





Using Story Circles to Capture Local Community Responses to Domestic Violence
 Presenter:
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Welcome to our webinar!



The National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (www.nrcdv.org) provides a wide range of free, comprehensive, and individualized technical assistance, training, and specialized resource materials.



NRCDV STANDS

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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.



November 11, 2016

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#1 Thing
 Inspiring Action
 through a Unified Message

Agenda for Today's Session

- Background on StoryCenter
- Rationale for Personal Storytelling to Address Domestic Violence
- The Story Circle Approach
- Tools and Methods for Documenting Stories
- Questions and Discussion

Content Advisory

The content of the digital story shared in this webinar may be upsetting, especially for individuals who have experienced domestic violence. Please take care of yourself in the ways you know best, during the session.

Background on StoryCenter

- Developed original [digital storytelling methodology](#)¹ in 1993
- Lengthy history of collaborative work with [community-based and institutional partners](#)² around the world
- Accessible to individuals at all levels of experience as storytellers and video editors (we are skilled at adapting our methods for non-literate or low-literacy groups)

[View Story: I Am Enough](#)



Rationale for Personal Storytelling to Address Domestic Violence

Research shows that telling and listening to real people's real stories can ...

- increase [self-esteem](#)³ and [wellbeing](#)⁴
- function as [information / skill-building](#)⁵ tools
- [help communities bond and become politicized](#)⁶
- [inspire people to take action for change](#)⁷
- influence [public policy](#)⁸ and [legislative decision-making](#)⁹



The Story Circle Approach: What Kinds of Stories Are Compelling?

- Stories that address universal themes
- Stories that create intimacy
- Stories that convey a sense of honesty
- Stories that avoid messaging



The Story Circle Approach: Overview

The Story Circle is a group process that ...

- keeps it simple – story prompts are clear and brief
- supports personal reflection from a position of strength
- enhances participants’ sense of “I’m not alone”
- can inspire leadership and a desire to speak out



The Story Circle Approach: Methods

The facilitator guides the process by ...

- setting a specific time and location for the event
- preparing participants in advance about what will happen
- collaborating with participants on appropriate ground rules
- offering prompts and a ten minute writing period
- establishing a gentle but solid “container,” for the group:
 - one person speaks at a time;
 - maximum of ten minutes per person;
 - maximum of three comments per person



The Story Circle Approach: Using the “Four C’s” to Tell a Story

- **CONNECTION:** establish a relationship with the viewer, listener, reader
- **CONTEXT:** provide the information and back story necessary for meaning-making
- **CHANGE:** through details about a specific moment / scene, show how you have changed, as a result of what happened
- **CONCLUSION:** wrap up the story in a way that provides emotionally compelling and satisfying closure



The Story Circle Approach: Sample Story Prompts

- Tell a story about a moment when you felt vulnerable, because you experienced or witnessed domestic violence.
- Tell a story about a time when you felt supported by an individual or community, around issues of violence.
- Tell a story about a situation when you spoke out or took action to challenge a domestic violence incident.



Guidance on Story Feedback

- Lead with a supportive comment about what you appreciated
- Use "if it were MY story" as an opener ("I" statements)
- Provide validation ...
 - "Thank you for sharing your story, it's so powerful."
 - "I see your courage; what was it like to speak out?"
 - "I'm really moved by what you shared – how can the group best support you?"



Tools and Methods for Documenting Stories

- The No Tech Option: consider conducting a Story Circle as a "tech-free" experience
- The Low Tech Option: follow Story Circle up with scheduled, individual sessions to audio or video record stories; build in participatory production methods (eg, digital storytelling)
- A Higher Tech. Option: hire a freelance videographer to conduct follow up interviews and edit material



Connect With Us ...



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We Need Your Feedback



Thank you for attending our session today. Your experience at this training is very important to us.

We invite you take a few minutes to complete a short survey and provide your feedback. The survey should take less than four minutes. Your participation is voluntary, anonymous and confidential.



The National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (www.nrcdv.org) provides a wide range of free, comprehensive, and individualized technical assistance, training, and specialized resource materials. You can access our publications online at VAWnet.org.

Contact us:
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