

# Ideas to Empower Women Without Emasculating Men

*Five (5) Suggestions for women empowerment experts that may need to review domestic violence accusations while mediating between disputing couples*

**DVAM NEWS 002**

**17<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

*Revised on 19<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2018 @3p.m*



LAGOS STATE DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL  
VIOLENCE RESPONSE TEAM  
(DSVRT)

**ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM: *SECURING THE HOME AGAINST VIOLENCE... EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY***

AGIP RECITAL HALL, MUSON CENTRE  
18TH SEPTEMBER 2018 @ 10:00AM

**- SEE FLYER WITH DETAILS INSIDE**

SELF-DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY

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17<sup>th</sup> September 2018

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We need to protect women from abuse and empower them to actualize their full potentials. However, we must not do this blindly. The needs and rights of men must also be protected. Reports indicate that some women do batter their male partners and know how to game the system to cover their tracks. This trend can - and should – be reversed, if worthwhile benefits are to be achieved. In this report, I offer five (5) suggestions about what can be done, and how to stop wrong things happening to men, when we try to empower women.

No one deserves to suffer domestic violence or abuse – whether man, woman or child. Sadly, some naughty individuals, often females – have been known to routinely exploit flaws inherent in protective systems setup by society, to inflict physical and/or emotional injury on innocent others.

## **The 2002 story of 17 year old Brian Banks a rising high school football star in USA, being eyed by scouts from professional clubs provides a fitting illustration of what I mean...**

*One day he was the toast of everyone, and the next he was facing charges of rape in court, over claims by a fellow student from the same school, that he'd dragged her into a hall on the premises and raped her. Brian never stopped saying he was innocent. His mother never left his side all through the time he had to face journalists, and the court. His accuser, on the other hand never changed her story. Long story short, Brian was sentenced to about 10 years in jail (ending his promising football career), while she got 1 million US Dollars award to her as damages - a fine the school was ordered to pay for not making its premises safe enough.*

*Several years later, in a bizarre turn of events, Brian – while on parole - got a surprising Facebook message from his accuser, requesting a face to face meeting. He agreed, but wisely chose to make a recording of the conversation they had in the restaurant they met in. Lucky thing he did, because she would go on to apologize and actually admit she had lied against him, saying she had felt bad about it ever since, and that was why she'd wanted to see him.*

*But when he asked her to go one better and clear his name by publicly admitting what she'd done, she declined, expressing the concern that her family would likely have to cough up the money awarded to her. Brian's recording, was eventually used by a support group of legal consultants, to*

*overturn his conviction, and he got his freedom. Despite being given several opportunities by some clubs, however, Brian was unable to revive his football career, and eventually settled for a managerial position. But he joined the group that helped free him, to speak in their nationwide campaigns to free others unfairly convicted of crimes they did not commit.*

**I argue that Brian, though freed, lost a lifetime of career advancement opportunities that could have made him wealthy and fulfilled – all based on the false accusations of a lady he had done no wrong.**

The fact that *THAT* can – and does – happen, is evidence of a major flaw in the system setup to protect society's members from violence or abuse. That lady gamed the system to win compensation at the expense of Brian Banks. **Read his story at:** <http://tayosolagbade.com/sdnuggets/pii-068-we-need-to-stop-letting-naughty-females-succeed-with-false-accusations-against-men-case-study-woman-who-falsely-accused-brian-banks-of-rape-ordered-to-pay-2-6m/>

## **Just like Brian Banks got accused by a female school mate, any man can also get falsely accused by his intimate female partner (wife or girlfriend) at home.**

*This is why I suggest that those engaged in investigating domestic violence accusations between couples need to, among other things, **check for what has been called “systemic gaming”** (see article by WebMD referenced on [next page](#)). They need to take diligent steps to prevent such manipulation of the system, so as to ensure innocent persons do not suffer needlessly.*

Many agencies have personnel who are knowledgeable and competent. But I have come across some agencies' personnel who demonstrate scary lack of awareness of (or indifference towards) the potential impact of **what they do**

**and say**, especially in cases where correctly identifying true victims is an issue. It is my considered opinion that persons engaged in this kind of work need to be helped to understand that they must strive to give fair and impartial (stereotype-free) consideration to ALL parties involved in a domestic violence situation they have to intervene in, if they are to really succeed. The goal should always be to objectively arrive at a resolution that is acceptable to both parties.

If this is done right, a centre dedicated to supporting abused women will NOT “feel like” a no go area for a male victim of DV who is looking for help to deal with abuse he is experiencing. Sadly, my experiences - and I say this with every sense of responsibility - suggest most men may “feel” **that** way.

