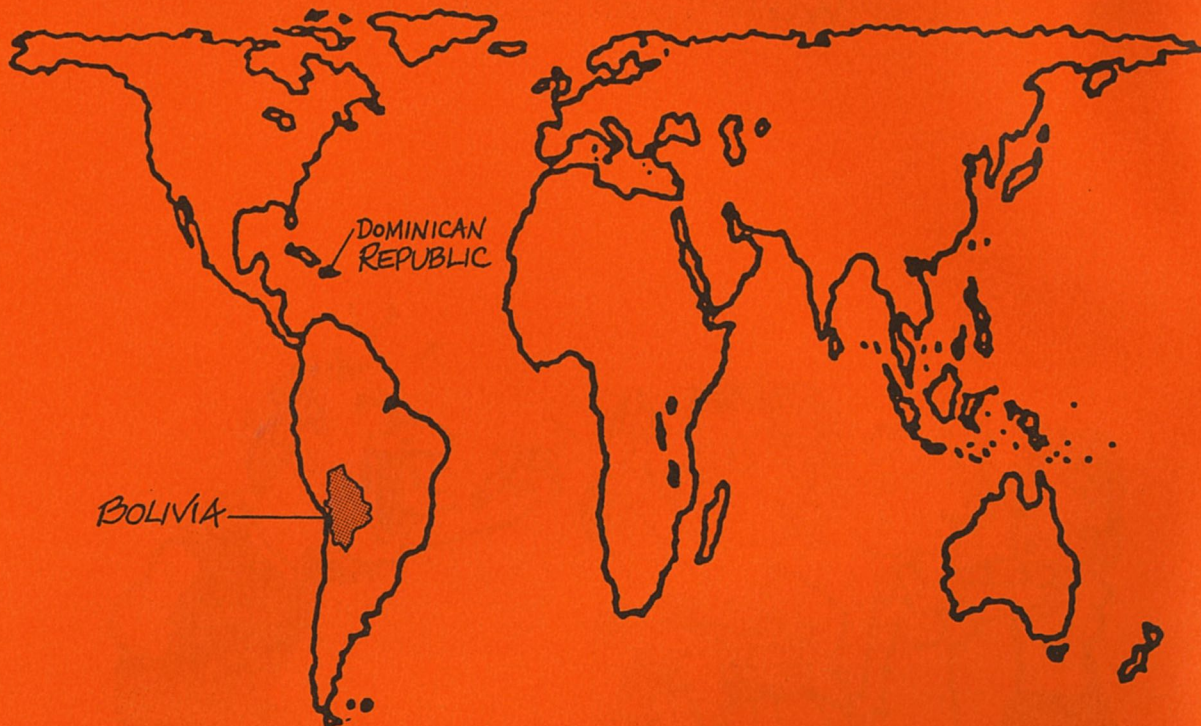




Violence in the Home



This booklet is one in a series of eight. Together they make up a women's kit. Each booklet is made up of material about women's lives from the Caribbean, Latin America, Africa and England. The themes of the booklets are:

Women's Days
Childcare
Health
Housework

Finding Paid Work
Working Conditions
Violence in the Home
Women Working Together

The kit is intended for use by women in English as a Second Language classes, literacy groups and other women's groups. We hope the kit will help women to get together to think and talk about their lives.

The following women put together the kit: Gwen Davies, Amy Gottlieb, Jenny Horsman, Linzi Manicom. With help from: Rachel Epstein, Maureen Simpkins and Lynda Yanz.

Produced: June 1987 ISBN: 0-920907-20-2

Cover graphic from: No To Violence Against Women, CIPAF,
Dominican Republic

Any woman can experience violence.

Many women are beaten or threatened in their own homes.

