

 **ACE-DV**

 National Resource Center  
on Domestic Violence

*Storytelling for social change:*

**Sharing your childhood story of domestic violence**

Welcome to today's webinar!

Adult Children Exposed to Domestic Violence Leadership Forum  
December 12, 2017

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**Adult Children Exposed to Domestic Violence (ACE-DV) Leadership Forum**



Established to amplify the voices and experiences of ACE-DV to enhance our work to end domestic violence.

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**From the Front of the Room**  
Sharing Your Childhood Story of Domestic Violence



Developed by:  National Resource Center  
on Domestic Violence  ACE-DV

**ACE-DV Speakers Initiative Goals:**

Identify the unique considerations and strategies for sharing our stories in *impactful, meaningful ways*

Create learning opportunities and tools to help *build the capacity* of ACE-DV identified survivor speakers

Maintain a *national Speakers Bureau* of ACE-DV identified survivor speakers who can help bring voice to this unique experience

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## Today's discussion




**Casey Keene**  
National Resource Center  
on Domestic Violence




**Zulema (Ruby)  
White Starr**  
Casa de Esperanza:  
National Latin@ Network



**Olga Trujillo**  
Casa de Esperanza:  
National Latin@ Network



**James Henderson**  
Battered Women's  
Justice Project



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## About you


*Where are you when it comes to sharing your story?*

- A. Thinking about it
- B. Writing it down/piecing it together
- C. Shared in trusted relationships
- D. Told in certain public settings
- E. Experienced in sharing with various audiences
- F. I could be facilitating this webinar



## What are your questions?

Please share in the public chat!



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Your decision to share your story,  
in whatever venue and with whomever,

is personal & a true gift to those who receive it.




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## Why share your story?

- Stories inspire change and growth
- Benefits both storyteller and listener

Stories of adult children exposed to domestic violence can:





Paint a picture about the complex and multifaceted experience of living with a batterer

Reflect on key opportunities for intervention and support

Share a path to resilience, noting the assets and strengths gained along the way

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## How do you know when you're ready?

*There is no right way, time, or venue for telling one's story; no survivor should feel pressured to share; and every survivor has the right to change their mind about what, when, and how to share their story at any time.*

- Consider various storytelling outlets
- Find a balance where the benefits outweigh the potential for harm

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## What are the themes of your story?

- What factor(s) helped to foster your resilience?
- What helped you to deem someone a trusted adult?
- What systems did you interact with on your journey?
- Were there specific trauma outcomes for you or your family that are particularly powerful?
- What are the most important lessons for you?



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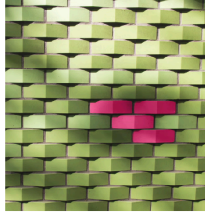
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## Clarifying your message

Speaking your truth can bring a greater understanding to the experiences of children exposed to domestic violence.

1. **Children exposed to domestic violence can heal and thrive.** Your story is much more than a tale of adversity.
2. **Each of us should be allowed and encouraged to name our own experience.** Reclaiming ownership over your narrative is an important step in incorporating this part of you into your whole self.
3. **There is a difference between loving a person who abuses and condoning their behavior.** Your story can emphasize that people who choose to abuse are human.
4. **Violence is learned and reinforced by societal norms, yet accountability and commitment to change can create a new path.** Your story may help your audience to envision a world free of violence and abuse.
5. **Non-abusive parents are faced with limited and complex choices.** Your story can demonstrate the power and strength of survival, shedding light on the importance of family bonds in navigating abuse.
6. **Our unique experiences bring added value to the movement.** By sharing your experiences, you can enhance and transform individual, organizational, community, and systemic approaches to intervention and prevention.




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## Attending to your wellness

*It is critical that you listen to your body and respond with kindness, patience, and care.*

- Identify and express needs
- Invite supportive people to play key roles
- Allow space for healing and reflection
- Practice self care




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## Know your value

*While your voice is unique, and your message is critical, what gives your story the most value is you.*

*By bringing your whole self to this work, you are demonstrating bravery, power, and strength.*

*You are a catalyst for change.*




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## Questions?

### Next Steps:

- Download the materials from [VAWnet.org](http://VAWnet.org):
  - Speakers Guide
  - Pocket Resource
- Join the ACE-DV Speakers Bureau
- Follow us on Facebook

### Learn more!

[nrcdv.org/ace-dv](http://nrcdv.org/ace-dv)

### Contact us!

[nrcdvTA@nrcdv.org](mailto:nrcdvTA@nrcdv.org)

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 National Resource Center  
on Domestic Violence

 ACE-DV  
A project of the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence



## Thank you

Please be sure to provide your feedback by responding to our  
webinar evaluation!

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