***This is why men who suffer domestic violence, who may ordinarily wish to speak out, often do not – because they doubt they will get fair treatment.*** This letter to Gloria Ogunbadejo in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept.2018 edition of her Sunday punch “Mental Health Matters” column, from a male reader says it all:

*“Dear Gloria, I am proud to say that I am a man who has been reading your column for many years. As much as it may appear, it is a column for women, I happen to think the information is helpful to both sexes. You have been gifted with a particular way of showing humanity and making people feel better at the very least to come away having hope. That is surely a gift and a blessing.*

*Your last article on Battered woman syndrome struck a note with me. The only difference is that I feel like the battered spouse! I have experienced many of the things you wrote about. As you know, we live in a society that would laugh at any man who says he is being battered by his spouse. I need to have a consultation with you. I have even considered ending my life, just because of the shame as well as fear that I feel almost every day. Maybe your article has come as divine intervention just in time!*

*I look forward to hearing from you as soon as you can. Terry.*

## Responses to past articles

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*I look forward to hearing from you as soon as you can.*

*Terry*

## A WebMD Dotcom Article Confirms That “Systemic Abuse” Is Done...**Often by Women**

The article is titled “Help for Battered Men” and reports based on information supplied by interviewed experts (see screenshot on next page)

that the man, even when he is the apparent victim, may get labeled as the abuser by default.

Read the article at <http://tayosolagbade.com/sdnuggets/webmd-dot-com-offers-help-for-battered-men-powerful-ideas-for-identifying-stopping-domestic-violence-against-men-dvam>.

*All the woman has to do is accuse him, for her to be believed. Abusive women exploit this flaw in the system to confidently perpetuate domestic violence against their intimate male partners with impunity. This trend can - and should – be reversed.*

*Not only is it unfair, it is also unhealthy for the true victim (the man).*

***We need to protect women from abuse and empower them to actualize their full potentials. However, we must not do this blindly. The needs and rights of men must also be addressed, to achieve long lasting benefits.***

**Having said the above, I'd rather proffer solutions than simply complain.**

*That's why I have come up with suggestions about what can be done, and how to do it, to stop wrong things happening when we try to empower women.*

**Screenshot from WebMD  
Dotcom Article**

## Help for Battered Men



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Another distinguishing factor is that while women who are abused are more likely to be pushed or shoved, beat up, or threatened with a gun, the women who do the abusing are more likely to throw something, kick or bite, hit with an object, threaten with a knife, or actually use a knife, according to the National Violence Against Women Survey.

And perhaps the most important difference is that women who batter may have a greater ability to use the "system" to their advantage.

"Systemic abuse can occur when a woman who is abusing her husband or boyfriend threatens that he will never see his children again if he leaves or reports the abuse," says Philip Cook, program director of Stop Abuse for Everyone. "A man caught in this situation believes that no matter what his wife or girlfriend does, the court is going to give her custody, and this greatly limits his ability to leave. While this can occur when a woman is being abused, it is more likely to happen when a woman is abusing."

Women, explains Cook, who is author of *Abused Men: The Hidden Side of Domestic Violence*, may also be able to use the system to their advantage in that they are less likely to be arrested if police are called as a result of a domestic dispute.

"There is no national data on average arrest rates for women in domestic disputes," says Cook. "My best guess is that it's about 20%. But we do know anecdotally that there are many men who, when the police arrive, clearly have the most serious injury, clearly when interviewed separately indicate the female started it, and nonetheless, the man gets arrested. This does indeed happen."

# 1. Be Objective

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Adopt and strive to maintain a neutral and objective mindset. Focus on getting at the truth. For instance the generally accepted reality is that women are often times the victims of domestic violence, at the hands of their male partners.

However, historical evidence, on an increasing basis in recent years clearly shows that up to 40% of domestic violence cases getting reported in many societies now have men recorded as the victims and/or complainants. And given the evidence that some women can choose to “game the system” to frame their men as abusers when they are not, the onus is on you to find ways to verify that a woman accusing a man is actually telling the truth.

Failure here could lead to an innocent person getting wrongly labeled and punished, with damaging consequences. Sometimes doing this may take a lot of effort. The easy and readily acceptable option would be to accept what you are told as is.

Possibly no one would raise eyebrows if your “conclusion” agrees with the “expected”. But the reality for the wrongly accused victim would be terrible.

# 2. Check If You Need A Hand

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No one knows everything. Sometimes we need to call in others who have more knowledge and/or experience than we do, to help us take accurate decisions that work.

Is the situation you’re reviewing something you’re familiar with? Or are there aspects you struggle to make sense of?

