

LIGHTLY EDITED FILE

Meeting this Moment: Meaningful Engagement for Social
Change

August 27th, 2020

National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRCDV)

Remote

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>> Ivonne Ortiz: Hi, everyone.

Hi, friends, welcome to our session today.

My name is Ivonne Ortiz.

I'm the manager for the National Resource Center on
Domestic Violence.

Our session is going to be starting in around four
minutes.

In the meantime, feel free to introduce yourself in the
chat and I know that some of you are already doing it.

Let us know where you are joining us from or what
organization you're with or if you're a survivor.

Tell us a little bit about you and the work that you're
doing.

We want to get to know you.

So sit tight, this is gonna be a great conversation
today and I'm excited, so see you in four minutes.

>> Ivonne Ortiz: Hello, everyone.

My name is Ivonne Ortiz.

I am the Training Institute Manager for the National
Resource Center on Domestic Violence.

I want to welcome you tonight, or today, depending on
where you're at, where you're joining us from.

Thank you for joining us today, and welcome to our

webinar titled "Meeting This Moment: Meaningful Action for Social Change for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2020."

Again, I want to welcome, and I want for everybody to introduce themselves in the chat.

And feel free to post any questions that you have for our presenters today.

Before we begin, I want -- I would like to acknowledge the pain that our communities are experiencing.

Our lives have been changed through a pandemic.

Some of us even have lost family members.

Some communities were and are still experiencing the effects of Hurricane Laura.

Black Lives continue to experience pain and trauma, and domestic violence is still present in the homes of our communities.

At the NRCDV, we recognize the pain, and we would like for each one of you to know that we see your pain and that we hope we can contribute to your healing through our resources and our initiatives.

Especially today, we're having a great conversation.

About prevention and about Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

I want to tell you a little bit about the National Resource Center.

We are a national Technical Assistance Provider.

We have a comprehensive training, resources development, public policy, advocacy, and those are just a few examples of how we can provide the support that you need.

And now to our webinar, and of course I don't want to forget that we've been in existence for 25 years and we're really proud of everything we do.

So now I go to our webinar today.

And I'm really, really excited.

You're gonna be hearing from my colleagues, Arlene Vassell, Casey Keene, and Justin Carter who will be sharing his gifts with us tonight.

Let me tell you a little bit about my friends.

Arlene Vassell is NRC DV's Vice President of Programs, Prevention & Social Change supervises NRC DV's Programs & Prevention and Communications Teams and oversees several key initiatives, including the Domestic Violence Awareness Project and PreventIPV.

Arlene joined NRC DV as staff in 2015.

Prior to joining staff, she served as the Vice-Chair of NRC DV's Board of Directors from 2011-2015.

Arlene has over 20 years of multi-faceted experience within the movement to end domestic and other forms of gender-based violence.

She previously worked for the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance and the YWCA Women's Advocacy Program in Chesterfield, Virginia.

Her areas of expertise include leadership development, community organizing, developing community and state-level prevention plans, and creating promising practices when working with traditionally underserved and marginalized populations.

Want to welcome also Casey Keene.

NRC DV's Director of Programs & Prevention, has served at the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence since 2001, where she provides programmatic leadership and oversight to the technical assistance, training, and resource development initiatives of the Programs & Prevention Team on a broad range of topics related to gender-based violence.

Casey provides leadership to key initiatives including VAWnet and PreventIPV.

Specializing in issues related to children's exposure to domestic violence, Casey leads the Adult Children Exposed to Domestic Violence (ACE-DV) Leadership Forum and provides national level technical assistance and training on childhood trauma and resilience.

And I'll be telling you a little bit more about Justin

later on in our presentation.

So, friends, Arlene, Casey, take it away.

>> Arlene Vassell: All right, thank you so much, Ivonne.

You're a gift.

You're a gift to the organizations, and you're a gift to this world, so thank you for that.

And thank you, everyone, for spending the evening with us, for joining us for this conversation and for spending the evening with us as we start our journey and start planning for Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

And with everything that Ivonne shared, we just want to give you some strategies, some gifts for your toolkit as you start thinking about Domestic Violence Awareness Month and beyond.

Definitely based on the experiences that Ivonne talking about, we definitely can't do business as usual.

