



Today's Advocate

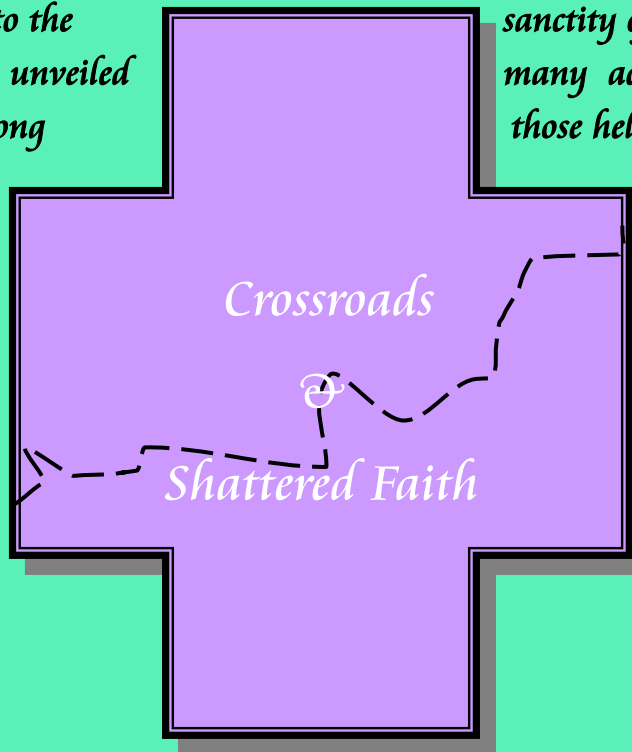
DVSAC Monthly Newsletter

Tel: 340-719-0144 * E-mail: dvsac@earthlink.net * Fax: 340-719-5521

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What is happening to the leaders. 2008 again unveiled and sex scandals among esteem. Some across the nation are knowingly sitting women, and exploited! Are be damned for eternal life or will a for their alleged



sanctity of religion and its many accusations of abuse those held in the highest

religious groups under fire for by while defenseless children are leaders who abuse "their" blind eye be turned abuse?

The VI Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Council

recently sent out letters to those of you who might have an interest in forging an alliance within the faith-based community. Pastors, ministers, priests, rabbis and members of other religious sects, this is a call for you to collaborate with our Faith-Based Outreach Committee to have a constructive dialogue concerning the escalating violence in our community.

If you are interested in attending the Faith-Based Outreach Committee meetings please call DVSAC 340-719-0144 or email us at: dvsac@earthlink.net

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IMPORTANT COURT DECISIONS



Firearms

On February 24, 2009, the United States Supreme Court rejected arguments by the gun lobby and convicted wife beater Randy Edward Hayes that federal law allowed Hayes to possess firearms, upholding the broad federal ban on gun possession by convicted misdemeanor domestic violence abusers. The Court cited arguments made by the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence about the risks posed by firearms in the hands of domestic abusers. The 7-2 ruling in *United States v. Hayes* was a blow to gun lobby groups that had urged the Court to severely narrow the federal Lautenberg Amendment that bars gun possession by abusers convicted of misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence. The Court reversed an earlier ruling by the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit that, if upheld, would have allowed convicted abusers in at least 25 states to rearm themselves with firearms.

Section 922(g)(9) makes it "unlawful for any person... who has been convicted in any court of misdemeanor crime of domestic violence... [to] possess in or affecting commerce, any firearms or ammunition."

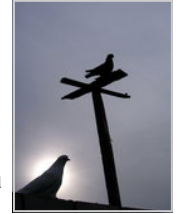
DVSAC signed on with the National Network to End Domestic Violence for the submission of an amicus brief in this case.

Bail and Detention

The Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands heard the appeal of *Dwayne Tobal v People of the Virgin Islands*, which challenged the denial of his Motion for Reduction of Bail and released from Custody to a Third Party Custodian. The court reversed the Superior Court decision and remanded the case for a determination consistent with its decision with *Browne v People*, Crim.no.2008-022,2008WL4132233{V.I. Aug. 29, 2008}, Cert. denied, No.08-4186{3d Cir. Oct. 29, 2008}

The *Browne* decision held that the trial court may not apply the federal Bail Reform Act detention provision for Virgin Islands defendants charged with offenses in local courts.

BLIND FAITH? SEXUAL ASSAULT



On April 6, 2008, the Texas compound of a polygamous [Mormon sect was raided](#) on the suspicion that teenage girls were being forced to marry and bear children. Texas child welfare officials now say 31 of the 53 girls ages 14-17 who were living on the ranch are [pregnant or are already mothers](#). They say there was a pattern of underage girls forced into "spiritual marriages" with much older men. And when the grown women from that compound were interviewed on TV, their cowed demeanor and inability to answer the simplest questions intelligibly made me wonder what was going on there to rob them of any sense of personal will or motivation.

Meanwhile In early April 2008 , Baptist minister [James Bevel](#), one of the leading pastors in the civil rights movement, was [convicted of sexually molesting his own daughter](#) over many years. The Rev. Bevel admitted to being a sex addict and to [fathering 16 children by several women](#). According to the testimony at his trial, he justified having sexual relations with many women in the name of teaching them the "[science of marriage](#)."

