



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

Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community  
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# PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ORGANIZATIONS PARTNER TO PRESENT WEBINAR ON PRISONER RE-ENTRY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

*Advocates will present practical strategies for assisting battered women whose intimate partners are being released from prison and returning to the community.*

**NOVEMBER 13, 2008 (ST. PAUL, MN)** – The Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community (IDVAAC) (St. Paul, MN) and the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) (Denver, CO) will host ***Prisoner Reentry & Domestic Violence: Supporting Battered Women Whose Partners Are on Community Supervision or Parole***, Friday, November 21, 2008 at 3:00 PM ET (12 Noon PT). During this 90-minute Webinar, nationally esteemed domestic violence experts will focus on the critical role of domestic violence advocates and practitioners in effectively serving battered women as their intimate partners are released from prison and return to the community.

When men are sent to prison many people forget that most return to the communities and families they left. “In reentry planning, corrections officials often consider and plan for the needs of ex-offenders, such as vocational training, substance abuse services, and temporary housing,” said Oliver J. Williams, Ph.D., executive director of IDVAAC and professor of social work at the University of Minnesota. “However, not much attention has been given to providing the necessary supports for their intimate partners, particularly where there is a history of abuse,” he added. With more than 650,000 men being released from prison annually, the safety of battered women is a viable concern.

This event will offer perspectives of and recommendations from battered women who have been in relationships with an intimate partner who was on parole or under community supervision, as well as the insights and practical suggestions from domestic violence practitioners who work with women under these circumstances. Discussion will center on how to identify and assist these women in their efforts to stay safe and lead productive lives, whether they decide to reunite with their partner or remove themselves from the relationship.

The event is free and open to the public; however, space is limited and registration is required. To register go to <http://register.webcastgroup.com/event/?wid=0801121084398> and follow the instructions. For more information on registration, contact Lauren Litton at [llitton@ispconsults.com](mailto:llitton@ispconsults.com) or contact IDVAAC at 877.643-8222.

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### **About IDVAAC**

IDVAAC is a pioneering national organization focused on the unique circumstances of African Americans as they face issues related to intimate partner violence, child abuse, elder maltreatment, and community violence. IDVAAC's mission is to enhance society's understanding of and ability to end violence in the African-American community. Within this context, IDVAAC works with families, individuals, and organizations serving the target population; legal and criminal justice systems; faith- and community-based organizations; researchers; and policymakers toward building the knowledge base regarding African Americans and domestic violence and to develop strategies to meet the service needs of this population.



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