So we are here just to offer some nuggets, some gems that will help you along your new journey as you pivot and redefine what your work looks like in response to the pandemic and the hardship that our communities are currently experiencing.

So let me go right in.

As far as NRCDV, Ivonne talked about our mission, and I

just want to highlight that this is a document that NRC DV uses to guide our work.

It's a statement that we put out in 2016.

And NRC DV.

And we have -- we are working towards operationalizing this statement.

And it says that "NRC DV Stands," we're standing in solidarity with these groups.

So instead of reading the entire document, I just want to highlight that we stand in solidarity with individuals who are targeted, degraded, threatened, marginalized, and Ivonne named some of those populations earlier.

Some of us, we have not had the luxury of doing our work and just focused on ending gender-based violence.

We've worked at the intersection for years.

And the current pandemic, the current state of our country, of our nation is forcing many individuals to now really live out intersectionality that we've talked about for many years.

So I'll talk a little bit more about that.

And then of course with all of that, we're holding survivors of domestic violence as well.

Ivonne talked about that as well.

And in addition to that, we celebrate the rich

diversity of people in our country, and we also stand in solidarity with those who embrace self-care and community connection.

So we'll talk a little bit more about self-care, resilience, and well-being as well.

So just want to introduce you to this document.

Again, it's why we exist at the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence.

Some other core documents that we have that guide our work, we have our promise statement.

And in our promise, we're promising survivors, advocates, our key constituents, that we'll lead boldly in centering and amplifying the voices of survivors from traditionally marginalized communities, and we'll talk about strategies about how to best do that.

And of course our theory of change, right?

We do believe if we center the lived experiences of survivors of color, in order to end systemic racism, we will attain safe and thriving communities.

And this is a reflection of our mission statement.

This is directly connected to our mission to end gender-based violence.

And we'll make that connection for you throughout the rest of the presentation.

So as we think about Domestic Violence Awareness Month,

as we think beyond that, how are we communicating this message that integrates ending systemic racism as a part of our -- many communities never had the luxury to only address gender-based violence and not address racism as well.

So for our time together, we're gonna do some reflection, we're gonna do some visioning, we're gonna motivate you or provide strategies for you to move from increased awareness to action, and also provide these tools so you can join with your communities, you can collaborate with your communities to move towards transformation in each and every community, during Domestic Violence Awareness Month and beyond.

And it's not here, but really our time together is a conversation, so please share your questions, share your feedback.

And we're also providing tools for you to put into your toolkit.

You're doing the work already.

You probably have amazing tools that you can share with us.

Unfortunately, we only have 45 minutes, so we're gonna go through the time with us just sharing new tools or maybe some old tools we're reminding you of for your toolkit.

So my opinion, for our time together, we're just adding to your toolkit.

So before we dive into the topic, I do want to -- like I mentioned, we only have 45 minutes together today so I want to next you that our Domestic Violence Awareness Month Call for Unity on October 1, 2020, 3:00, so look out for additional information about that.

That's a time where we come together as advocates, as survivors, as partners, as collaborators, as convenors, to honor the lives that have been lost due to senseless acts of violence in our community, and also, we come together to reflect, right?

On shared experiences, as we move towards collective liberation.

So please join us and look out for additional information about that.

And then of course we are our National Prevention Town Hall coming up.

We're gonna talk some about racial inequities, all of the isms, but again, we're just touching on these topics, because we only have a limited time tonight.

But this town hall is a four-hour event.

It's open to all.

It's free.

And we'll delve deeper with our collaborative partners

to have meaningful conversations about everything that we're going to highlight tonight, plus additional information.

So registration is available, and Breckan will drop that link in the chat box shortly.

All right.

So as we think about Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we are faced with thinking about the news.

What's in the news?

What's been in the news?

How does that impact our work?

Again, you know, we have the opportunity now to craft a message that says in order for us to end gender-based violence, we need to pay attention to the structural racism, the structural oppressions that exist in our country and across the globe.

COVID-19 has really illuminated the disparities that particular communities are facing as a result of the pandemic.

And for some, it's a wake-up call.

For others, it's regular day-to-day life.

So as a domestic violence movement, we really do have to find our space.

We do have to create messaging for our community that says you're not alone.

We really are here with you.

And we really do recognize that in order to end domestic violence, we need to also address the isms.