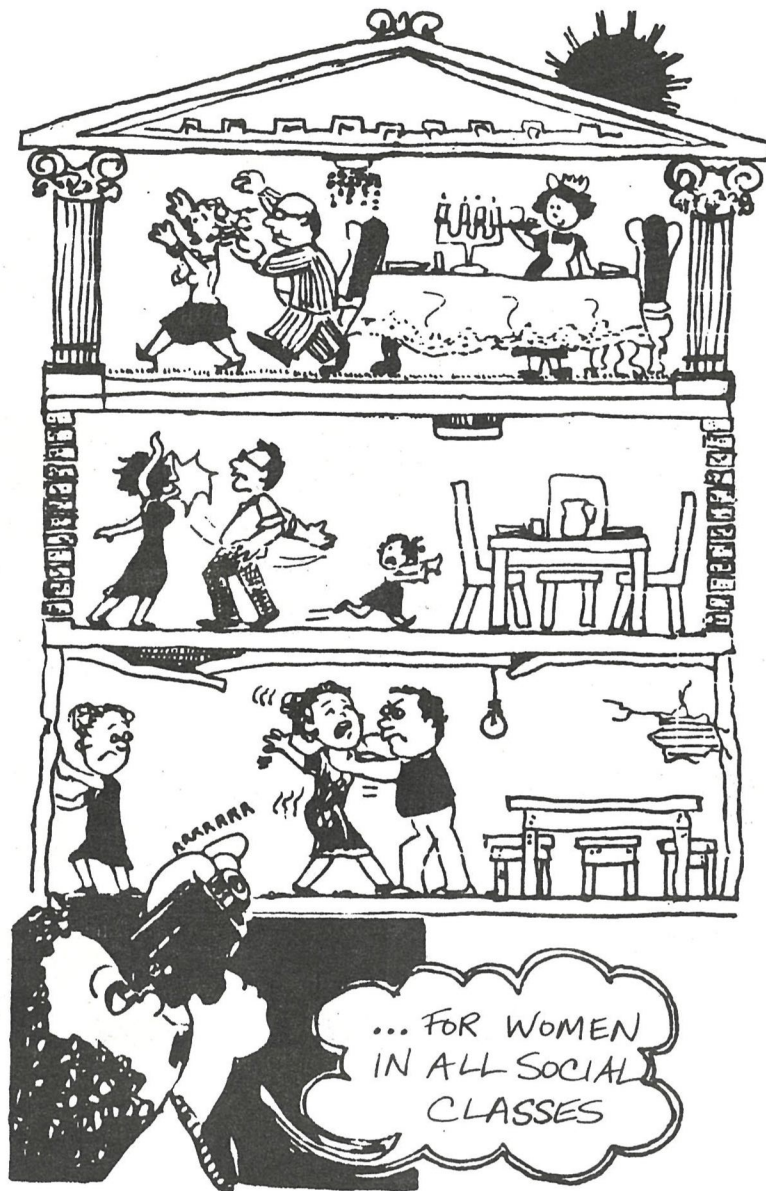
This book shows what some women from Bolivia, and the Dominican Republic think about violence against women.

Violence at home is hidden and private. Many children watch their mothers getting beaten. They suffer even if they are not hit themselves.

Women in the Dominican Republic talk about the violence that occurs in the home.

From: No To Violence Against Women, CIPAF, Dominican Republic.

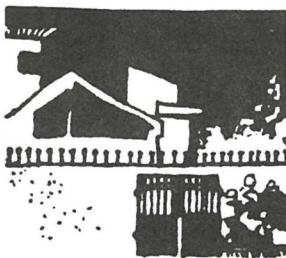
This is a common scene in all parts of our country...



We know little about the violence at home. We do not know how many women are beaten, because we do not report this violence. But, in the Dominican Republic, we can estimate



that in one in six homes women are beaten, by a husband who comes home drunk, by a strict father, or by a jealous boyfriend.



Women often do not want to tell others about the beatings they suffer.

But in the next story a woman from Bolivia tells her friend what happened to her:

From: Our Laws: "Could it be that the more he hits me, the more I like it?" CIDEM, Gregoria Apaza Women's Centre, Bolivia







