

ROLE OF THE ADVOCATE

- To advocate for the woman who is battered in a manner that respects and validates her individuality, experiences, decisions and strengths.
- To model courage and resistance in the face of oppression, intimidation and fear.
- To provide leadership and ensure that women's safety is a priority in the coordinated community response initiative that promotes and enhances the spiritual and cultural traditions of the sacredness of women and children.
- To advocate for the expressed interests and safety of the woman, and her children, including provision of safe space and any other resources necessary for the woman to regain control of her life.
- To focus attention on the operational meaning of safety and integrity of women and renewal of traditional life ways as guiding principles at all levels of the justice, law enforcement, social and medical systems dealing with domestic violence cases.
- To provide expertise based on the experience of women who are battered and their children on issues related to domestic violence within the justice, law enforcement, social and medical systems.
- To ensure that all women who have been battered/sexually assaulted have 24-hour access to support, accurate information, crisis intervention, and other advocacy services.
- To educate personnel within the relevant systems regarding the most effective responses to domestic violence on behalf of batterers, victims and at-risk family members, prioritizing victim safety and offender accountability.
- To be conscious of the educational role within all advocate activities.
- To remain accountable to the woman, who has been battered, including maintaining confidentiality.

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