So that would be point number one.

In your community, for Domestic Violence Awareness Month, how are you gonna show up, right?

How are you gonna show up to say "I am here, I am here, I understand your pain"?

Everything Ivonne talked about before, I can hold your pain, and I can also, you know, help marginalized communities who are disproportionately impacted.

So how can you help?

How can you show up?

How can you create meaningful relationships with these communities?

That are impacted by all of the pandemics that's happening within our country.

So in addition to that, at NRC DV, we have been trying -- we've been pivoting our work for several years.

And in June, we put this statement out, right?

And this was our intentional way of saying, yes, we recognize the pain.

Yes, we recognize the experiences.

And domestic violence is inextricably linked to all

forms of -- so in order to end domestic violence, we must dismantle anti-Blackness and other forms of discrimination.

So this is a statement we've put out to say this is how we are gonna stand in solidarity with the individuals, with the communities, right, that are holding immeasurable pain, throughout our country, right? Because of the disparities, because of the inequities that are visible, like, and they cannot be denied, because we're seeing them.

We're seeing them every day.

And so NRC DV, as a National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, had to create a message that connects domestic violence along with forms of -- various forms of racism, and what are we gonna do about that?

So, again, language.

Plain language.

Certain individuals face multiple and intersecting forms of structural discrimination.

So if you need language around what we're talking about, this is plain language.

And again, some communities have had the luxury to talk about gender-based violence without addressing the isms, racism, colonialism, ableism, heterosexualism.

And the list goes on, right?

But when we talk about intersectionality, we talk about Kimberly Crenshaw, it's important we make the connection between the various forms of structural oppression that individuals are experiencing and survivors of domestic violence as well.

So this moment challenges us to really live out intersectionality.

Sojourner Truth talked about intersectionality in 1851 with her poem, her speech "Ain't I a Woman."

So we can take it all the way back there and it's playing out in front of us every day, and as domestic violence organizations, we must find our place, and also, while we have the attention of our communities during Domestic Violence Awareness Month, again, what is our message?

Another illustration of how gender-based violence is interconnected and reinforced by oppression on various levels.

And you will get the PowerPoint and you will have the information.

It shows us how individuals and families and friends and peers and community are all interconnected.

Individuals do not act in isolation.

So our messaging cannot be directed only to individuals.

We have to figure out how to dismantle these oppressive systems in order to end gender-based violence.

So when we're talking about communities of color, I'm gonna highlight some issues that -- ooh, that was fancy.

[Laughter]

I'm gonna highlight some issues that are impacting communities of color.

Again, the list is not exhaustive.

In order for you to engage with communities of color, the communities that are most marginalized, the communities like my sister Lina would say on the margins of the margins, you have to talk to communities of color.

So again, I'm just highlighting a few.

Oh, I hope they all come back.

[Laughter]

Different attitudes, and expectations about helping communities of color, mainstream intervention methods that generates barriers.

I'm trying to do something here.

Okay, biases in delivery of services, responses by oppressive systems.

Much of this you already know.

Mistrust of mainstream formal systems.

But we really do have to create interventions that are responding to issues that we know exist, right.

The overrepresentation of white people in positions of leadership.

With real decision making power.

Formal systems that do not include relevant or alternative resources.

And then of course structural and institutional racism.

So in addition to all of that, and, again, you will have them in the PowerPoint presentation, so you can reflect back on, but I think the key strategies is engaging with the communities that you want to support.

If you're standing in solidarity with a particular community, that's great, but you need to connect with the community because each community is unique and their needs are unique, so you have to talk to communities.

Anyway, Maggie, and I'm not gonna mess up her name, Potapchuk, offers these three approaches in order to achieve racial justice.

If this is the type of work that you want to do, if you really do see the connection between gender-based violence and the oppressions and the isms and racism that individuals and survivors are dealing with on a day-to-day basis.

So for you, the individual approaches would be building knowledge, awareness, skills, et cetera.

Confronting prejudices and stereotypes.

And addressing power dynamics, racism.

Internalized white supremacy, internalized racism.

Bringing people of different racial and ethnic groups doth of together.

Like we said in our "We stand" statement, we celebrate the diversity in our country.

Strengthening the capacity of organizations and institutions to communicate about race, and that's what we're doing at NRCDV.

