

Concurrent Session 4-B

Domestic Violence, HIV and Female genital Mutilation (FGM) inter- relation as social determinants of health among African immigrants the need to address these issues together

Dr. Oliver J. Williams is a professor of Social Work at the University of Minnesota. He is also the current Director of the Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community. He has worked in the field of domestic violence for over 35 years.

Fatima Porgo works for the Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community (University of Minnesota), coordinating trainings for service providers assisting African women victims of domestic violence, advocating for battered African women at the State and Federal level. Fatima organized roundtables around the issue of Gender-Based Violence with various African communities including faith-based leaders (Islamic and Christian leaders), Men roundtable, Women's leadership roundtable. Fatima organized listening sessions: The African Women Listening Session at the US Department of Health and Human Services and The Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting Listening Session, a White House Initiative. Fatima is an advocate to end Forced Marriage and other Gender-Based Violence worldwide against women and girls and spoke at: The White House, the US Department of State, The US Department of Homeland Security, The US Department of Health and Human Services and at The US Department of Justice. Fatima assists community based-organizations, groups and grassroots associations in New York City and nationwide with strategies to self-empowerment, a key component to preventing Domestic Violence. In 2011, she founded Nerlow Afriki Inc., a community based organization in New York City addressing the issue of domestic violence in the African immigrant and refugee community. In recognition of her efforts, the African Diaspora in the USA granted her with the African Community Award 2011 and IDVAAC granted her with Angel Award in 2012.

Mr. Wondimu S Yirga was born and grown up in Ethiopia. He has a Master of Science degree in public health from University of Southern Denmark and has been working as research assistant and Lecturer at Haramaya University, Ethiopia. Mr. Wondimu engaged in various community based health, social and development projects before moving to the United States. He worked as a program officer and consultant and published articles on Female genital mutilation and Domestic violence against women in international journals. Currently Mr Wondimu is working as a nurse in the State of Massachusetts.

Oni Richards-Waritay currently serves as the Executive Director of the African Family Health Organization (AFAHO) where she is responsible for developing, implementing and managing health and human service programs for the African and Caribbean immigrant and refugee community in the greater Philadelphia area as well as directing the administrative functions of the organization. She brings more than seven years of program development and management experience to this position. Oni was selected as a Visionary Emerging Leader by the Valentine Foundation and awarded a scholarship to attend the Non-Profit Executive Leadership Institute at Bryn Mawr College where she further developed her non-profit management skills. She was also given the 2012 Echoes of Africa Community Service Award by the Mayor's Commission on African and Caribbean Immigrant Affairs and a Citation by the City Council of Philadelphia for her work and dedication to the communities she serves. In 2015, Oni received the Community Leadership Award from ACANA for her efforts in addressing the health needs of the African Diaspora.

No handouts provided for this presentation.
