



JUSTICE IN ACTION

VOLUME I, NO. 3

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FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Reader,

Thank you for taking time for us this month. I know that your life is filled with sacrifice, uncertainty, and even fear right now. I trust that you are taking care to remain healthy and safe and to keep distancing yourself socially to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. A special thank you to any of you out there who are first responders, medical personnel, garbage collectors, gas, water and electric company employees, grocery store clerks, and others vital to our continued safety and sanity in this unusual time in our history.

Like many of you the Mary Byron Project staff are working remotely. We even held a recent Board of Directors' meeting through Zoom. We continue to work on appeals for victims. We continue to design and prepare to administer trainings for legal professionals. We continue to communicate with you here.

This month, I invite you to meet one of our long time Board members, Dr. Renee Campbell. We'll share with you a note of thanks from Amelia Forsting's family and friends. We'll share information about elder abuse. We'll tell you how intimate partner violence is impacted by COVID-19 and suggest ways that you might be able to help.

Enjoy the read! And please, stay safe.

-Dorislee

Meet Our Board

AN INTERVIEW WITH DR. RENEE CAMPBELL



We sat down with Dr. Renee Campbell, an Assistant Professor and Coordinator of the Online Master Degree in Social Work at the University of Kentucky and the Executive Director of the Phoenix Global Humanitarian Foundation. She joined the Mary Byron Project (MBP) Board of Directors in 1999. Here's what she had to say:

How did you get involved with MBP?

I'd served on the Center for Women and Families Board of Directors for about 6 years and I was rolling off. Marcia [MBP's founding Executive Director] was looking for board members, and while talking to the person who was the Executive Director, Lynn Meyer, she recommended me.

What inspired your passion with the cause of ending intimate partner violence?

I had worked at Heverin House, one of the first 7 transitional housing demonstration programs for single parent women nationally. I began to see that 90% of those homeless women were homeless because of family domestic violence and abuse. At the same time this was happening, I was in an emotionally abusive marriage and going to therapy "to see what was wrong with me" that I could not make my husband happy. During this same time period I was introduced to one of the Founders of the Louisville Clothesline Project, Andree Mondor. I joined Andree and 4 other women, and together we created the Louisville Clothesline Project. The Clothesline Project is an organization that brings attention to widespread abuse of women. The project is an organized facilitated group shirt-making event where women make and displaying color coded shirts. The purpose of the project is to "give women who would not ordinarily have a voice to speak out about the abuse they suffer, let perpetrators know that women will no longer be silent, and to educate the public about how widespread violence is in the community." I also spearheaded the incorporation of the project as a non-profit organization. Approximately 1,000 shirts were decorated by survivors of abuse. Being a facilitator of groups of women who decorated their shirts and acting as a therapist during these group sessions helped me to heal from my own experience with emotional abuse.

Being on the Mary Byron Project Board of Directors was a natural progression for me. My heart went out to Mary's parents because of the loss of their precious daughter. I have a daughter and I wanted to do everything in my power to educate the public and help eradicate violence against women.

Why do you think the work of The Mary Byron Project is important?

I think the Mary Byron Project's work is important because we must save the lives of women and children. Somebody has to advocate for those who don't have the resources and strength to fight, even when they want to defend themselves. It's so sad that so many women, 1 out of 4, are abused every single day, and that the legal system is such that often it does not adequately work for victims. The Mary Byron Project has supported organizations that advocate for victims and find solutions. The Mary Byron is now taking more of a legal advocacy focus to defend and litigate for women who wouldn't have a chance at all. These are the women that the system blames, yes, "blaming the victim." I am proud to be a part of such a dynamic project that really cares about saving the lives of women and children. Yes, I said "saves lives" because many women are in abusive situations that are lethal. The Mary Byron Board of Directors is the most important work that I could ever participate.

What is your favorite memory or accomplishment of MBP in the past?

My favorite memory of the MBP is when I first came onto the Board. There was a fundraiser and I was able to fill a table and be a \$1,500 sponsor. I invited my friends and they supported me. I was so proud to be a part of such a magnificent mission to eradicate violence against women.

What are you most excited for in MBP's future?

I am excited that the MBP is expanding its focus to advocate legally.

