

## Trapped by Stereotypes

"African-American women are stereotyped as the opposite of the stereotypical, traditional middle and upper class white woman. The historic stereotype of the white woman is that she is small, delicate, soft, passive. Fenton declares that the image of the white woman or the 'good girl' is intertwined with the image of a victim..."

"...Being viewed as the "strong black woman" is positive, but unfortunately, it leaves African-American women in caregiver roles with no opportunities when they need care. Therefore, the African-American woman must first demonstrate herself to be a victim in general, and then a victim of domestic violence. She must show that she is a victim of circumstances that are not her fault. The problem of not recognizing African-American women as victims as immediately as white women impedes their ability to utilize resources, and may put the African-American victim in a more imminent position of danger. Even when an African-American woman overcomes obstacles to obtaining domestic violence resources, the African-American woman still has to prove that she is a victim."

*Excerpted from: Lisa M. Martinson, An Analysis of Racism and Resources for African-American Female Victims of Domestic Violence in Wisconsin, 16 Wisconsin Women's Law Journal 259-285, 260-270 (Fall 2001) (162 Footnotes Omitted)*

<http://academic.udayton.edu/health/01status/violence05.htm>