



#1Thing

Supplement to #1Thing Action Guide
October 2019

Supporting Older Survivors of Abuse

Sample Social Media Posts

Twitter

- Lift up older survivors' stories throughout the year by inviting them to speak at an awareness events including Stalking Awareness Month (January), Sexual Assault Awareness Month (April), World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (June 15), and Domestic Violence Awareness Month (October). #DVAM2019 #1Thing
- #1Thing you can do is engage the voices of older survivors when working on legislation to enhance protections for victims of elder abuse, stalking, sexual assault, and domestic violence. #DVAM2019
- #1Thing you can do to raise awareness of #DVinlaterlife is to share outreach materials including older adults. #DVAM2019 <http://ow.ly/LUU450vDrLv>
- Confront ageism and social norms that support #DVinlaterlife by promoting dignity and respect for people of all ages. #DVAM2019 #1Thing
- #1Thing you can do is learn more about options for older survivors & the organizations that may provide support and services. <https://www.ncall.us/for-professionals/> #DVAM2019
- #1Thing victim service providers can do is consider how to develop equitable and inclusive programming for the quickly growing and diverse older adult population. #DVAM2019
- Building equitable partnerships between mainstream and culturally specific programming is #1Thing you can do when providing victim-centered support to older survivors. Learn more: <http://bit.ly/2wHXOEO> #DVAM2019
- Building multi-generational, multi-racial partnerships is #1Thing you can do to support older survivors in your community. #1Thing #DVAM2019
- Learn about the barriers systems reinforce that keep older survivors from getting the support they need and deserve. Review practices & policies to better meet their needs and increase access to services. <http://bit.ly/2lISEDa> #1Thing #DVAM2019
- #LGBTQ+ older adults face unique barriers which can directly impact their ability to reach out for assistance.



- Older adults do not live single-issue lives. Intersectional approaches recognize the overlapping identities and experiences of older survivors. #1Thing #DVAM2019
- Respecting older adults requires us to examine and challenge our own ageist attitudes and biases in ourselves, our agencies, our communities and systems. #1Thing #DVAM2019
- Ensure that existing policies respect the confidentiality, privacy, and autonomy of older victims while addressing mandatory reporting. #1Thing #DVAM2019
- Implement policies that reflect abuse across the lifespan. #1Thing #DVAM2019
- Promote responsive victim-defined advocacy that respects the values, life experience, and culture of an older survivor. #1Thing #DVAM2019
- Practicing victim-defined advocacy and respectful communication is #1Thing you can do when working with older survivors. #DVAM2019
- When working with older survivors, #1Thing you can do is utilize remedies that address the impact of multiple traumatic events including historical trauma. #DVAM2019
- #1Thing you can do is learn about unique issues and challenges for older victims abused by intimate partners. <http://ow.ly/JcDB50vWuHw> #DVAM2019
- What's #1Thing you or your organization can do to support a survivor of intimate partner violence in later life? #DVAM2019
- This Domestic Violence Awareness Month Challenge your and others ageist assumptions. #1Thing #DVAM2019



Facebook

- Engaging in mobile advocacy is #1Thing you can do to meet the needs of older survivors of abuse. Have flexible policies about where to meet older survivors--in their homes, or public places. #DVAM2019
- No matter the age of the survivor, service providers should maintain a victim-centered approach when planning services. #1Thing advocates can do is explore options with older survivors, to help them identify and remove obstacles, and to honor and support their decisions, taking into account age-related generational and cultural values. #DVAM2019
- Some agency policies have unintended ageist consequences that deny or limit services for some older victims from various backgrounds. Some older adults who are harmed by their adult children, grandchildren, other family members, or caregivers would not qualify to receive services from a domestic violence program that is funded only to serve victims of intimate partner violence. #1Thing DV programs can do is create new or enhance existing policies to address violence and harm across the lifespan. #DVAM2019



- #1Thing DV programs can do is create a welcoming and inclusive environment for older victims. Display pictures and posters that include images of older adults from various backgrounds. Offer books, movies, and social activities of interest to individuals of all ages and generations. Representation matters. #DVAM2019



- The quickly growing older adult population is more diverse than ever before. #1Thing victim services providers must consider is how to develop programming for all older adults based on their specific needs that respect their cultural, racial, and LGBTQ+ identity. Learn more about aging population demographics by visiting: <http://bit.ly/2Ks0Ghh>. #DVAM2019

- Tribal communities have unique needs and considerations when designing effective responses to abuse and mistreatment. #1Thing you can do is find out how one-size-fits-all approaches to working with older victims may not work for every community. Tribal elders who experience harm in tribal communities have unique lived experiences. To learn more about the issue of abuse in this unique cultural context, read Reclaiming What is Sacred: Addressing Harm to Indigenous Elders and Developing a Tribal Response to Abuse in Later Life. <http://bit.ly/2L503tA> #DVAM2019

- #LGBTQ+ older adults face unique barriers which can directly impact their ability to reach out for assistance. #1Thing victim service programs can do is review their organization's policies and practices to assure they are providing inclusive and welcoming services to victims who are a part of the LGBTQ+ community. Click the link to learn more about how to develop inclusive services for LGBTQ+ older adults: <http://ow.ly/ASle50vWuPn> #DVAM2019

- Systemic, institutional, and historical oppressions and related trauma can have a cumulative and detrimental impact on the ability of older victims from marginalized communities to access services that are culturally responsive. #1Thing Systems and service providers can do is work to ensure the supports they provide are culturally-affirming and address the unique and complex challenges each individual older victim faces. Commit to learning more and check out resources from our friends at @WOCNetwork and @casadeesperanza. #DVAM2019



- #1Thing professionals working with older adults can do is be mindful of the role that ageism plays in how older individuals may be perceived and treated when they experience abuse. Ageist notions about an older adult's capacity to comprehend abuse, to make informed determinations about what to do, and about their values related to abuse can all thwart efforts to support an older victim. Understanding ageism and avoiding judgment around an older adult's choices are critical components of providing effective supports. #DVAM2019