If for instance a man presents his son as a witness against his wife, who is the child’s step mother, how can you be sure the child has not been coached to speak in favor of his Dad?

Research evidence has shown that possibility exists for kids (from a certain age) to be coached by one parent to tell lies against the other parent, and that if the child is sure s/he will not be blamed, s/he is likely readily lie for the parent that requests it.

Then there is the serious issue of **Parental Alienation(PA)**, in which a parent deliberately systematically bad mouths the other parent to the kids, such that they actually become emotionally distanced from the target parent. Read more about PA at <https://tinyurl.com/dvamtks-parentalienation>

The threat of emotional denial by a manipulative parent can be used to make a child bear false witness, with PA being the resultant effect. Both the target parent and the child used in this manner end up suffering – and that’s why it’s important to get help to check for it.

**Experts say the abusive parent will often not be considered worthy to retain custody of kids.** But s/he has to first of all be found out. Some cases could have undertones of the above, so you may need to get help from a competent expert to guide your decision making about evidence that each parent may present to you, especially if s/he is using kids as witnesses.

# 3. Avoid Passing Judgment

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This can be difficult, yet it is necessary. When you have to mediate between 2 parties in sensitive relationships of this kind (i.e. intimate partners), chances are good that you will be told many unsavory things by each person, as s/he tries to make his/her case against the other.

When people are dealing with pain, they can be brutal in speaking to, and about one another. In order to play your role right, you need to resist any temptation or urge you may feel to pass judgment on either party. Rather, ***stick with your professional role***, of helping them explore reliable ways to arrive at a mutually acceptable resolution on the way forward.

Their narrations of wrongs and rights can of course be used to recommend better behavior for either party. But condemning one based on revelations about him/her would be inappropriate. **NEVER get personal.** For instance, saying things like “***Haba Mr. X, in fact I can now see why you have problems in your home. Even I can never live with you, based on XYZ tendency you have!***” would be irresponsible, and could embitter that partner further. **Always speak and act with EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE!**

Since your goal is to find a way to arrive at an amicable resolution – even if it’s separation, communicating judgmentally would be counterproductive.

## 4. Unmask Influencers

Human beings are social animals. Friends, relatives, coworkers, business associates, professional colleagues, and other persons in our network of contacts can influence us in various ways. There are times when partners in a relationship crisis, unable to see eye to eye, begin to seek counsel and/or comfort from persons outside their homes.

Sometimes they begin to act on advice they get, or suggestions they are given, in dealing with their partners. This may or may not however work well for them. While interviewing each partner, you might want to subtly enquire about how s/he spends his/her time, and where or with whom. ***This is especially relevant since being estranged from the intimate partner would mean less time with them, which would result in more time being spent elsewhere – with others they are on good terms with.***

The conversations they have with those “others” can influence the actions they go on to take at home and/or when they meet their partners. You will need to establish as well as possible exactly what is happening, in that regard, and use what you find out as a basis for providing support to them.

Where you deduce that influencers may be playing a negative role fueling the crisis between the couple, you will need to find ways to get the affected partner to see the problem and take action to remove him/herself from such influences.

## 5. Use Critical Thinking

Some personnel working with agencies allow themselves to lapse into inaccurate modes of reasoning. *The following comments and questions are examples of what were said to a man reporting his wife’s violence conduct:*

*“He that comes to equity must come with clean hands. Are you sure you have been fulfilling all your obligations in the home? Or is she the one who has been doing it all? Did you finish paying her dowry?”*

These kinds of questions imply the person asking assumes that if a man fails with regard to the things mentioned, it would be enough rustication for the woman to subject him to verbal or physical abuse.

I find that thinking to be based on warped logic, because relationships are meant to be partnerships, in which one supports the other as the need arises. And except the man has been acting irresponsibility in handling his finances (maybe lazing around, womanizing etc), an inability to come up with the goods, should actually trigger support response from HIS WOMAN.

I know this from watching my own mother do it several times when my father had challenges in providing financially for the family. She never once made an issue of it, talk less of using it as a basis to disrespect him in private

or before us, the kids. Kicking a man when he is down is mean – and wrong. And doing so is very unlikely to evoke feelings of LOVE for you in his mind. The way I see it, if a man is yet to finish paying his partners dowry and she decides insulting and disrespecting him as means of motivating him to do it, the opposite might just happen i.e. he may decide NOT to go ahead for fear that she would do WORSE things to him by the time they ties the knot fully!

