

IT'S TIME

AFRICAN WOMEN JOIN HANDS
AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

A Documentary Screening

With special guest speakers

Mahdere Paulos
Executive Director,
Ethiopian Lawyers Association

Tsidi Kambula
Prosecutor and Lead Trainer from the
Domestic Violence Unit of the South African
National Prosecuting Authority (NPA)





Domestic violence causes more deaths and disability among women age 15 to 44 worldwide than cancer, malaria, traffic accidents, and war combined.

“I had no idea about domestic violence previously. During this training I called my wife to apologize for what has happened during our married life.”

- Ethiopian Police Officer

THE PROJECT

JOINING HANDS AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SOUTH AFRICA & ETHIOPIA

The *Joining Hands Against Domestic Violence: South Africa and Ethiopia* project grew out of the groundbreaking work done by Victim Services and Crime Prevention Division and the Law Courts Education Society of BC (LCES) on domestic violence and the justice system.

In 1995 Tsidi Kambula, of the National Prosecuting Authority of South Africa (NPA), was searching for resources to help the South African justice system cope with an epidemic of domestic violence. Hearing of the pioneering work done in Canada, she invited the Canadian agencies to partner with NPA to develop a version of their training program and integrated services model. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) provided funding for LCES to help adapt the program for South Africa: *Joining Hands South Africa* was born in 2000.

The success of the *Joining Hands South Africa* initiative caught the attention of UNICEF and other African countries. Ethiopia, in particular, saw South Africa as a model. In 2006 the Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association (EWLA) partnered with LCES to develop a training program incorporating best practices from both the Canadian and South African experience.

Police, prosecutors, and judges in Ethiopia are beginning to incorporate reforms to the penal system, and to realize that domestic violence is a social issue that requires a radical change of attitude and a fully integrated response from the justice system.

Now the *Joining Hands* project is bringing home lessons learned from the African experience to share with Canadian agencies and legal organizations in a three-week, cross-country tour that includes Vancouver, Toronto, Halifax, and Ottawa.

“2007 is the Ethiopian Millennium and young people are looking for a change. Domestic violence is an issue whose time has come.”

- Ethiopian judge

IT'S TIME

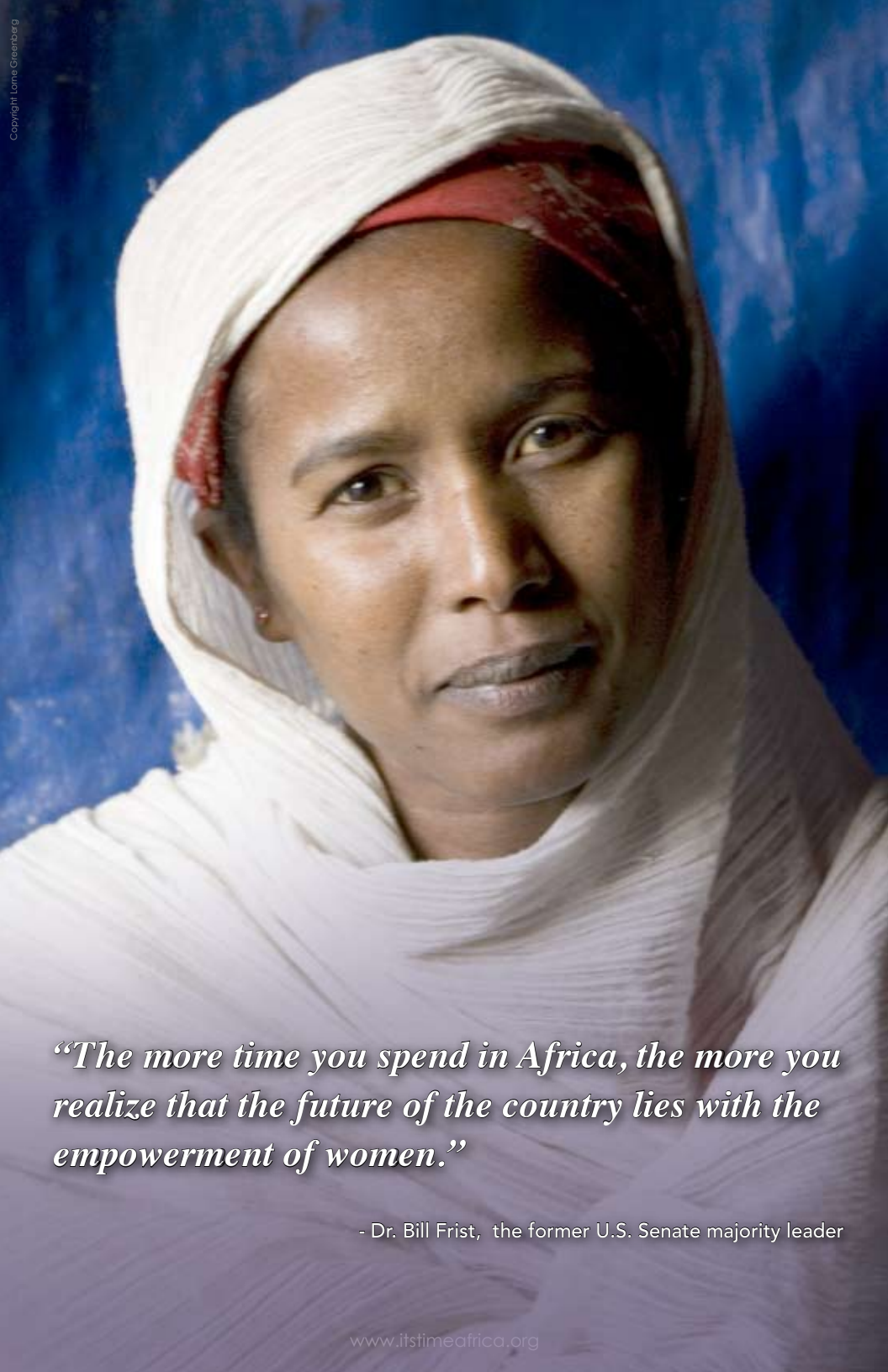
AFRICAN WOMEN JOIN HANDS AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The documentary ***IT'S TIME: African Women Join Hands Against Domestic Violence*** describes the collaborative efforts of a small Canadian non-profit association and two bold African agencies, the Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association and the National Prosecuting Authority of South Africa, to combat the scourge of domestic violence in Ethiopia and South Africa.

