


**ACE-DV**


 National Resource Center  
on Domestic Violence

**Speakers Initiative Webinar Series:**

## 2. Navigating Challenges in Storytelling with Audiences

Welcome to today's webinar!



Adult Children Exposed to Domestic Violence Leadership Forum  
A project of the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence  
December 4, 2018

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**NRC DV STANDS**

**WE STAND** with individuals and groups who have been targeted, degraded, threatened, or marginalized because they are Native Americans, people of color, immigrants, women, Muslims, LGBTQ, or people with disabilities.

**WE STAND** against white supremacy, racism, misogyny, anti-Semitism, homophobia, transphobia, xenophobia, and all other forms of structural oppression.

**WE STAND** with survivors of domestic and sexual violence, especially those most vulnerable and with limited access to services and protection.

**WE STAND** together in celebration of the rich diversity of people in this country and the vitality and strength they bring to our communities and society.

**WE STAND** with those who embrace self care and community connection as necessary and powerful for social change.

**WE STAND** with other activists and organizations who continue to work passionately for gender, racial, economic, and social justice for ALL.



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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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## ACE-DV Speakers Initiative 2018/19 Webinar Series

- Valuing Your Story**  
To increase participants' skills and confidence when it comes to advocating for the value of our stories.
- Navigating Challenges in Storytelling with Audiences**  
To strategize together about common audience-generated challenges when sharing our stories in public spaces.
- Speaking to Our Relationships with Those Who Abuse**  
To explore the challenges and opportunities in naming our complex relationships with those who have perpetrated abuse against us and/or our caregivers.
- Bringing Your Whole Self to Your Work**  
To explore the risks and benefits of incorporating your personal and professional identities, and how to use storytelling as a tool in advancing our work in various settings.

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

## Today's discussion

**Rebecca Balog**  
National Indigenous Women's Resource Center & Women of Color Network

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

**Ruby White Starr**  
Latinos United for Peace & Equity of Caminar Latino

**Olga Trujillo**  
Latinos United for Peace & Equity of Caminar Latino

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## About you


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

- A. Thinking about it/cautious
- 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 presenting this webinar



## What are your questions?

Please share in the public chat!



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## Assessing Risk & Readiness

*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.*

- Does it feel safe to share your story publicly?
- Who is supporting you in doing so?
- Might your story put your loved ones at risk of harm or jeopardize relationships that are important to you?
- How might telling your story impact your emotional well-being?
- How will you respond to victim-blaming questions or statements from your audience?
- What support system is available to you before, during, and after speaking engagements?
- Do you have sufficient time for self-care practices before and after speaking engagements?

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## Who is your Audience?

- Survivors
- Child Protective Service Workers
- Healthcare Professionals
- Teachers and School Staff
- Faith Leaders
- Criminal Justice Professionals
- Domestic Violence Advocates
- Researchers and Academics





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## **Setting Boundaries**

- Both in advance and during your presentation
- Deciding whether or not to take questions
- What to do when you'd rather not respond

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## **When Your Truth is Challenged**

- Dealing with victim-blaming or simply disbelief
- Building a story from fragmented childhood memories

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## **Managing Less Receptive (or Unfriendly) Audiences**

- Acknowledging the stigma of trauma
- Identifying allies
- Planning for disbelief

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## When Your Story Triggers Others

- Trauma-informed storytelling practices & messages
- Reflecting on opportunities for growth & self-reflection
- Promoting “vicarious resilience”
- Handling disclosure

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## Self-Care and Wellness

- Managing the “after” and the feelings that come with it
- Internalizing others’ perceptions of you and your experience

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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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## You matter

*What gives your story the most value is you.*  
*No matter how it is received, your story is a gift.*



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**National Resource Center  
on Domestic Violence**



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## Thank you

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

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