The Cultural Abuse of African Women Exposed: A Work in Progress
Tori Lee: Social Work, Department of Rehabilitation, Social Work and Addictions, College of Public Affairs and Community Service and Honors College
Faculty Mentor: Ami R. Moore, Department of Sociology, College of Public Affairs and Community Service

Why does this matter?
In developing countries, women tend to suffer because of the standards society has forced upon them. After seeing the beauty of their customs and cultures one may wonder why abuse and mistreatment are acceptable standards in these countries, especially in several parts of Africa.

My research questions are:
1. Why are women constantly abused and overlooked?
2. Why in a world that has progressed so rapidly do people seem not to see the abuses of women?
3. Why are solutions not being offered?

These questions are important to entertain because morally in order to have a better world, something must be done.

Abstract
In order to assess why African women are abused and overlooked, let’s examine and compare some of the African cultures. It is important to know who African women are and the conditions from which they come. A convenience sample of African women who have been abused will be interviewed, with questioning focusing on how they view other African women as well as African American women, their views toward exile, and how their culture leads to abuse.

Research Methodology

Abuses of African women: Any cultural link? African women who have been subjected to abuse will be asked to take part in this research.

Surveys
Surveys will ask African women about ways their cultures may lead to certain abuses.

Interviews
African women will answer question regarding abuse, their views on exile and how their cultures lead to abuse.

Scales
African women will be asked how they view their culture on a scale from 1-10. 10 being that they see nothing wrong with the way of life to which they were exposed.

Quotes on Culture

“We have become not a melting pot but a beautiful mosaic. Different people, different beliefs, different yearnings, different hopes, different dreams.”
—Jimmy Carter

“Knowing yourself is not so much about introspection and interaction. To know yourself is to realize that you are more than the little self that has been given to you by your history — the pattern that others made — that your true self is, in truth, much larger and includes other people, other cultures, other species even. That life is less about being and more about interbeing. We come to know ourselves, then, through coming to know each other. And the deeper that knowledge, the richer and more creative the world we build together”
-Danny Martin, Director of ICBE (International Communities for the Renewal of the Earth)

Literature Review

• African women and girls who have been subjected to abuse experience these horrid events at the hands of their country.
• Forms of abuse include exile, beatings, rape, and arranged marriage.
• Organizations such as UNICEF are key to developing a relief plan that will end the abuse.
• A few women are willing to share stories about their culture as well as any occurrences where they were abused
• By sharing the abusive stories of these women, they become survivors instead of victims.

Works Cited