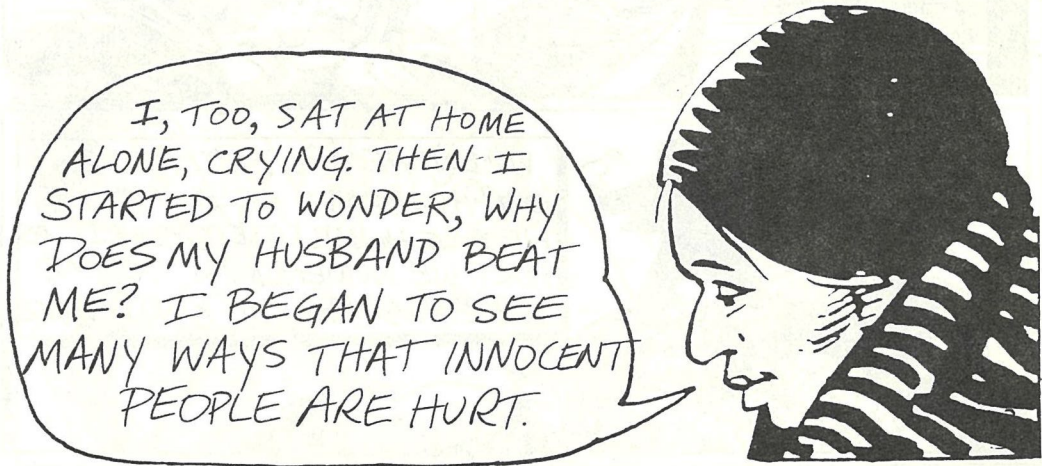


Drinking is often used by men as an excuse. But violence can happen at any time.

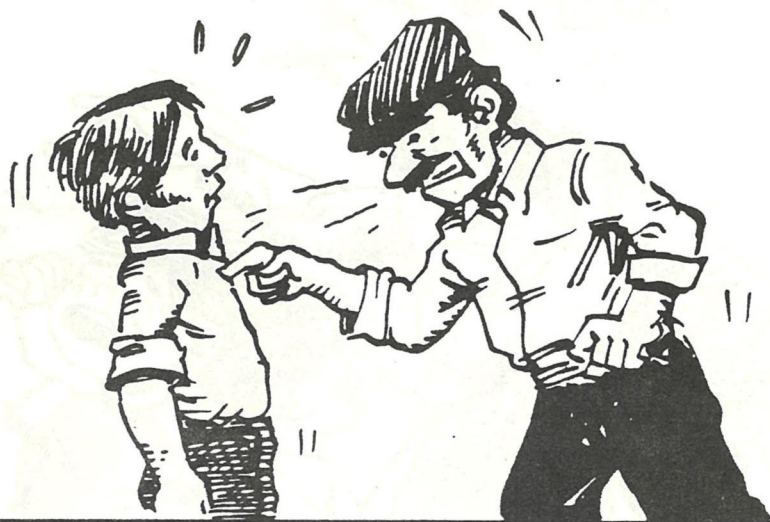
No woman deserves to be beaten or abused.

Sometimes when women talk to each other they find out that other women have had the same experience and can support each other:

From: Our Laws: "Could it be that the more he hits me, the more I like it? CIDEM, Gregoria Apaza Women's Centre, Bolivia



FOR EXAMPLE:



