

## Religion & DV Issues Committee Meeting

Minutes for May 24, 2022

Meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Varsha N. Present were Co-chair, Bernita Walker; Cecelia Walker, Co-chair, Isabel Checa, Manuel Martinez, Melinda Oakley, Carol Tantau, Nadia Parada, Laura Iniguez, Tina Rowe, and speaker Anissa Muhammad.

Attendees were invited to introduce themselves, share organization affiliation, and a food they would like to learn to make.

Speakers, Sister Anissa Muhammad from Sisters 4 Life Health Equity Group, provided a presentation providing insights into DV in the context of the Nation of Islam. Sister Anissa clarified that there are a number of what can be referred to as “denominations” (e.g. Sunni, Shiite, and Al Islam), and noted the prevalence of stereotypical beliefs that often classify all Muslims in negative terms.

Some highlights included perspectives on the role of specific people in the community, called the “Quad Caller” and their role in assisting those who are experiencing life challenges, including abuse in relationships; the role of the man as “the maintainer of women”; the identity of women as the “second self of God” (in other words, women are significant in the community).

Matters not posted on the agenda: none

Next meeting is June 28, 2022

Meeting adjourned at 3:00pm