<http://blogs.usatoday.com/oped/2008/04/abuse-of-faith.html>

April 2, 2008, Rabbi Yehuda Kolko, the Brooklyn yeshiva teacher was charged with having sexually molested his students, pleaded guilty to two lesser counts of child endangerment and was sentenced to three years' probation.

Under the plea agreement, Rabbi Kolko, 62, made no admission of sexual wrongdoing. He will not have to register as a sex offender, and pleaded guilty only to a misdemeanor — not a felony.

Before the plea bargain, Rabbi Kolko, of Yeshiva Torah Temimah in Flatbush, had been facing felony charges of touching two first-graders in their sexual areas and forcing an adult former student to touch him during a visit to the school. Five former students have also filed suit against the prominent yeshiva, alleging school administrators knew about Rabbi Kolko's molestation of students over many years but sought to conceal it and intimidate students who spoke out.

Brooklyn District Attorney Charles Hynes would give no public explanation of why he suddenly dropped the high-

profile molestation case. But its collapse resurrected questions in some quarters about Hynes' competence or his political will in pursuing allegations of wrongdoing involving prominent institutions and individuals in Brooklyn's politically powerful Orthodox community.

http://www.thejewishweek.com/viewArticle/c37_a7822/News/National.html

April 17, 2008 a handful of clergy abuse victims met with Pope Benedict XVI in Washington, D.C., and shared their painful stories. Two of the victims — 52-year-old Bernie McDaid and 48-year-old Olan Horne — say they've been trying to get the church's ear for nearly 40 years.



They first came forward as boys, reporting their abuse by a parish priest. A few years ago an utterly frustrated McDaid made a trip to Rome to try to talk to Pope John Paul II. Pope Benedict finally heard his story.

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=89725072>

Domestic Violence

“Communities of faith play a unique and vital role in the response to and elimination of domestic violence, as they carry the responsibility to protect and nurture the spiritual wellbeing of the community as a whole and its individual members.

Victims and survivors of domestic violence may turn to faith leaders for spiritual guidance and support before or in lieu of secular domestic violence services, because of the unique dimension they can add to the sometimes-overwhelming experience of seeking help. Similarly, batterers may also turn to faith leaders, perhaps either as a means of legitimizing the abuse or to seek guidance and support in understanding and changing behaviors. Faith leaders may be asked, then, to provide spiritual guidance and counseling to both the victim and the perpetrator. This requires efforts by faith leaders to not only acknowledge domestic violence but also to continually educate themselves and the entire community and to join in creating responses to domestic violence that are safe and supportive for victims and survivors...”

http://new.vawnet.org/Assoc_Files_VAWnet/NRC_Religion.pdf

Jewish Community

■ An estimate by the organization Jewish Women International indicates that 15 to 25% of all

Jewish households experience domestic violence. This rate is the same among Orthodox,

Conservative, and Reform Jews. [Giller, B. & Goldsmith, E. (1980). *All in the Family: A Study*

of Intra-familial Violence in the Los Angeles Jewish Community [unpublished masters thesis]. Los

Angeles, CA: Hebrew Union College and University of Southern California.]

■ One out of five Jewish women are abused by their partners – a rate that is consistent with that

of the general population. However, the statistics show that Jewish women remain in abusive

relationships five to seven years longer than non-Jewish women. [Hadassah (n.d.). *Domestic*

Abuse Does Not Discriminate. Retrieved July 2003 from: <http://www.hadassah.org/>]

Muslim Community

■ According to estimates by Muslim activists in the United States, approximately ten percent of

Muslim women are abused emotionally, psychologically, and/or physically by their husbands.

[Faizi, N. (2001). *Domestic violence in Muslim communities*. *Texas Journal of Women and the Law*, 10, 209-230.]

“The Muslim community is under a lot of scrutiny, so they are reluctant to look within to face their problems because it will substantiate the arguments demonizing them,” said Rafia Zakaria, a political science graduate student at Indiana University who is starting a legal defense fund for Muslim women. “It puts Muslim women in a difficult position because if they

acknowledge their rights, they are seen as being in some kind of collusion with all those who are attacking Muslim men. So the question is how to speak out without adding to the stereotype that Muslim men are barbaric, oppressive, terrible people.”

Abused Muslim Women in U.S. Gain Advocates

March 2009

- March 4 Faith-Based Outreach Meeting—12:00 pm at DVSAC on STX and Legal Services on STT
- March 5 DVSAC Board Meeting
- March 6 LEPC VAWA Meeting @ USAO—(Tentative)
- March 16 Criminal Justice Meeting @ 12:30 pm at DVSAC on STX and Legal Services on STT
- March 20 COC Meeting @ 10:00 am at DVSAC on STX and Legal Services on STT

Training Calendar

Institute of Violence, Abuse and Trauma	March 31-April 2, 09	Ala Moana Hotel, HI	6th Annual Hawaii Conference on Preventing, Assessing & Treating Child, Adolescent & Adult Trauma	For details, go to: http://www.ivatcenters.org/
Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence	April 8-9, 09	Springfield, IL	Advocacy, Empowerment & Leadership	For details, contact: http://www.ilcadv.org/training/default.asp
Columbus Coalition Against Family Violence	April 29-May 1, 09	Columbus, OH	Innovation Through Collaboration: Building a Community Response to Violence.	For details, go to: www.ccafvy.org/Conference/index.php

Our website is sporting a new look!

check it out at: www.dvsac.net

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