


**ACE-DV**


 National Resource Center  
on Domestic Violence

**Speakers Initiative Webinar Series:**

**3. Not One Path: Speaking to Our Relationships with Those Who Abuse**

Welcome to today's webinar!

Adult Children Exposed to Domestic Violence Leadership Forum  
A project of the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence  
January 15, 2019

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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:  

## 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




**David Adams**  
Emerge



**Lenny Hayes**  
Tate Topa Consulting, LLC



**Ericka Kimball**  
Portland State University



**Shenna Morris**  
Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence

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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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## Communicating the complexity of our relationships

*If we are to offer helpful and effective means of accountability and change, we must understand that people who choose to abuse are human.*

ACE-DV Core Beliefs:

- Each of us should be allowed and encouraged to name our own experience.
- There is a difference between loving a person who abuses and condoning their behavior.
- Violence is learned and reinforced by societal norms, yet accountability and commitment to change can create a new path.


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## Humanizing those who abuse

- Multidimensional individuals with complex relationships
- How the “monster” narrative is harmful
- Abusers are not all the same (perpetrator prototype)
- Harm in labeling “abuser” or “criminal” especially in communities of color

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## Speaking to fears of becoming like the abuser

- Internalizing the idea that we are “part monster”
- Monitoring oneself, knowing that abuse is learned behavior
- Important to emphasize that change is possible




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## Speaking to personal accountability & forgiveness

- Separate but intertwined concepts
- Forgiveness as a personal & individual choice
- Accountability looks different across cultures




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## Navigating and speaking truth to ongoing family dynamics

- Separation does not necessarily mean the violence stops
- Those in contact are still strategizing safety or managing abusive behaviors
- Survival techniques in the interest of self and victim parent




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## Embracing dual identities: survivor and advocate



- The impact of our advocacy lens on our relationships with those who abuse
- Our paths as advocates may be separate and distinct from the paths of our siblings

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## Healing & self-care



- Creating boundaries with and caring for family members as critical to our own well-being
- Honoring more than one path in our stories
- Moving from deficit to growth

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## There is not one path

*It takes courage to speak your truth.*

*You are the expert in your own experience.*

*Together, our voices can help shift the paradigm.*




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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





## Thank you

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

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