From the violent streets of post-apartheid Johannesburg, to the impoverished countryside of Ethiopia, where up to 80% of marriages result from abduction and rape, this provocative film gives a glimpse of how domestic violence is entwined in the history and the social and cultural fabric of these African countries. Taking us inside women's safe houses, we witness the personal stories of women and young girls who have fled abuse and violence.

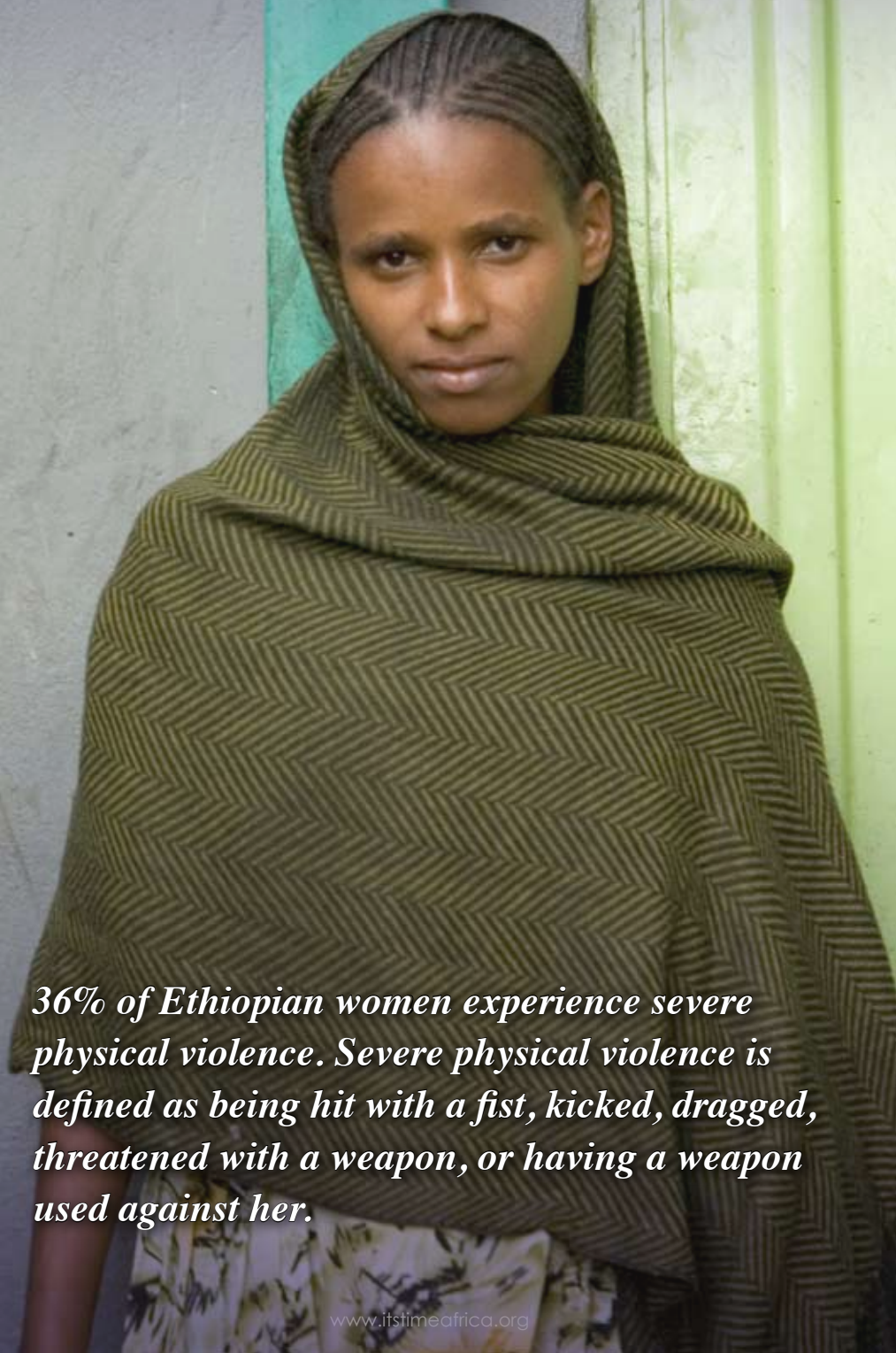
A groundbreaking program, developed by the Law Courts Education Society and funded by the Canadian International Development Agency, is empowering these two grassroots organizations - and the women who run them - to train their justice systems to respond to this human rights catastrophe.