And can offer a lot of resources around how to become an anti-racist organization.

And then of course, work on institutional practices that reduce disparities and promote racial equity.

And then again, one thing.

Is our campaign, you'll hear a little bit more about that, a messaging campaign developed by the domestic violence awareness project, and like we have to look back at where -- where were we, right?

Look at where are we today, and envision, where do we want to go?

So at this moment, as you think about redefining we, as you think about pivoting our work, what is your message

to your community.

How are you showing up during Domestic Violence Awareness Month?

We have opportunities now to explore new partnerships, right?

We have opportunities to integrate intervention and prevention strategies.

And then we have the greatest opportunity now for learning and teaching across various generations. Everybody is talking about the impact of COVID-19. So as domestic violence organizations, how can we create spaces for conversations for learning and teaching across generations?

To start this conversation within your organization, have a conversation.

To describe the community that you envision together.

You can do it independently.

You can do it together.

You can do it virtually.

We've been having those conversations virtually.

And so I want to introduce Beloved Community as a concept for you, as a guide.

Dr. King, he envisioned a world where everyone shares in the wealth.

Dr. King envisioned a world where racism and other

forms of discrimination and prejudice were replaced with all-inclusive spirit of sisterhood and brotherhood.

What does that mean for you?

What does that world, what does that community look like when we envision an all-inclusive spirit of sisterhood and brotherhood.

What does that community look like when we think about justice, equal opportunity, when we think about love, when we think about peace?

These are the things that we're thinking about.

These are the things that we want to support.

These are the communities that we want to build.

We are a beloved community, so how can we then take that into our communities, right, across the world, right, across the country.

So that everyone can be intentional.

About their relationships with family, with neighbors, with coworkers, and others.

On a day basis.

On a daily basis.

Yes, I see your comment, exactly, love towards others.

So as you think about redefining and pivoting your work, just wanted to offer these strategies for you, and again, how are you showing up, right?

Because we think about the organizations, we think about -- we think about Domestic Violence Awareness Month, how are you showing up?

If beloved community is what your desire is, I think we're all yearning for a beloved community.

We're all yearning to be a part of a beloved community.

How are you showing up to create that beloved community during Domestic Violence Awareness Month and beyond?

So again, some questions, if I asked you today, who lives, works, plays, and ages in your service area?

What's your community assets?

Who are your community leaders?

How is your community working currently towards ended gender-based violence?

Are you working individually?

Comprehensively?

What are your -- collectively?

How are you addressing those?

How are you collaborating across movements to address them?

So this is a resource that I want to offer.

Transforming communities.

Lots of tools.

Rich information.

That support building beloved communities.

So I suggest that you delve in, read through.

It puts people and community at the center, and it really does give you tools, concrete tools, to create this beloved community that we're all yearning for.

And then before I pass it on to my colleague, Casey Keene, I just want this slogan from the disability rights movement, I just want to highlight this, right? Nothing about us without us is for us.

So when you think about marginalized communities, when you think about the communities that have disproportionately proportionately impacted, always remember you're creating something and those populations of individuals are not a part of, then actually what you're creating is not for that population.

So let this serve as a reminder as you think about how you're pivoting your work.

Casey?

>> Casey Keene: Arlene, thank you so much, for your beautiful presentation so far.

I'm really happy to be part of this conversation with all of you tonight.

To talk a bit about how we might meet this moment by deepening and broadening our work.

So just want a bit about the idea that racial justice

is our work.

We know that all People of Color experience racism differently, but we must be explicit in naming anti-Blackness in our culture and recognizing the unique harm that it causes.

And this work really must begin internally.

Our mainstream anti-violence organizations are rooted in white supremacy culture, and the work to dismantle this must be intentional, persistent, and ongoing.

The work -- oh, my camera's not showing.

This whole time I thought I was.

Hello.

Thank you, Ivonne, for that reminder.

I was saying how this work really must be intentional and persistent and ongoing.

This work requires risk-taking and discomfort, and the deliberate shifting of power and resources.

This is the bold work that racial justice requires.

And it is the work of our movement to end gender-based violence as it connects to all movements working to dismantle power-based violence.

So unless our prevention work directly addresses racial inequity, we will never make progress toward real social transformation.

