

**ILLINOIS COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**  
**Oral History Project**

**Book Topics**

1. Identify the main issues and challenges of local organizations within ICADV over the last two decades. Chart the consistency and/or progression of these issues and challenges over time. Compare and contrast the experiences of organizations in the Chicago area with those in suburban communities and those in rural areas across the state.
2. Analyze the influence of feminist theory on activism against domestic violence during the 1980s and 1990s. Note any evolution, affirmation, or shifts since ICADV was founded.
3. Throughout ICADV's history, a sub-text of legislative issues has been ever-present. Trace the role ICADV played in influencing Illinois state legislation, particular bills and/or laws that aided or impeded the protection of domestic violence victims and their families, and the relationship between activists and their allies and opponents in government.
4. ICADV continually has sought alliances and collaborations with varied community organizations. Religious organizations have become strong affiliates in the fight against domestic violence throughout the state of Illinois. Identify the outreach methods ICADV used in seeking faith-based program support for common issues, individuals and families. Trace the progression of religious organizations' involvement from supplemental to independent of ICADV.
5. The ways in which law enforcement relates to domestic violence issues and experiences are complex. Chronicle the increasing part law enforcement leaders have taken in preventing and intervening in domestic violence incidents. Explore specific examples that convey the powerful role law enforcement professionals play in helping and/or hindering the search for social justice related to domestic violence.
6. The Illinois criminal justice system has responded to domestic violence offenders, victims and their families in many different ways over the past two decades. Describe the system's predominant perspectives on domestic violence issues, and indicate its areas of ongoing challenges. Further, examine the current responses to domestic violence in Illinois.
7. Funding domestic violence prevention and intervention supports and services is a continual programmatic challenge. Explore the primary and secondary funding sources of ICADV, and the ways such funding has shifted through the years. Explore the ways such funding may be tied to the over-arching political climate at the national and state

levels at given points in time. Who and which agencies have been strong allies of ICADV and its efforts?

8. How do sexual assault and domestic violence inter-relate in the lives of individual offenders and victims, if at all? Trace the frequency of such ties, and explore the underlying tension between programmatic support for one or both of these issues. Explore ICADV data on the chronology of programming for each and both issues and services.
9. Children in families where domestic violence has occurred are often at high risk for emotional, developmental, educational and social problems. ICADV has continually urged greater training, materials, staffing and support for children's programs both within families and at community shelters. Outline these issues and give specific examples of curricula that have met some of these needs.
10. Explore the politics of bringing a social problem to public consciousness. ICADV often identified the levels of denial within communities related to incidents of domestic violence. Police stereotypically minimized its criminality. Search through ICADV's history for ways that have been effective in getting their message across to the general public. Consider educational and awareness campaigns against domestic violence; identify successful tools and strategies.
11. Describe the cultural climates in the state of Illinois, the nation and around the globe at the time of ICADV's formation. Track changes in those climates through the 1980s, 1990s, and through the mid-2000s.
12. Identify other statewide programs in Illinois related to domestic violence/ sexual assault/ family shelters that existed and/or emerged in the period of the 1980s-mid-2000s. Explore their relationships, if any, with ICADV.
13. Explain the tensions that typically arise around issues of class, race/ethnicities. Analyze their presence and/or absence in ICADV's history and probe for possible explanations for these realities. Outline programmatic responses to any such conflicts.
14. Explore the tensions that typically arise around issues of volunteers/staff and victims/non-victims in domestic violence programs. Analyze their presence and/or absence in ICADV's history and probe for possible explanations for these realities. Outline programmatic responses to any such conflicts.
15. Hierarchical program structure is typically viewed as anti-feminist. Yet our literature review indicates that most enduring programs of feminist origins and bends do eventually implement hierarchies in order to become more effective and sustainable. Defend or challenge this typical view of hierarchical program structure as inherently anti-feminist. Depict the ways in which

ICADV conformed to or veered from this typical long-term development toward hierarchical structure. Indicate ways in which ICADV's structural history enhanced and/or impeded overall programmatic success.

16. Staff training and participant education are universal keys to effective domestic violence prevention/ empowerment programs. Much of our literature review also emphasizes that these efforts must be tailored to individual differences among individual staff members receiving training, then the ways that their interactions may resonate with program participants as they impart prevention education and empowerment strategies. How has ICADV dealt with these issues in their staff training, assessment of program participants and curriculum designs and implementation?

17. Program evaluation is universally viewed by funders as essential for determining past successes and failures, and for planning future support of programmatic directions. Yet our literature review describes a great conflict of interest expressed by those administrators and staff who are to provide internal evaluations of their programs in light of potential funding. It also describes deep frustrations on the part of program leaders to external evaluation requirements which assess measures that the program itself does not view as essential. How has ICADV responded to evaluation demands?

18. External funding is essential to virtually all not-for-profit domestic violence programs. Yet our literature review indicates that few program leaders have been able to hire or train individuals who can best access these funds. Abilities related to financial documentation and fund-raising are scarce among those who typically have strong passion for domestic violence issues. How has ICADV met these programmatic needs?

19. Most program leaders transnationally in our literature review have expressed surprise in their own initial naivete: by and large, they originally expected that DV issues would have been dealt with and related problems corrected in a far shorter time than has transpired. IN hindsight, what are the views of ICADV leaders?

20. What have been the successes and intractable challenges related to DV, in the eyes of the ICADV leaders who have been interviewed? To what do they attribute these outcomes? In the clear light of 20/20 hindsight, what might they wish had been done/not done—what paths taken/not taken—to have ensured a stronger outcome?

21. Are there particular programs within the ICADV coalition that embody its best practices? Describe in detail any such programs and track their evolution.

22. What future paths are indicated for ICADV's ongoing programmatic success? What more/different needs to be explored and/or undertaken in order for greater strides to take hold in Illinois? The nation? The globe?

23. How might this organizational history be best used to benefit the current leaders of ICADV and its institutional and community allies?

24. Describe the role of DePaul University's Women and Gender Research Initiative in this ongoing project. Include its relationship to the community, its research relationship with the Richardson Library Special Collections and Archives, and most centrally, its teaching role in educating undergraduate and graduate students through ongoing research methodologies taught within existing courses.

25. Discuss the implications of this pedagogy and its potential contributions to other disciplines and areas of studies within the university community.