While domestic violence remains culturally entrenched, the film registers a growing feeling - particularly among the new generation of Africans - that it's time for a change. This growing desire for change, combined with the support of the international community and the courageous efforts of organizations like EWLA, inspires hope that African women may someday soon take their rightful place in the future of Africa.



“The more time you spend in Africa, the more you realize that the future of the country lies with the empowerment of women.”

- Dr. Bill Frist, the former U.S. Senate majority leader



36% of Ethiopian women experience severe physical violence. Severe physical violence is defined as being hit with a fist, kicked, dragged, threatened with a weapon, or having a weapon used against her.

When women are educated, given genuine choice around child rearing and employment, treated with respect, paid fairly and protected from violence the society benefits.

IT'S TIME to stop Domestic Violence in Africa YOU CAN HELP

The Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association (EWLA) provides lifesaving services for Ethiopian women and girls who are victims of physical and sexual abuse.

EWLA HOTLINE: The EWLA hotline provides a lifeline of help and support for women suffering from sexual abuse and domestic violence. For thousands of women in rural areas, the hotline is their only source of information and counselling on how to best deal with their abusive situation.

EWLA SAFE HOUSE: This refuge provides shelter for women and girls fleeing from violence and sexual abuse. Although the shelter is offered as a temporary solution, most women have no other options and remain in the safe house indefinitely. With only 12 beds available, EWLA is desperately looking to open more shelters, and needs more resources to provide long-term assistance and accommodation for these vulnerable women.

EWLA LEGAL AID: Each year EWLA provides legal advice and counselling sessions to 13,000 women - most of whom are victims of violence. These women are Ethiopia's poorest of the poor, who without EWLA's help would have no advocate or recourse to the justice system.

EWLA HAS NO GOVERNMENT FUNDING AND RELIES ON SUPPORT FROM PEOPLE LIKE YOU TO PROVIDE THESE LIFE SAVING SERVICES.

To find out how you can help go to www.itstimeafrica.org or contact us at itstime@lawcourtsed.ca

To learn more about EWLA, go to www.etwla.org

PROJECT PARTNERS

LAW COURTS EDUCATION SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Law Courts Education Society of British Columbia is a non-profit organization that provides educational programs and services about the justice system in Canada and internationally. LCES has been recognized for work in Canada and abroad in the area of criminal justice reform, including domestic violence. The society has worked with partner organizations in South Africa, Somalia, Ethiopia, Central America, China, and Montenegro.

VICTIM SERVICES AND CRIME PREVENTION DIVISION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Victim Services works to make sure victims of crime receive the highest quality support by educating and training service workers and members of the criminal justice system. Since its inception in 1985, BC's Victim Services groundbreaking program on domestic violence has been recognized as a model worldwide for training and integrating all sectors of the justice system to deal with domestic violence.

THE ETHIOPIAN WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (EWLA)

EWLA is a not-for-profit Women advocacy group founded by women lawyers in 1995. EWLA's mission is to promote the economic, political, social, and legal rights of women, and, to that end, to assist them to secure full protection of their rights under their Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and other international human rights conventions. EWLA provides legal aid, research and law reform, public legal education, training and advocacy, and a safe house for women.

SEXUAL OFFENCES AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS TEAM (SOCA) UNIT OF THE NATIONAL PROSECUTING AUTHORITY OF SOUTH AFRICA

Established in 1999, SOCA is a specialist unit within the National Prosecuting Authority of South Africa. Its objective is to eradicate all forms of gender-based violence against women and children. The mandate is to enhance the capacity to prosecute sexual offences and domestic violence cases, reduce secondary victimization of complainants, and raise public awareness about sexual offences and domestic violence.

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