And some of you were saying in the chat, you know, this

is about love, and really, it is.

This is about leading with the heart.

This work requires us to lead with our hearts, which, for some, may represent a shift, especially for white people.

In addition to the beloved community that Arlene described, okay, speak a little louder, thanks for the feedback.

Models of heart-led social change work are happening all around us in this moment.

So, for example, community-based mutual aid initiatives are great models of this, where people are taking responsibility for caring for one another and changing their political condition.

Community -- alternatives to policing seek to strategically reallocate resources, funding, and responsibility toward community-based models of safety, support, and prevention.

That's a heart-based strategy.

There's also amazing models of community care in Native communities.

I would encourage you to share in the chat what heart-led approaches you see in your community.

So we can learn from each other.

How to do heart-centered work.

Heart work also includes white people's work.

In recent months, the Idaho coalition, Vermont network, men as peace makers and the Resonance network hosted a conversation.

Creates the conditions for white supremacy culture.

It's the result of having a white identity that is dependent on the oppression of other people.

We know in doing this work that violence and oppression flourishes on this disconnection.

Which is why reconnecting to our spirit and our humanity and integrating all the pieces of ourselves into our work is a strategy for dismantling white supremacy and moving beyond the performance of race equity work.

Part of this means intentionally uncovering pieces of our history as oppressors that may not have been part of our education.

It means understanding what it means to be a person who causes harm.

There's a video I'd like to share.

And I think Breckan will post it in the chat for me.

What are obstacles to accountability?

This video from Yes solutions Journalism has stories that talk -- they draw important parallels between experiences of race example and experiences of sexual

violence victimization.

When it comes to our anti-racism work, as white people, we must acknowledge that we are the harm causers and ask ourselves these questions.

How can we learn from our -- when it comes to racial justice?

And if we are to embrace our role as harm causers, how does that change the way we work with others who cause harm?

You can learn more about reconnecting to our spirit and humanity as white people at this resource, and Breckan will share the link.

So heart work and heart-centered work centers our well-being as well.

And so well-being is our work.

We want to talk about the importance of well-being in our work to prevent domestic violence which includes intentional efforts to promote justice, resilience, and healing.

In his article in The Atlantic that recently came out called "Incremental Change is a Moral Failure," Mychal Denzel Smith says "Justice is a proactive commitment to providing each person with the material and social conditions in which they can both survive and thrive as a healthy and self-actualized human being."

That is heart work.

And that's why our work must prioritize exploring alternatives to seeking justice that center the safety and well-being of communities who experience oppression.

We recently published a TA question of the month on VAWnet by Laura Chow Reeve that explores transformative justice models in our work.

And finally, I want to talk about resilience.

I think models of individual and community resilience are so needed right now.

And they're also truly abundant at this time.

In the resilience research, there are three constructs that I've found that have been shown to be both measurable constructs and scientifically connected to well-being, and those are hope, mattering, and justice. Hope is the belief that your future can be brighter and better than your past.

And that you actually have a role to play in making it better.

Mattering has to do with the reciprocal experience of both deriving value from and adding value to ourselves, our relationships, and our community.

And justice, the greater levels of justice we experience in life, the higher our well-being.

It's directly connotated -- connotated, and what these constructs really have in common is community engagement.

It's about believing that change is possible.

And being part of that change.

So if we can provide opportunities for people to engage with us in social transformation, we can in turn foster the very community resilience that will help us all thrive.

So I'm going to pass it back over to Arlene to explore some strategies that lead with the heart and caring for ourselves as part of this work.

Arlene?

>> Arlene Vassell: All right, thanks, Casey, and if I pronounced your name incorrectly, I'm sorry.

My apologies.

We will share some resources from our action guide.

Our one thing action guide that will give you some concrete strategies in order to -- okay, great.

We'll give you some concrete strategies in order to integrate and center your commitment and your statement in your Domestic Violence Awareness Month activities.

So it's all about messaging.

And it's all about showing up in our communities and what -- what will you -- what will be the follow-up to

this statement in your community as it relates to Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and how are you making the connection for your community on the issues that have been highlighted in your statement?

So in addition to what Casey just talked about, the heart work, in order for us to really end racism and advance racial equity, we have to focus on wellness. So, again, I want to offer this tool, the Full Frame Initiative, they're an anti-racist organization that believes in ending racism and advancing racial equity. We know their structure's already set up.