It is not a crime for anyone, man or woman to fall into bad times or have difficulty earning income to meet his or her responsibilities. As long as s/he is not lazy or irresponsible, in responding to the challenges s/he faces, what a partner should do is provide support, with unconditional LOVE.

**The marriage vows many people take say it all. But I especially love the lyrics of Adekunle Gold's ORENTE because they say it even better!**

[Verse 1] Oya now

Shalla to my one and only

Na you be my Alobam

Nnkem you are my one in a million

Shalla to my baby honey

Na you be my girl o!

Temi you are one in a billion

Ale ma ni owo lowo [We may not have money]

Sugbon a ni alafia [But we have peace of mind]

Ale ma ni ile lori o, aye wa dun bi oyin [We may now own a house, but life tastes sweet like honey]

Ale ma ni owo lowo sugbon ani ifokan bale

Ale mani ile lori o

**Orente no dey complain oh!**

For some strange reason, it appears some of today's women, in Nigeria do not believe they should act in the above described manner. Instead many settle for blaming and shaming their partner, often in public, for not being able to do all they want – such that some responsibilities now fall on them. They seem to resent that, and that makes them lash out at him.

*When women who share such thinking happen to be placed in roles where they have to provide empowerment support to other women, it can prove to be a most unpleasant experience for the man involved.* And quite often, this could make a man who is actually innocent of any wrong doing, as per domestic violence accusations leveled against him by a naughty female partner, get roundly condemned and treated with contempt.

Abusive women who understand how the above happens, can skillfully supply misinformation to achieve that kind of outcome, when they have to defend their actions as reported by their man. *Except the agency's personnel have the training and/or insights to think and act with emotional intelligence when dealing with such women, they might unknowingly get used by them to inflict even further abuse on otherwise innocent men!*

## Final Words

To ensure their men are not disempowered and embittered, personnel providing support to women need formal best practice training and instruction on what to do, and how to do it, so they can act consistently in ways that benefit ALL persons concerned at all times.

No one should come away from interacting with people working in a support agency feeling cheated. That would only lead to further problems.

Read: *The Real Reason Marriages Fail* [Hint: Ideas You Can Use to Evaluate Your Relationship]

<http://tayosolagbade.com/sdnuggets/the-real-reason-marriages-fail-hint-ideas-you-can-use-to-evaluate-your-relationship/#.W6JsAiRKjcs>

## About Tayo

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I publish the **Domestic Violence Against Men (DVAM) – Ideas for Identifying and Stopping It** Facebook page as well as this **DVAM NEWS-letter** (THIS being the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition). Download my verbatim text transcript slideshows on DVAM (Domestic Violence Against Men) from my website: [www.tayosolagbade.com](http://www.tayosolagbade.com). Click “Video” on the site’s Main Menu.

Learn more about DVAM and how to identify and stop it from my DVAM page at [www.facebook.com/stopdvambytk](http://www.facebook.com/stopdvambytk).

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*This is a public service that I provide to inform, educate, inspire and empower men who may be suffering from exposure to domestic violence and looking for help about how to stop it.*

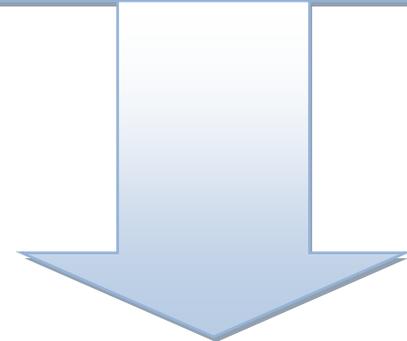
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18TH SEPTEMBER 2018 @ 10:00AM  
**- SEE FLYER WITH DETAILS BELOW**





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*presents:*  
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*themed:*  
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BROADCAST  
VIA   
**@DSVRT**  
#DSVRTMonth2018

**VENUE:**  
AGIP Recital Hall,  
MUSON Centre,  
Onikan, Lagos



**DATE**  
18th, September 2018  
**TIME:** 9AM PROMPT



**PANEL  
MODERATOR**  
Prof. Funmi  
Bammeke



**LEAD  
SPEAKER**  
Prof. Fatai Badru



**PANEL  
MODERATOR**  
Prof. Emevwo  
A. Biakolo



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PANEL 2

**BREAK THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE, THE NEED TO LEAVE TO LIVE TO RESOLVE**

The essence of this panel is to assess Sexual and Gender Based Violence as a societal ill from the viewpoint of survivors and proffer solutions to the various responder agencies

**PANELISTS**

1. A Male Survivor of Domestic Violence
2. A Female Survivor who has left the abusive relationship
3. A Female survivor of Domestic Violence and
4. A Female Survivor of Child Sexual Abuse