
Mission updates

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To: "Appleton, Angela" <Appleton@ugm.org>

Hi Angela,

Thank you for contacting Fonnies and then getting back to me about this.

I reviewed the information on the ACES Too High [webpage Fonnies provided the link](#) for. I also reviewed ACES Too High's [webpage about the original study](#) by Felitti and Anda. At the bottom of that page is an important comment from someone identified as Jan Bays, MD. Jan says: "There should also be a question about domestic violence perpetrated by the mother. In interviewing kids for 30 years, I was surprised by how many mentioned DV by the mother against the father. I think that women get away with all kinds of abuse more easily than men." Jan is correct.

Below is more information about why I am requesting that UGM consider changing the "mother treated violently" language in the "Homelessness in Seattle" and in any other UGM publications. Thanks for carefully considering this request.

From the variety of domestic violence studies which use reliable data, we know that the frequency of women being violent with their male partners is a bit less than, or is equal to, the frequency of men being violent with their male partners. In many violent relationships, both partners are violent with each other.

I think fair-minded people can agree that:

1. domestic violence is a major problem
2. a significant proportion of domestic violence victims are children, a significant proportion are women, and a significant proportion are men
3. among the three categories of victims mentioned above, the proportion of attention that goes toward victims who are women vastly exceeds the attention which goes toward victims who are men

In UGM's "Homelessness in Seattle" publication, in the paragraph you pointed out to Fonnies we notice that "mother treated violently" is the only thing listed which has a gender associated with it. The argument I'm making is that when people communicate about domestic violence the way UGM does in that instance, they perpetuate the false narrative that family violence is primarily or exclusively a problem of men behaving badly. In fact, both men and women perpetrate this destructive behavior.

Granted, these three words in this particular publication are not a big deal in and of themselves. But UGM is an organization I have volunteered for and have donated to. In other words, I have a personal connection to the organization. I am from the Seattle area, and UGM is probably the best nonprofit in Seattle serving people experiencing homeless. I care about UGM's mission, and I deeply admire the way you help people. I am in a position to request that UGM make this situation right by removing from any of its publications language like "mother treated violently" which gives the impression that violence between spouses is a problem of men being violent with women.

In the "Homelessness in Seattle" document, I am aware of no compelling reason why UGM couldn't use gender-neutral wording, like "parent". The document's reference to ACE is not a reason that you must say "mother treated violently" in the document. The UGM publication is not an academic paper, and nowhere does it even cite the original study/paper. Nothing prevents UGM from changing the word to "parent". Felitti and Anda's ACE study made the mistake of asking the flawed question, "Was your mother treated violently?" UGM is under no obligation to perpetuate the consequences of Felitti and Anda's error.

As long as I can remember knowing about domestic violence, I knew it was a problem of men beating their wives and girlfriends. I was ignorant that it is also a problem of wives beating their husbands and boyfriends. My wake-up call was being married to a violent woman. If she and I had children, which was absolutely the plan, it is likely my children would have been exposed in their upbringing to a mother who treated their father violently. (They would not have been

exposed to a father who treated their mother violently. I have never and will never be violent with a woman.)

I would like to ask that staff give another consideration to making this change in the language. Please let me know what you think.

Thank you for your time.

Blair Daly

[Quoted text hidden]