That makes it easier for some on to access well-being than others.

So again I want to explore the five domains of well-being that they offer in regards to change systems and changing lives.

Then I also want to -- our friends at the National -- ah -- National Resource Center, centering workplace response as it relates to sexual and domestic violence, created this supervising during a pandemic.

And oftentimes we don't think about the environments that we're creating within our own spaces, so I want to offer this as well.

Supervising with empathy, a lot of great information about creating supportive environments.

So we can think about DVA and we can think about our --
our connection, right, with the outside world, but,
ooh, okay, um I just -- I just did a Casey.

[Laughter]

Casey, I just channeled you with that.

I'm sorry.

I didn't turn on my video.

And then, yeah, so creating supportive environments.

That's a part of doing the internal work as well as how
you're showing up in community.

So you have to support each other.

You have to create a supportive environment for
yourself and your colleagues as well.

So again, Breckan dropped that resource in the chat
box.

I want to move on so that we can provide these concrete
action steps.

For you.

Okay.

So what is one kind of self-care that you practice and
why?

This is a learning community.

So if you can share, there's been some great
information already in the chat box.

So now if you can share what is one kind of self-care

that you practice and why?

Again, this is a learning community.

And we want to learn from each other.

We want to know what's working.

For each other.

Yes, so just drop them in and I'll continue as you continue.

And again, we're learning from you and you're learning from us.

So please, please, please share your self-care strategies.

I'm gonna offer some, some that we -- they're perceived to be really simple, but they're effective and I also want to bring Vanessa Timons into this space.

Thank you, everyone.

Those are great.

The one thing that self-care needs to be is meaningful to you.

That's it, right?

So whatever you're putting in the chat box, if it's working for you, then continue doing that.

And we can all try your strategies, and it may or may not work for us.

And some really simple ones.

They're hard, some of them, but they're really simple.

Putting yourself first.

Asking for what you need.

Setting boundaries.

Saying no.

Forgiving yourself.

Taking a step back.

Asking for help.

And spending some alone time.

And I saw someone else -- someone listed crying.

Yes, sometimes it's okay not to be okay, yes.

And, again, when you're thinking about intersectionality, when you're thinking about self-care, I want you to also focus on who has the luxury of self-care?

Self-care needs to be self-defined, because if we define self-care for others, we're gonna -- we're not gonna meet the needs of those individuals, right?

Everybody needs to know what self-care strategies make their body, their spirit, and, like Casey said, their heart work.

So, again, this is a good read, and Breckan also dropped that in the chat box.

Yes, community care is so important, Lucy.

Self-care is definitely connected to community care.

All right, and then as we think about one thing, I want

to highlight the fact that the domestic violence awareness project in collaboration with the National Resource Center, Elise, here's your answer, creates an action guide that has concrete tools that you can use in order to further your message that was developed in June.

There's a lot of tools.

There's a lot of images.

There's a lot of language.

There's a lot of things already in the tool box.

That you can -- you can utilize in your communities.

The one thing capital pain again was -- campaign again was developed by the domestic violence awareness project advisory group as a message campaign that's easy to adapt, easy to use, and easy to say.

And the one thing messaging campaign has had global reach.

We've been really pleased with it.

And the group that's -- that has worked on the campaign centers, as you can see, the margins.

They're focused on shifting into action from awareness to action.

They're focused on changing the narrative.

They're focused on accountability and healing.

And the group is focused on lifting up the voices of

Black survivors.

So I would strongly encourage you to utilize the action guide.

One area that Ivonne is leading a group with developing is highlighting how to host a virtual event, right, in the middle of a pandemic, in the middle of all the crises that's happening in our communities.

So, again, I would say, you know, access the handout, and adapt it in your community.

One of our advisory board members when we talked about domestic violence 2020, when we talked about messaging, this is what she offered.

"Intersectionality at the center of our messaging.

Needs more than just anti-racism focus.

Getting bolder about our messages to be centered in anti-Blackness and habits of white supremacy.

Augment work with men's engagement efforts especially for those who have caused harm/survivors.

