

A JOURNEY TO HEALING



IDVAAC
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Institute on Domestic Violence In
The African American Community



**August 3 – 4, 2009
Long Beach, California**

FINDING THE PATH

The Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community (IDVAAC) will explore this topic through its conference, ***A Journey to Healing: Finding the Path***, to be

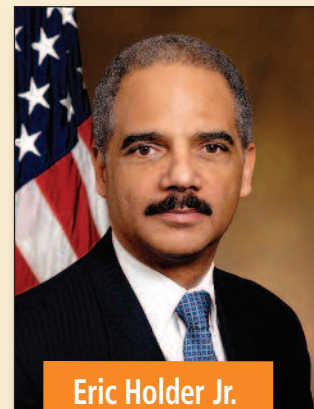
convened August 3-4, 2009 in Long Beach, California. Through a series of panel discussions, workshops, and artistic performances, IDVAAC will explore the definitions of and the journey to healing for survivors of domestic

violence, as well as adults who witnessed domestic violence as children. The conference will highlight the experiences of these individuals, with a focus on how to move forward in the healing process. Featured panelists and performers will include: survivors of domestic violence, adults who witnessed violence as children, domestic violence advocates and scholars, and socially conscious artists who are using their platform to bring attention to the plight of battered women. IDVAAC is sponsoring the conference in partnership with U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

Two panel discussions will be the focal point of the conference. The first panel will include four inspiring women who are survivors of domestic violence. The second panel is made up of four adults who, as children, witnessed their fathers' violence against their mothers. Both sets of panelists will present first-hand perspectives on finding the path to healing for battered women and adult child witnesses.

The above-mentioned "survivor" panels will be supported by two additional panels of scholars and practitioners whose work focuses on battered women, children, and trauma. One panel will include professionals whose work focuses on children. Panelists will report on the trauma of and recovery for children who suffer the emotional and other consequences of witnessing domestic violence during childhood. The other panel will examine research, trends, and observations pertaining to trauma and recovery for battered women, with an emphasis on emotional trauma and other consequences experienced by battered women.

Continued other side.



Eric Holder Jr.

***The Honorable Eric Holder Jr.
U.S. Attorney General***

To deliver luncheon remarks focused on hope and healing for battered women and adults who have witnessed violence as children.

CEUs (a total of 12 hours) provided onsite by Alliant University at a cost of \$30

A JOURNEY TO HEALING



IDVAAC
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Institute on Domestic Violence In
The African American Community



Mildred Muhammad

In addition to these panel discussions, IDVAAC will have a special awards luncheon, during which IDVAAC will recognize outstanding work to address domestic violence across the United States that is directed toward or inclusive of African Americans. The luncheon will also feature **Mildred Muhammad**, wife of convicted "DC Sniper" John Allen Muhammad, as she shares the poignant account of her struggle to preserve her relationship with her children, offering insights into the challenges a battered woman may face in fighting for the hearts and minds of her children when her batterer seeds and encourages conflict and hostility toward her.

Topics include Trauma and Recovery in Children Who Witness Domestic Violence, Faith Communities Promoting Healing, Trauma and Recovery for Battered Women, Fatherhood and Domestic Violence, Building Healing Mechanisms/Strategies into Battered Women's Programs, and Law Enforcement – Keeping Communities Safe.

Two-hour workshops on the second day of the conference will provide skill-building opportunities for conference participants. Further, professional performing artists will articulate the conference theme through song, dance, vignettes, and other creative presentations. Among them are video performances by Grammy Award winning **Sounds of Blackness** and **Endalyn Taylor** from the Original Broadway Cast of The Lion King and School Director for the Dance Theatre of Harlem. **Margaret "Shug" Avery** from the Color Purple will also lend her dramatic talent by performing in a vignette to end the conference. Each artistic expression has been originated specifically for the conference.



Margaret Avery



Sounds of Blackness

A Journey to Healing: Finding the Path will appeal to advocates, practitioners, researchers, domestic violence survivors, educators, policymakers, and other stakeholders with an interest in or responsibility to attend to the welfare of battered women and their families. For more information about this pioneering event, visit IDVAAC online at, www.idvaac.org.

Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American
Community University of Minnesota
School of Social Work
1404 Gortner Avenue, 290 Peters Hall
St. Paul, MN 55108

1-877-643-8222 Toll free or 612-624-5357

E-Mail: Info@idvaac.org Web: www.idvaac.org



FINDING
THE PATH



IDVAAC
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Institute on Domestic Violence In
The African American Community