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A Scholar's Reflection on Intimate Partner Violence in The Cape Verdean Community
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This year we have seen how #MeToo and the Times Up movement have brought about a social shift and cultural change that validates women and men who have reported sexual abuse in the workplace and other forms of abuse, including intimate partner violence. This movement follows in the footsteps of several decades of other pioneers who advocated and fought for survivors of all types of abuse. Their efforts have not only increased the public's awareness, but also brought about legislation, support systems, and a greater understanding regarding the complexity of intimate partner violence. Yet, culturally diverse communities such as the Cape Verdean community continue to face a variety of complex challenges and barriers in addressing violence against women and children. Intimate partner violence is a well-known secret in the Cape Verdean community, yet unveiling this secret has been slow, oftentimes leaving families' needs unmet and suffering in silence. The Cape Verdean Women's Project (CVWP) was a qualitative study with 50 women between the ages of 18-80. This article reports on the study's findings of Cape Verdean women's perceptions of intimate violence, women's strength and resilience, code of silence, and culture and violence. This paper also chronicles this scholar's experiences reporting research findings from the project; the research was met with a combination of silence, resistance, acceptance, and support. Finally, this paper concludes with recommendations for future community engagement.