Men on the margins of the margins is a term she coined, and we are gonna have Justin show us and to share his gift with us, and she's something you can do as well during Domestic Violence Awareness Month, to connect with the men in your community.

And then anything around hope and healing for all of us.

And I'm sure this presentation will be healing for a lot of us, right?

And then create a future for all.

So, again, we've planted lots of seeds during this presentation and offered other ways for you to engage with us to get additional information.

Again, the domestic violence awareness project, when they were asked about Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2020, what is their vision, these are the things that they offered, and this group is actively working on that.

So if you stay connected with us, Elise, just to respond again, how we can operationalize our statements, we're offering webinars, we're offering platforms to lift up the voices of traditionally marginalized communities, communities on the margins of the margins like my sister Lina would say and that's the focus of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

This is an example of our #1thing messaging campaign. Again, this is being used across the world and we're really pleased with that.

Here is one of the webinars that I talked about.

Reentering Indiana's movement to ground domestic violence programs in survivor-defined success.

So again, we're hearing from community what their needs

are and we're responding to their needs during Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

And then we'll skip -- icon, can we do questions?

I'm gonna turn it over to you.

At this point.

And then we'll -- we'll hear from Justin.

>> Ivonne Ortiz: Yes, thank you, Arlene, and thank you, Casey.

We are going to be answering some questions after Justin, okay?

So his presentation.

So it is my pleasure to introduce Justin Carter.

He is a rising leader in the field of violence prevention.

Justin has worked with universities, non-profits, state and local agencies on Bystander Intervention, Consent Education, Title IX, Masculinity programming and Outreach with underserved populations.

Justin promotes social justice, inspires inter-group collaboration, and cultivates a welcoming climate through facilitation, education, and evaluation.

Justin has spoken at local, state, and national level conferences, podcasts, and rallies.

Welcome, Justin.

And don't forget to turn on your camera.

>> Justin Carter: Yeah.

Okay.

Got it.

All right, cool.

People can see me now, right?

>> Ivonne Ortiz: Yes.

>> Justin Carter: Sweet, sweet.

So first of all, I want to say thank you so much for having me.

It's been a great time working with you, all of you, doing some other projects with the organization as well.

But so always beat poetry has been a thing for me.

And it's the reason why I actually got into social justice is through poetry, so I decided to keep going on that journey and, you know, use my talent for the greater good.

So here I am.

So I do have one poem for you all today that I would like to share.

So for reviews, for those of you who can't see me, it might be a little confusing based off what I'll be saying, but this poem is a lot about code switching, so those of you who know what code switching is, that's what it's about.

For those of you who don't, you'll find out pretty soon.

So I'm excited to get going, and I'll just get started right away with time going on by quickly.

So --

Hi, how may I help you?

Ha-ha, that's hilarious.

Change face.

Hey, bro, what you need?

Nah, man, that's funny.

You funny, man.

I'm weak.

Change face.

Why do I feel like -- why do I feel like every time I walk into a white place and see a white face, I feel the need to -- change face.

If one of my white friends sees me listening in the future, I think he might think it's okay to say the N-word until I -- change face -- what makes it okay for you to shut down in my face like an animal, you would hate, but when it's time to shake and bake, you got, hmm -- change face.

My face changes when I interview.

My color, when I'm supposed to be an articulate Black man who's always first to be picked for basketball but

the last person to get called for an interview.

I'm starting to think my face doesn't really cover my race.

Change face.

I don't come from the hood.

I'm not a O.G.

I grew up in the same neighborhood as the rest of my 95% white classmates.

Change face.

When you ask me if KFC is better than Church's, or when you ask, how do I know which watermelon to pick, how do you expect not to -- change face.

Yes, Karen, I am a huge chicken fan and I do think watermelon is so sweet.

But of course just to add on to this American image that your ancestors worked so hard to reach, but refuse to know my place in this country, when Black men are gunned down for not changing their race, I mean, they say, he just had too much bass in his voice.

But since when does bass in a voice cost you your life.

They say, he shouldn't have just ran away like that.

But since when does running away cost you your life.

I'm supposed to be too hard for bullies, right?

Call the police if I bully ever tried to mess with me.

But when the bullies are the police, it turns into

every Black man losing their life, and which -- which is too much, too much more valuable than your own money.

They say, police are here to protect us.

