Confronting disadvantage: Violence against children within the family

- Violence Against Children
  - Increasing
  - Impact
- Context
  - Policy and practice strategies
  - Research
  - Reports
  - Community education

Overview continued

Addressing Violence Abuse and Oppression: Debates and Challenges

- Family main site of child abuse and neglect
- Debates
- Challenges
- Ways of understanding: dominant discourses
Debates: risk, protection and resilience

- Definitional issues
- Rights
- Responsibilities

Challenges

- Developing policies and practices
  - Evidence-based
  - Cognizant:
    - Complexities of children’s and parents’ lives
    - Poverty and Social disadvantage
    - Gender issues
    - Meaningful participation
    - Partnerships

Fran Waugh
Ways of understanding child abuse and neglect and domestic violence

- Human rights
- Public health
- Risk
- Ecological
- Feminist perspectives

Fran Waugh

A snapshot: the level of violence against children in families

- Debates
  - How do countries define violence against children?
- Comprehensive definition
  - Physical abuse
  - Sexual abuse
  - Psychological abuse
  - Domestic violence
  - Neglect
- Oppression - misuse of power

Fran Waugh
Ways of understanding child abuse, neglect and domestic violence

- Multiple ideologies, values and beliefs about children and families
- Multiple theoretical perspectives informing understandings child abuse, neglect and domestic violence power
- Human rights, public health, ecological and feminist perspective

Human rights, public health, ecological and feminist perspectives

Abuse and neglect result of:
- Human actions
- Beliefs
- Behaviours

Fran Waugh
Human rights, public health, ecological and feminist perspectives

Circumstances Influenced by a number of factors:
- Living conditions,
- cultural beliefs about children,
- gender,
- ethnicity,
- influence of power,
- adult’s own parenting experiences,
- personality,
- family relations

Inform how dimensions of
- Risk
- Protection
- Resilience operate in
- Prevention
- Intervention and
- Recovery strategies
Research

- Complexity of the lives of children and families
- Multi-dimensional and dynamic nature
- Gendered nature of abuse
- Diversity
- Uncertainty

Fran Waugh

Implications for human service professionals

- Range of tailored multi-level interventions - resources
- Comprehensive needs and risk assessments
- Understanding of professionals
  - Skills
  - Values
  - Relevant knowledge - dissemination
- Participation
- Partnerships

Fran Waugh