

national **latin@** network
casa de esperanza

**USING CULTURALLY RELEVANT APPROACHES
AND TOOLS**

Heidi Notario and Ivonne Ortiz



National Resource Center
on Domestic Violence

Objectives

- Discuss the importance of using a culturally appropriate approaches when providing services or designing programs.
- Offer culturally relevant tools and resources to respond to and prevent violence in Latin@ families and communities.
- Share materials that contain strategies for supporting Latinas in their leadership and organizational roles in their communities.

Casa de Esperanza's Philosophy

- Our starting point when supporting Latinas and our communities is their own strength.
- Effective responses to domestic violence will be shaped by the lived realities of Latinas and their communities.
- It is the community that will put an end to gender-based violence, not Casa de Esperanza or any other system or organization.

national
latin@
network
casa de esperanza

national **latin@** network
casa de esperanza

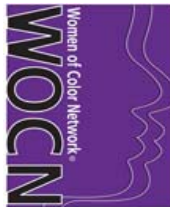
Crear comunidad
Reconocer nuestra fuerza
LIVE FREE OF VIOLENCE
Lograr nuestros
SUEÑOS
Create change

nationallatinonetwork.org



Photo by Laura Alpizar

Since 1993, the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRC DV) has been a source of information and resources for advocates, survivors, students, and communities at large.



Special Collection: *Domestic Violence in Latin@ Communities*

- <http://www.vawnet.org/special-collections/DVlatin@.php>



Special Collection Structure

- Introduction & Rationale
- Framework & Philosophy
- Terms
- Key Issues & Implications
 - Cultural relevance*
 - Language access
 - Immigration
 - Economic Justice
- Working with Specific Populations
 - Working with men to end violence against women
 - Latin@ youth as agents of change
 - Latin@ older adult survivors
 - Latin@ LGBTQ individuals
- Organizational Resources
 - Local organizations
 - National and statewide organizations
- Materials Available for Purchase

national
latin@
network
casa de esperanza

Using a Cultural Context-Based Approach

Whenever you think about your culture, what is the first thing that comes to mind?

national
latin@
network
casa de esperanza

Culture

Culture is a combination of knowledge, values and beliefs that are developed, innovated, acquired and discovered throughout the course of a life time.

national
latin@
network
casa de esperanza



Latina Advocacy and Cultural Context

Cultural Lens

Context and cultural lens will determine what kind of support, advocacy and services a person will seek and the choices a person makes. These realities should influence:

- how the advocates work,
- how they develop new initiatives, and
- how they work with Latin@ communities.

**Latina Advocacy and Cultural Context PDF (2 p.) by Casa De Esperanza (2008)*

national
latin@
network
casa de esperanza

Cultural Context

- Experience - Latinas' daily experience
- Reality - Way of living
- Consciousness - Way of thinking

**Latina Advocacy and Cultural Context PDF (2 p.) by Casa De Esperanza (2008)*

national
latin@
network
casa de esperanza

Casa de Esperanza's Latina Advocacy Structure

Establishing the intervention approach: Four "p's"

- **Patient**
- **Proactive**
- **Positive**
- **Problem-solver**

national
latin@
 network
 casa de esperanza

Advocacy Models

Mainstream Domestic Violence Advocacy	Effective mainstream advocacy	"Basic" Latina advocacy	Effective Latina Advocacy
Emphasis is on what the person in crisis needs in order to succeed.	Believing in the strength of survivors.	Believing in the strength of survivors.	Believing in the strength of survivors within the context of family and community.
Making decisions for survivors: what time to go to bed, what to do for fun, how to raise their children, etc.	Treating survivors the way that we would want to be treated.	Understanding basic cultural differences. Speaking Spanish or any other language*.	Possessing an understanding (and deep appreciation) of Latin@ cultures, histories, religions, and oppression in the USA.

Effective Advocacy

- Truly supporting survivors in their decisions
- Being knowledgeable about Latin@ resources and mainstream resources.
- Supporting truly and sincerely
- Framework for service: family-centered and collective orientation
- Creating welcoming spaces

**Latino Advocacy and Cultural Context PDF (2 p.) Casa De Esperanza (2008)*

national
latin@
network
casa de esperanza



Realities Experienced by Latin@
Communities in the U.S.A.

Realities Faced by Latin@ Communities in the U.S.A.

- Language
- Loneliness
- Pace of life
- Immigration Laws
- Transportation
- Discrimination
- Cultural Shock
- Others



Realities + Positive Cultural Values

Effective Advocacy

- Posters and other informational materials in Spanish*
- Traditional food
- Art or photographs reflecting Latin@ communities or women from multiple ethnicities and cultures
- Opportunities for Latinas to get together to talk and to support each other
- Policies that are inclusive of cultural values (e.g. a Latina may not go to a shelter if she is not allowed to bring her teenage children with her)

* Respect and Resources PDF (3 p.) by Lupe Serrano (2004)



Supporting Latinas as Leaders and Organizers in their communities.

Supporting Latina Leadership

Why is promoting leadership important?

It happens frequently that service providers do not develop effective plans when working with Latin@ communities.

Leadership development is a strategy to support communities from within while honoring and maximizing individuals' skills and knowledge.

Líderes curriculum by Casa de Esperanza

Defending and Promoting Latino Women PDF (102 p.) by the National Latino Alliance for the Elimination of Domestic Violence

Three Guiding Principles:

First: Safety, as defined by Latina survivors, should guide our services, supports, etc.

Second: The community itself would take the initiative of becoming responsible in eradicating violence against women.

Third: Active participation in all above mentioned activities is fundamental to the continuity and development of true collaborations.

*Defending and Promoting Latino Women PDF (102 p.) by National Latino Alliance for the Elimination of Domestic Violence

Promoting Leadership Among Latinas

- **Leadership Development for Latin@s** by Casa de Esperanza (Updated 2013)
- **An Evidence-Based Leadership Intervention for Latina Survivors of Domestic Violence** by *Josie V. Serrata, PhD. (2013)*
- **I am a Leader** by *La Paz, Chattanooga (2013)*
- **Promoting the Development of Evidence-Based Practice: Líderes: An Evidence Based Curriculum** *Amy Sánchez for SYNERGY, The Newsletter of the Resource Center on Domestic Violence: Child Protection & Custody. (NCJFCJ) (2013)*



Questions?



National Resource Center
on Domestic Violence

national
latin@
network
casa de esperanza