



# University of HUDDERSFIELD

## University of Huddersfield Repository

Femi-Ajao, Omolade, Kendal, Sarah and Lovell, Karina

Patterns of Disclosure and Help-Seeking by Nigerian Women Resident in England with Lived Experience of Domestic Violence

### Original Citation

Femi-Ajao, Omolade, Kendal, Sarah and Lovell, Karina (2015) Patterns of Disclosure and Help-Seeking by Nigerian Women Resident in England with Lived Experience of Domestic Violence. In: European Conference on Domestic Violence, 6-9 September 2015, Queen's University, Belfast.. (Unpublished)

This version is available at <http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/30990/>

The University Repository is a digital collection of the research output of the University, available on Open Access. Copyright and Moral Rights for the items on this site are retained by the individual author and/or other copyright owners. Users may access full items free of charge; copies of full text items generally can be reproduced, displayed or performed and given to third parties in any format or medium for personal research or study, educational or not-for-profit purposes without prior permission or charge, provided:

- The authors, title and full bibliographic details is credited in any copy;
- A hyperlink and/or URL is included for the original metadata page; and
- The content is not changed in any way.

For more information, including our policy and submission procedure, please contact the Repository Team at: [E.mailbox@hud.ac.uk](mailto:E.mailbox@hud.ac.uk).

<http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/>

# Patterns of Disclosure and Help-Seeking by Nigerian Women Resident in England with Lived Experience of Domestic Violence and Abuse

Omolade Femi-Ajao, MSc (PhD Student); Sarah Kendal, PhD; Karina Lovell, PhD  
(School of Nursing, Midwifery & Social Work)

Presented at the European Conference on Domestic Violence, Belfast (Sept 6<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup>, 2015).

## 1. Introduction

- Although domestic violence and abuse is emerging as a global public health problem, the pervasiveness of the problem is unknown. This may be due to inadequate disclosure and help-seeking.
- This study focuses on disclosure and help-seeking practises among Nigerian women resident in England
- Nigerians in the UK are the largest Black African population.

## 4. Result: Key Themes

- Nigerian Upbringing
- Prioritising saving the intimate relationship
- Nigerian ethnic group leaders
- Impact on functionality

*I was losing my mind, It kept on affecting my job, So I had to open up and tell my manager the truth. - Alake*



*...Our own belief in Nigeria is that you have to sort the problem on your own. I was trying to keep it and I didn't tell anybody. -Aduke*

*...my Pastor said: continue to love him, continue to respect him, continue to pray for him. I tried everything, it didn't work. - Akanke*

*The first author expresses her gratitude to: The University of Manchester; The Joy Welch Educational Charitable Trust; and The John and Heather Clemence Charitable Settlement for their generous financial support.*

*First author's email: omolade.femi-ajao@manchester.ac.uk*

## 5. Decision-making Model of Disclosure and Help-seeking from Statutory Services



## 6. Conclusion

- Nigerian women experiencing domestic violence are likely to seek help **first** from individuals within their ethnic community, who may not be adequately equipped to provide appropriate support and referral to professional/statutory services.
- There is need for collaboration between community groups, religious organisations, voluntary sector organisations, and statutory services on supporting BME women experiencing domestic violence.

## 2. Research Objectives

The objectives of this study include exploring the:

- Barriers to disclosure of domestic violence;
- Facilitators of help-seeking for domestic violence;
- Service support needs for Nigerian women experiencing domestic violence and abuse in England.

## 3. Methodology

1. Systematic Narrative Review (4 studies)
2. 16 semi-structured individual interviews
3. Inductive, Latent Thematic Analysis (8 themes)