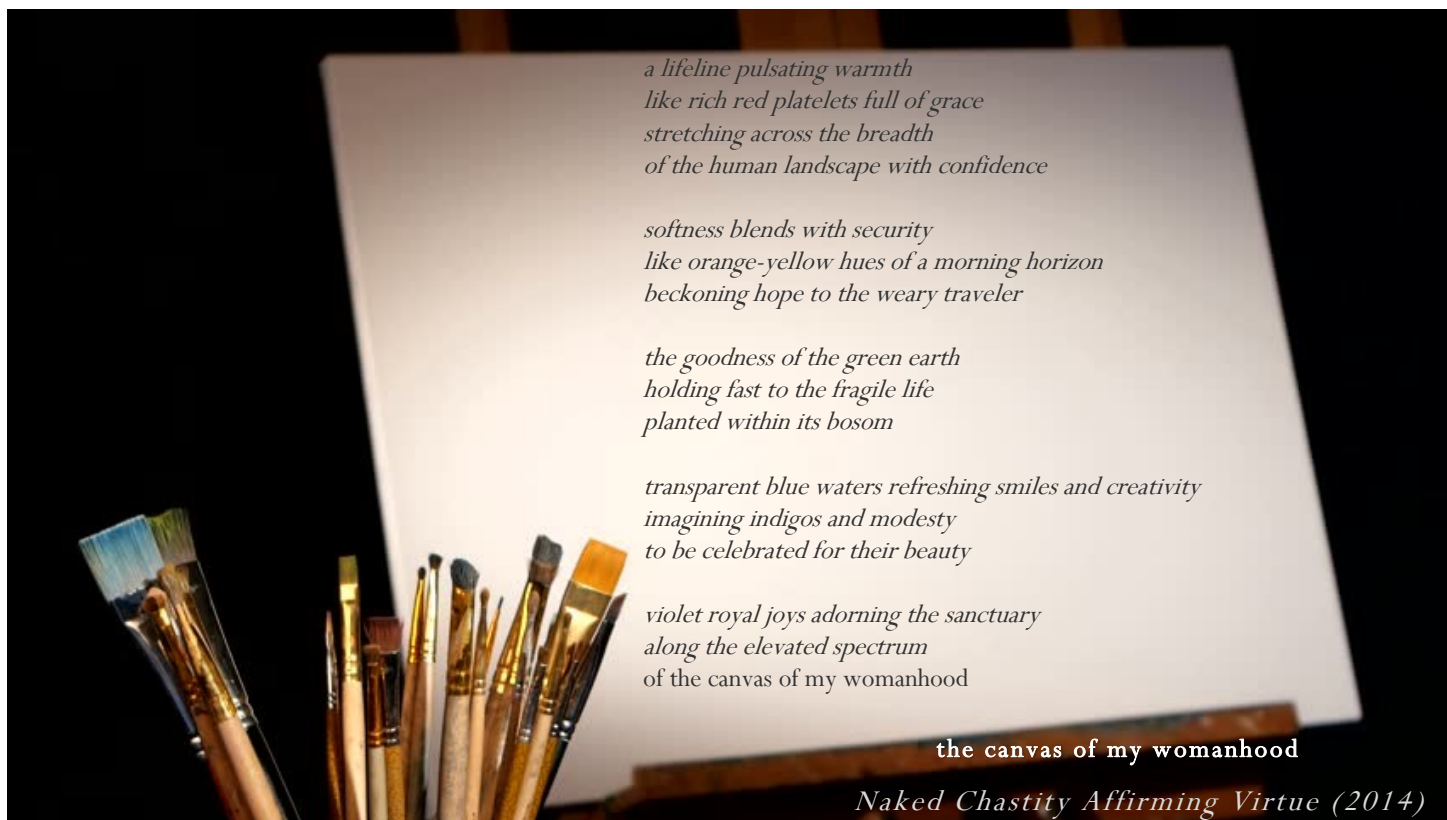
- 1 a free, quality education which prepares them for the modern world
- 2 equality
- 3 involvement in decision-making and pursuit of leadership positions without fear of discrimination, harassment, or persecution
- 4 documentation
- 5 comprehensive sexual education and access to free, quality reproductive healthcare
- 6 protection from harmful traditions and enjoyment of positive cultural practices
- 7 safety from all forms of violence
- 8 decision-making about their body and sexuality
- 9 protection under the law without fear or unequal treatment
- 10 freedom from exploitation

#GirlsBillOfRights

More than **130 million** girls are out of school worldwide

One girl under the age of 15 gets married **every 7 seconds**

Girls spend **40 percent more** time on housework than boys



*a lifeline pulsating warmth
like rich red platelets full of grace
stretching across the breadth
of the human landscape with confidence*

*softness blends with security
like orange-yellow hues of a morning horizon
beckoning hope to the weary traveler*

*the goodness of the green earth
holding fast to the fragile life
planted within its bosom*

*transparent blue waters refreshing smiles and creativity
imagining indigos and modesty
to be celebrated for their beauty*

*violet royal joys adorning the sanctuary
along the elevated spectrum
of the canvas of my womanhood*

the canvas of my womanhood

Naked Chastity Affirming Virtue (2014)

WISDOM NOTE | WEDNESDAY, NOV 5, 2019



guard

n. a position or player next to the center in a football line; a player stationed in the backcourt in basketball

origin. Old English *warian* meaning to beware of, *woer* meaning careful

CREATIVE GRACE CONVERSATIONS

The AWARE Project is a non-profit organization that leverages a multi-media art platform to raise awareness, increase civic engagement, and further the advancement of policies impacting women's rights, child welfare and human rights.

By intersecting community and municipality, faith and advocacy, and the arts with policy awareness, it creates a dynamic synergy offered to inspire the humanity in others with an unmatched passion to improve the quality and dignity of life of the vulnerable and marginalized.

Advocacy for Women's
Activism, Rights & Empowerment

THE AWARE PROJECT

doraym.wix.com/aware

**ART AS A CATALYST
FOR ADVOCACY**



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