

Sin ^{by} Silence

EDUCATOR'S TOOLKIT

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ABOUT THE FILM

From behind prison walls, **SIN BY SILENCE** reveals the lives of extraordinary women who advocate for a future free from domestic violence.

Inside California's oldest women's prisons, the first inmate-initiated and led group in the U.S. prison system was created by inmate Brenda Clubine to help abused women speak out and realize they are not alone. Over the past two decades, the women of CWAA, Convicted Women Against Abuse, have changed laws for battered women and raised awareness for those on the outside.

SIN BY SILENCE is an emotionally packed documentary that tells the personal and shocking stories of these courageous women who have learned from their past, are changing their future and, most importantly, teach us how domestic violence affects each and every person.

DISCUSSION VIDEO OVERVIEWS

VIOLENCE AND ABUSE VIDEOS:

What is Abuse?: (3mins 9secs)

Dr. Elizabeth Leonard and Dr. Nancy Kaser-Boyd provide an in-depth look into the various aspects and forms of abusive relationships.

Warning Signs: (6mins 12secs)

The women of Sin by Silence share their personal stories by looking back on the warning signs in their own abusive relationships.

Why She Stays: (8mins 53secs)

The women of Sin by Silence share the factors that caused them to feel like there was no way out of their abusive relationships. Includes perspectives from experts Dr. Elizabeth Leonard and Dr. Nancy Kaser-Boyd.

Progression of Abuse: (4mins 30secs)

The women of Convicted Women Against Abuse describe the complexities of their own abusive relationships.

911 Call: (9mins 29secs)

The entire 911 call from the film.

CWAA Meetings - (10mins 16secs)

An in-depth look at Convicted Women Against Abuse meetings through five in-depth group discussions with members on various topics of their personal experience with abuse and violence.

Batterers Group: (13mins 55 secs)

An in-depth look into the Los Angeles County Jail program Reach to Recovery led by James Beard and Lindsay Wagner. Through intimate interviews, with a family and couple, the viewer is able to experience the complexities of the whole dynamic of abusive relationships.

DISCUSSION VIDEO OVERVIEWS

Public Safety Issue: *(7mins 8secs)*

Domestic violence can now no longer be viewed as a private issue. It also goes beyond closed doors and into the streets and homes of others. At age 18, Michele plead guilty to first degree murder. In 1987, her boyfriend Jose coerced her to be a part of an in-house robbery that resulted in one woman dying. She felt forced to be a part of this horror or Jose threatened to kill her family. Viewers will hear an incredible story of abuse and crime from all of those it affected most. Kate lost her mother and the murder shattered her sense of security. Richard lost his wife and the mother of his children, yet still reaches out to Michele to forgive her.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CORRECTIONS:

Staff Perspective of CIW: *(5mins 12secs)*

The California Institution for Women's Warden and Lieutenant give a behind the scenes look of California's oldest women's prison.

Inmate Perspective of CIW: *(3 mins 47secs)*

Take a tour of the California Institution for Women with some of the inmates at the California Institution for Women.

Men v Women Prisons: *(3mins 47secs)*

Dr. Barbara Bloom, along with the California Institution for Women Warden and Lieutenant, dissect the drastic differences between men and women's prisons.

Law Enforcement Response to DV: *(8mins 13secs)*

Learn about the progression of law enforcement protocol and evolution to the crisis of domestic violence with California law enforcement leaders and experts including Sheriff Baca of Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Chief John Welter of Anaheim, CA, and Lt. Chris Sayers of the Anaheim Family Justice Center.

DISCUSSION VIDEO OVERVIEWS

LEGAL ASPECTS

Brenda Clubine's Hearing: *(9mins 5secs)*

Take a look at the full hearing that brought Brenda Clubine to freedom.

Juror's Perspective: *(7mins 57secs)*

An in-depth perspective from Glenda Crosley's juror on the process and complications of the 1987 trial.

Expert Witness: *(7mins 16secs)*

An in-depth perspective and explanation of the role of an expert witness on domestic violence homicide cases by expert Dr. Nancy Kaser-Boyd.

BRENDA CLUBINE

Brenda & Joe: *(4 mins 21secs)*

Behind the scenes story and footage of this mother and son reuniting after Brenda's release from prison.

Brenda's Message to Women in a Shelter: *(6mins 29secs)*

Brenda personally encourages women on their road to independence from abusive relationships.

DISCUSSION VIDEO OVERVIEWS

FAITH - BASED

LaVelma Byrd: *(5mins 5secs)*

LaVelma killed her husband, a pastor and pillar in the community. She never spoke a word to her family, or church members, that her husband beat her on a regular basis. She had faith that her husband would change. LaVelma shares her experience of abuse in a Christian home and what we need to do to begin helping others that are in similar situations.

Dr. George O Wood: *(2mins 12secs)*

General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God encourages churches to make sure their homes are safe and free of domestic violence.

