Guiding Principle

Women’s Use of Force

To understand women’s use of force it is essential to consider both the context in which such acts occur and the differences between men’s and women’s use of force. Men’s use of force occurs within the broader social context of male entitlement and the devaluation of women. The vast majority of men who use force against their partners engage in a pattern of behaviors designed to isolate, intimidate and control. Such acts more often result in serious injury than women’s use of force. Women’s use of force is primarily self defense or in reaction to abuse, and is not part of a history of coercive control. Only a small minority of the women who use force do so to control and intimidate, and such acts are not supported or reinforced within the broader societal context.

– Approved and adopted by the NJCBW Board on July 11, 2002

Policy Statement

Women Charged with/Convicted of Crime

Consistent with its principle on Women’s Use of Force, the NJCBW is committed to assisting those women who use force against the batterer in self-defense or in reaction to abuse, and who are subsequently charged with and/or convicted of a crime. NJCBW is also committed to assisting women who commit illegal acts under duress from the batterer.

– Updated April 2005