Giving Name to the Nameless:
Using Poetry as an Anti-Violence Intervention for Girls and Young Women

Training Speaker: Mariame Kaba
Mariame is the founding director of Project NIA, which helps communities develop support networks for youth who are at risk of or have already been impacted by the juvenile justice system. She is a multifaceted professional trainer, advocate, manager and educator, and has been active in the anti-violence against women and girls movement since 1989. Her experience includes working as the prevention and education manager at Friends of Battered Women and their Children, serving on the founding advisory board of the Women and Girls Collective Action Network and being a member of Incite! Women of Color against Violence. She is co-founder of the Roger’s Park Young Women’s Action Team and is a founding member and current board chair of the Chicago Freedom School. Most recently, she co-authored the Status of Girls in Illinois Report (2009).

Workshop Description
The use of literature and guided reading has been recognized as a viable option for helping young people address their concerns. Poetry is a particularly wonderful way to address sensitive issues (like sexuality, violence, and self-esteem). When young people (or adults for that matter) see something of themselves in a piece of literature (books, poetry), identify with the work, reflect on it, and undergo some emotional growth as a result of that reading experience, this can be considered as a successful anti-violence intervention.

Workshop participants will be provided with a copy of the new curriculum resource Giving Name to the Nameless. The guide includes over 30 poems that address gender-based violence as well as tips and suggestions for individuals who are interested in facilitating poetry circles with girls and young women.

Friday, November 12, 2010
9:30am – 12:00pm
Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women’s Network
1 E. Wacker Drive, Suite 1630
Chicago, Illinois