

Violence is not a Class thing: Gender, Intimacy and Violence among Single Black Middle Class Women from Soweto.

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In South Africa when it comes to Intimate Partner Violence there is a general assumption that middle class women or financially independent women do not fall victim of being abused, because they are financially stable (Mazibuko and uMejesi, 2015). It is believed that poor women are the ones who experience violence and find it difficult to leave their relationship because they are financially dependent on their partners (Khunou, 2006). Using a qualitative research method, I interviewed 20 Single Black Middle Class Women from Soweto on their Experiences of Intimate Relationships and one of the major themes that came up was how some of these women were violated and abused in their previous relationships. This therefore signifies how intimate partner violence is not a 'class thing' as all women across all class backgrounds experience this. This paper will show how intimate violence is not a class thing, by exploring the experience of the single black middle class women I interviewed and look at various narratives from media and literature in South Africa on intimate partner violence. This paper will show how all women, inclusive of middle class women deserve a chance for their stories to be documented and that interventions on violence should cater for all.