



16th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON VIOLENCE, ABUSE & TRAUMA

Linking Research, Policy & Practice

September 11-14, 2011

Town and Country Resort & Convention Center, San Diego, CA

Oct. 1, 2011

Dear Ms. Muhammad,

The Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma (IVAT) at Alliant International University is deeply grateful to you for joining us at this year's conference and providing such powerful, moving, informative and passionate presentations! Your presence as a keynote speaker during our Opening Plenary & Ceremonies on Sept. 11 was tremendously impactful and we heard from hundreds of attendees that they thoroughly enjoyed what you shared and that they resonated with your call to end victim blaming as well as your call to improve the resources and systems of care available to survivors of intimate partner violence. The standing ovation you received after you finished speaking was just one sign of how strongly you affected us all!!!

Your courage in sharing the very personal details of your experiences and the experiences of your children significantly increased awareness, understanding and the complexities involved in violence within relationships. I know that your contributions to the Keynote Panel on *"Issues & Rights for Intimate Partner Violence Survivors"*, the workshop on *"Beyond Surviving: Positive Practices to Complete the Circle of Healing"*, and the Parallel Plenary on *"Healing & Intervention for Trauma & Abuse Across Cultures & the Lifespan"* were all very well received and I heard over and over again that the attendees were so grateful for your presence at the conference.

We also very much appreciated that you took the time to stay with us for the entire conference and that you chatted with so many people at the bookstore and throughout the other events. You shared so much of yourself and in doing that touched many, many hearts, minds and spirits.

Your presence provided healing to survivors, increased understanding for professionals and educators, and inspiration to us all.

Thank you for taking the time to come and work with us to end violence in our homes and communities across the world. We will send you the evaluations from your presentations shortly. I'd also like to personally thank you as it was a great pleasure for me to meet you and to learn from you.

Our best to you and your children and we wish you much continued health, happiness and success!

Sincerely,

Sandi Capuano Morrison, MA
Interim Executive Director, Programs & Training Manager