Tell us about your family:

My children are my proudest accomplishment who include Phillip Jamell Henderson, Benjamin Creal Mapp, and Tristan Renee Brooks. I have a son in law, Duncan Brooks and a Daughter in Law, Laura D'andre Mapp. My Mother is Mrs. Mary S. Campbell age, 90, and I am blessed that she is still in our lives. I have 5 grandchildren, Ja'Nice, Baylen, Ezekiel, Azaiah, and Josephine.

What is your favorite song, music artist, book, and movie?

My favorite songs are "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" and "You'll Never Walk Alone." My favorite artist is Luther Vandross. My favorite book is "The Power of Intention" by Dr. Wayne Dyer. My favorite movie is Dr. Zhivago.

What do you like to do for fun?

For fun I like traveling, fine dining with a good glass of wine, making jewelry, and most of all spending time with my children and grandchildren. I also like good stimulating conversations.

What are the best toppings for a pizza?

Olives, spinach, cheese

Anything else you want to tell us about your involvement with MBP, your other work, or yourself personally that you think our readers might be interested to know?

It's been a pleasure working with the MBP. I'd like to see the community become more involved and help leave a safer place for women and children.

I think that it is important to look beyond what you might see as a person's limitations. Just because something looks like a little weak twig that you think won't grow, doesn't make it true.

A Note of Thanks

Words cannot express how thankful we are to The Mary Byron Project. When Amelia was killed by her husband in April of 2016, it was impossible to not feel isolated and hopeless. While we (Amelia's family and friends) supported each other through this time, we knew we were going to need even more support in the years to come. When the man who killed Amelia was first eligible for parole--only two years after killing Amelia--the Mary Byron Project helped us draft a petition asking the Board to deny parole. It was signed over 7,000 times and proved to the parole board there was a community of people who supported Amelia's family and thus ensured that parole was denied.

Two years later, The Mary Byron Project again circulated the petition, accumulating thousands of additional signatures and amassing 13,000 in total. Once again, the Mary Byron Project supported us by proving to the Parole Board that there is a community of people who supported us.

While there are still battles ahead, we cannot say thank you enough for the support and solidarity the Mary Byron Project has given to us in these difficult times. We hope that you will continue to support them in their mission to end intimate partner violence.

In Solidarity,

The Family and Friends of Amelia Forsting

Elderly at Risk

We have heard a lot in the last few weeks about elderly populations being at greater risk from COVID-19 than younger, healthier populations, and we can't help but call to mind what else we know about risks to elderly populations. A 2010 national study reported in the American Journal of Public Health found that slightly more than 1 in 10 adults over the age of 60 are abused, neglected, or financially exploited. The kinds of abuse include physical, emotional, sexual, and financial abuse and neglect and abandonment. Abuse is perpetrated by loved ones—including spouses—hired caregivers, or strangers. The actual rates of abuse are likely higher because elderly individuals with cognitive or other disabilities may be unable to report abuse.



According to the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, the direct medical costs of injuries caused by elder abuse are estimated at \$5.4 billion annually. Multiple studies suggest that elderly people who experience physical and verbal abuse have higher mortality risks than those who do not.

As with other stages in life, women are the victims in the majority of cases of intimate partner violence in elderly populations. It can be difficult for older victims of abuse to obtain services as most services for victims of intimate partner violence are generally designed to support younger women and their children.

Victims of elder abuse perpetrated by intimate partners or dating partners are eligible for civil protective orders under the law. The appellate advocacy services that the Mary Byron Project provides are also available to victims in these populations. [Click here for more information or how to report elder abuse in Kentucky.](#)

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AMIDST THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

We are in unprecedented times as a nation. For many of us, fear is the predominant emotion. For some, fear was already the predominant emotion in life. The social distancing, quarantining, joblessness, and limited supplies of household products and groceries have struck terror in the hearts of these.

Imagine a life where the easiest moment of the day was when you and your abusive spouse parted ways and headed off to work in the morning. You knew that for 8 hours you would be physically safe and you could focus your energies on something else that would take you far away from the scary, violent place that home had become. But suddenly, your employer requires you to work from home. Your spouse's employer closes its doors, and home your spouse comes too. The kids' school has been closed, and

they've come home with mountains of schoolwork that you'll have to facilitate. You got to the grocery store just in time to get the last 8 rolls of toilet paper, the last carton of eggs, and one of the few loaves of bread left, but you don't know when or if you'll be able to get more.

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