



THE RELIGION AND DIVERSITY PROJECT/RELIGION ET DIVERSITÉ



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### **Research Statement**

For over twenty years, Nancy Nason-Clark has been researching and writing about the interface between religion and domestic violence. She has explored how religious faith impacts the journey towards healing and hope for victims and survivors, the rhetoric and the reality facing religious leaders who are called upon to respond to families impacted by domestic violence, and the collaborative challenges for secular and sacred cooperation in the fight to end intimate partner abuse and other forms of family violence. Her interest in the coordinated community response to abuse has led her to study criminal justice, therapeutic and advocacy responses to the role of religion and religious professionals as partners in ending violence. Over the years, she has conducted projects in Canada, the United States, Asia, the Caribbean, and eastern Europe.

Currently she and Barbara Fisher-Townsend are working on a book, tentatively titled, *Acting Abusively: Faith, Hope and Charity in the Lives of Religious Men* based on their analysis of 1100 closed case files of men who were part of a US state-certified batterer intervention program, supplemented by interviews with 50 men (every six months for four years) who had been processed by the criminal justice system in the aftermath of domestic violence and were now in a faith-based BIP.

Since 2005, Nason-Clark has directed the RAVE [Religion and Violence e-Learning] Project, funded by the Lilly Endowment. This is a web-based series of resources and on-line training initiatives to assist religious leaders around the world in responding to abuse



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victims, perpetrators and their families. The website is available at [www.theraveproject.org](http://www.theraveproject.org).

Together with Steve McMullin, she is exploring the role of seminaries in equipping religious leaders to understand the dynamics of family violence and to offer assistance in its aftermath. With Catherine Holtmann, she is documenting how religious women engage in social action and challenge religious organizations to take seriously the issue of abuse. These two initiatives represent specific examples of the broader program of her research.

Nason-Clark is part of Peter Beyer's team of co-investigators examining religion in the lives of 1.5 generation youth from Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist backgrounds. In this context, her long-standing interest in gender and religion are focussed on the religious trajectories of young Hindu women.