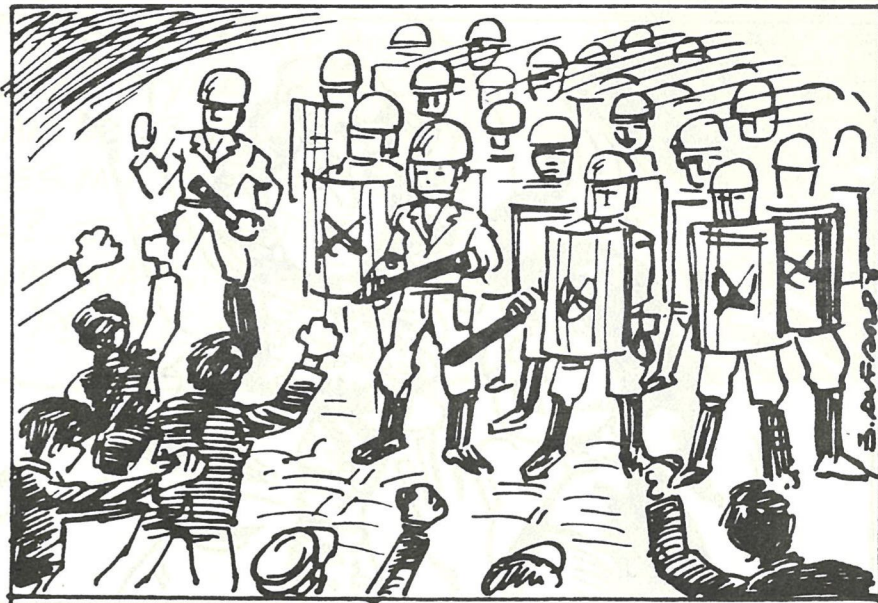
WHEN A BOSS THREATENS A WORKER



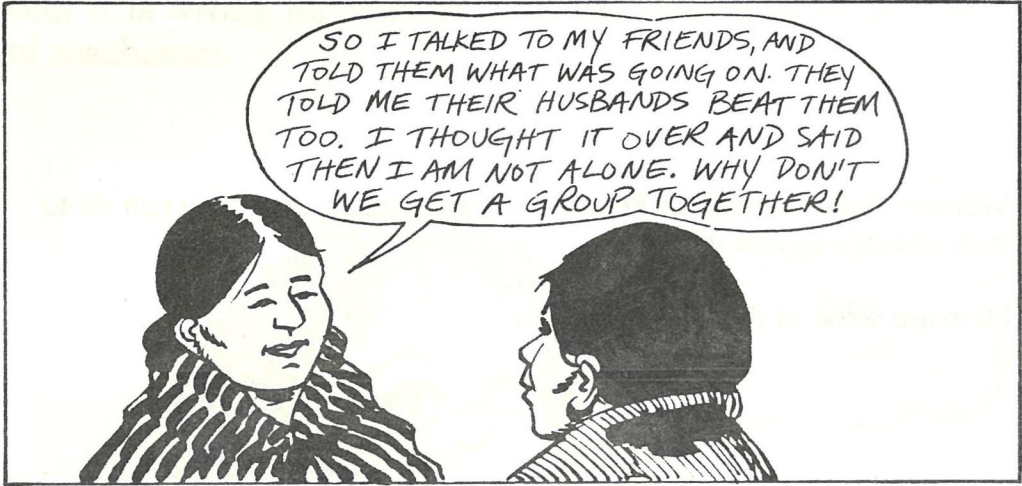
WHEN EMPLOYERS BEAT THEIR SERVANTS



WHEN I'M TIRED FROM WORK AND HIT
THE CHILDREN



POLICE, WHEN THEY CONFRONT WORKERS



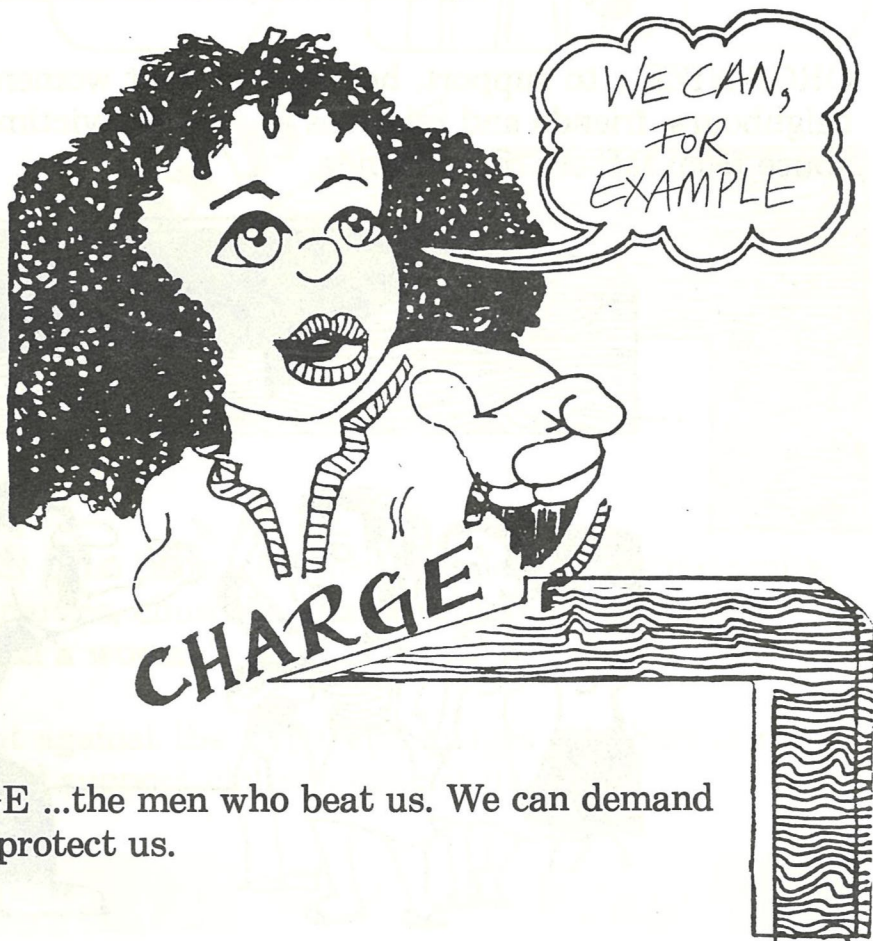
Women in the Dominican Republic ask themselves what they can do to stop violence against women.