Rabbi Miriam Hamrell: *(4mins 4secs)*

Rabbi and leader of the Ahavat Torah Congregation encourages synagogues towards Tikun Olam – to fix the world from its wrong doings.

Sister Terry Dodge: *(2mins 45secs)*

Director of Crossroad Women encourages Catholic communities to take a stand against violence against women.

VIOLENCE AND ABUSE VIDEOS

QUESTIONS:

- What are the different forms of abuse? What are the different stages in the cycle of violence?
- Why is it difficult for many victims of domestic violence to leave their abusive situations?
- Why do victims blame themselves for their abuse? What can be done to help victims overcome their self blame?
- After listening to the 911 call, do you think the call was handled properly? Why or why not?
- How do the effects of battering continue even during incarceration?
- After listening to the batterers discuss their abusive behaviors, what was your initial reaction?
- Do you think batterers can change? Why or why not?
- What are the effects of domestic violence on the victim (and, on the family of the victim)?
- How can domestic violence be understood as a public safety issue?
- If someone in your life is in an abusive relationship, what can you do to help?

READINGS:

Leonard, E. (2000). *Convicted Survivors: The Imprisonment of Battered Women Who Kill*, Albany, NY: State University of New York Press. *A portion of this research can also be found at <http://www.freebatteredwomen.org/resources/overview.html>

LaViolette, A & Barnett, O. (2000), *It Could Happen to Anyone: Why Battered Women Stay*, Sage Publications Inc.

Bancroft, L., (2003), *Why Does He Do That?: Inside the Minds of Angry and Controlling Men* Berkely Trade.

National Domestic Violence Hotline - Abuse in America
<http://www.ndvh.org/get-educated/abuse-in-america/>

National Domestic Violence Hotline - Power and control wheel
http://tcfv.org/pdf/Updated_wheels/Power%20and%20Control%20Wheel-English.pdf

National Domestic Violence Hotline - What is domestic violence?
<http://www.ndvh.org/get-educated/what-is-domestic-violence/>

LAW ENFORCEMENT & CORRECTIONS VIDEOS

QUESTIONS:

- After watching the "Inmate Perspectives of CIW" clip and the "Staff Perspectives of CIW" clip, how do these two perspectives of prison life vary?
- How do incarcerated women differ from incarcerated men?
- Based on the previously mentioned gender differences, in what ways should women's incarceration differ from men's incarceration?
- While most women's prisons were not designed for women, what would a women's prison look like if it were originally designed to house women?
- To best help incarcerated survivors, what services need to be offered in prison to help them work through and overcome their abuse?
- How has the way police respond to domestic violence changed over time?
- While progress has been made regarding police response to domestic violence, what still needs to be done?
- Have mandated arrest laws helped or hindered victims of domestic violence?

READINGS:

Bloom, B., Owen, B., Covington, S., & Raeder, M. (2003). *Gender responsive strategies: Research, practice, and guiding principles for women offenders.*

<http://www.nicic.org/pubs/2003/018017.pdf>

Bloom, B. (2003). *Gendered justice: Addressing female offenders and gender-responsive strategies.* Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press.

Buzawa, E., & Buzawa, C. (2002). *Domestic violence: The criminal justice response* (3rd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Gilfus, M. (2002). *Women's experience of abuse as a risk factor for incarceration.*

http://new.vawnet.org/category/Main_Doc.php?docid=412

Richie, B. (2003). *Understanding the links between violence against women and women's participation in illegal activity.* <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/199369.pdf>

The Sentencing Project. (2007). *Women in the criminal justice system.*

http://www.sentencingproject.org/detail/publication.cfm?publication_id=161&id=136

LEGAL ASPECTS VIDEOS

QUESTIONS:

- What is meant by the term "Battering and Its Effects"?
- Why is the term "Battering and Its Effects" used instead of "Battered Woman's Syndrome"?
- What is the role of an expert witness in a trial of a battered woman?
- How could our legal system be changed to help jurors better understand the dynamics of abuse?

READINGS:

Lemon, N. (2009). *Domestic violence law*, New York, NY: West.

Dutton, M. (1996). *Critique of battered women syndrome*.
http://new.vawnet.org/category/Main_Doc.php?docid=375

Schneider, E. M. (2000). *Battered women and feminist lawmaking*. New Haven, CT:
Yale University Press.

Walker, L. E. A. (2000). *The battered woman syndrome* (2nd ed.). New York, NY:
Springer Publishing Company.

FAITH-BASED VIDEOS

QUESTIONS:

- Why is abuse an issue that needs to be addressed by religious communities?
- What can religious leaders do to make the issue of domestic violence a priority in their congregations?
- What can members of a congregation do to work toward ending abuse?

READINGS:

Miles, A. (2002). *Domestic Violence: What Every Pastor Needs to Know*, Augsburg Books

Miles, A. (2002). *Violence in Families: What Every Christian Needs to Know*, Augsburg Books