Here are some of the ideas they have:

From: No To Violence Against Women, CIPAF, Dominican Republic

What Can We Do?

We can do many things. The first thing is to understand that it is wrong for women to be the victims of society and of machismo.



CHARGE ...the men who beat us. We can demand laws to protect us.

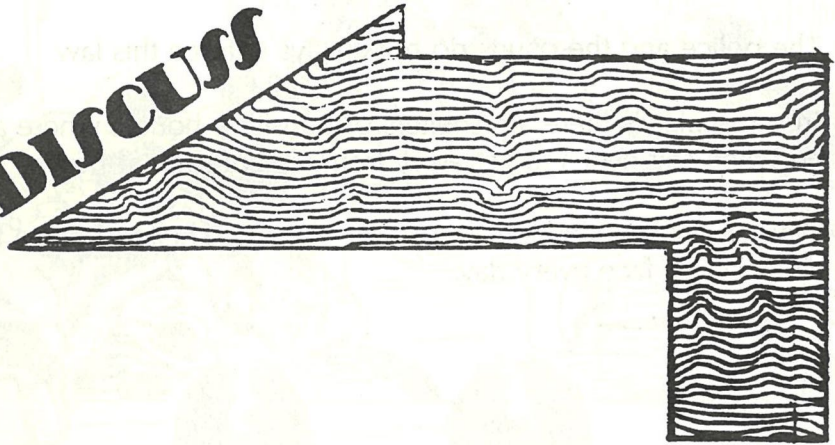
ORGANIZE

ORGANIZE ...to support, help and protect women — neighbours, friends and relatives — who are victims of abuse from fathers or husbands.



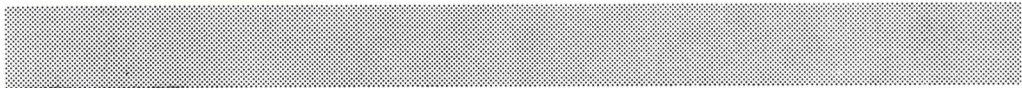


DISCUSS



DISCUSS ...the issue with men in unions, the community, political parties, churches, the workplace, to help them understand a woman's point of view.

Speak out against the songs and images that hurt our dignity and support violence against us.





In Canada the law says a man must not beat or rape his wife or the woman he lives with.

The police and the courts do not always enforce this law.

In some places there are shelters or transition houses where a woman can go when she needs to get away from violent men at home.

Women are working together to set up more shelters and to fight the violence we face every day.



THANK YOU

Thank you to the many Third World groups who sent us material to use in the kit. Thanks also to the Writer's Voice group and Sally McBeth at East End Literacy; to learners, tutors and students at Parkdale Project Read and ALFA Centre; to English as a Second Language teachers: Pramila Aggarwal, Gay Bell, Nomi Wall, Brenda Duncombe and Maureen Hynes; and shelter worker, Susan Goodfellow, who all gave us feedback on the kit and helped us to improve it.

We would also like to thank CIDA, Public Participation Program for financial support.

ABOUT US

The Participatory Research Group (PRG) is a collective of activists, educators and researchers working for social change. Since 1976 we have produced a range of materials, including booklets, bibliographies and slide shows. We also produce a bi-annual newsletter, organize workshops and conferences and have a resource centre for public use. We work with literacy, women's and community groups, labour and native people.

The International Council for Adult Education, Women's Program is presently coordinated from the office of the Participatory Research Group, in consultation with representatives from various regions.

The Women's Program works with individuals and groups in different regions of the world who are exploring and developing popular forms of education which reflect and address women's issues. Our aim is to contribute to the development of a feminist popular education that makes connections between broad social struggles, and the personal issues and oppression women face daily.

Published by: The Participatory Research Group/ICAE Women's Program
229 College Street, #309
Toronto, Ontario
Canada M5T 1R4
(416) 977-8118

ISBN: 0-920907-20-2