They say they've been doing their job for, hmm, 100 years.

No need to worry.

Yes, Karen, just because someone has been doing a job for 100 years does not mean they've been doing it right.

We change faces to hide who we are.

We change faces to shelter ourselves from the disappointment that society consistently throws in our face.

How do I know when to be right when being right equals being white?

Hands up, don't shoot, because I'm already on the ground.

Hands up, don't shoot, because I'm not resisting.

Because you already asked for my I.D. and my wallet is not a gun.

Hands up, don't shoot.

Don't shoot, I already changed my face.

I already changes my face.

I already changed my face.

Hands, up, please, just don't kill me!

I have every right to this life as you.

Whether you change your face or not.

I can't stop being me.

And I can't stop being Black.

Stop killing us!

For forgetting our race.

Then maybe, just maybe, I can be free.

From changing my face.

Thank you.

>> Ivonne Ortiz: Thank you, Justin.

And -- um -- just take a moment.

That was really powerful.

And after listening to my colleagues, Arlene and Casey, and, you know, bringing to the table that we need to be really meaningful, you know, we need action.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month is not only about a purple ribbon and a poster.

And, you know, a great example is Justin.

Let's make those connections.

Let's think about the impact that it's having on our Black brothers and sisters, our Native communities, are we forgetting them?

You know, so I want for us to continue the conversation after this webinar.

There's so much more that we can do.

And I think one of the greatest ideas and something simple is coming together.

Everybody can do something.

And that's why we are so excited about our #1thing campaign, just a one little thing that we do, we can bring up, uplift the work of our Native communities, the work of our Latino communities, the work of our Black communities, and work as one community.

Thank you so much, Justin.

Ooh!

I'm still so touched.

>> Justin Carter: Thank you, thank you.

>> Ivonne Ortiz: It was very, very powerful, very powerful.

We are so lucky to have you and to be able to collaborate with you.

I want to bring back Casey and Arlene, if you can join us.

We have a couple of questions.

Ah!

We want to make sure that we answer before we end our time together.

All right, how are you ladies doing?

Are you good?

>> Casey Keene: Wow!

[Laughter]

Wow, Justin, thank you!

What a gift to all of us.

And I hope you're seeing all the love that people are sharing in the chat.

All the reflections on what you shared.

And what a beautiful way to draw a connection, you know, that I think we all need to make in our work, in our movement, and we have this opportunity through Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

So just wanted to say thank you.

For bringing that all together for us.

>> Justin Carter: Thank you so much for having me.

>> Ivonne Ortiz: I like the comment from Pat, she's saying it's too short.

We wanted to give you a flavor because the work is gonna continue.

>> Arlene Vassell: One thing that I wanted to add really quickly, when we talk about operationalizing our statement, creating space for Justin to share his gift with the world is a way of operationalizing our statement.

So I just want to highlight that as well.

Oftentimes we're thinking about, you know, new ways,

right?

But that is a way.

Justin has a gift.

And as an organization, we're committed to creating space for individuals that are typically on the margins, that want to share their voice, that want to make the connections, for us, and what Justin gave us as a gift is showing us that this is our work, right? So this is a way of operationalizing our statement is creating space for not only "Quote, unquote, DV advocates by title, but individuals to share their lived experiences with us in a way that motivates us to action.

So I just want to respond to that about operationalizing your statement.

This is one of the ways that NRCDV is operationalizing our statement.

>> Casey Keene: And I think that's so true.

And it really connects to the question that I noticed in the chat that we noticed from Elise Buchbinder who talked about the truth statement that many coalitions signed onto back in June and the statement is -- I might have accidentally expanded the chat.

I don't know if everybody is seeing that or not.

But I think there is an opportunity there, and I

appreciate you, Elise for raising that, for thinking about ways in which we can actualize those bold statements that are in there.

Through our work, our everyday work, and our work during Domestic Violence Awareness Month, when we tend to have people's attention.

How can we use that platform in ways that -- that are true to these -- to these statements?

>> Ivonne Ortiz: So let's see if there are any other questions.

I know that some of you are jumping out.

Before you go, I want to -- while you're writing your questions, to access our #1thing action guide, it's completely free, downloadable.

It's full of great information and how to connect intersections of domestic violence with domestic violence -- I'm sorry, intersections with domestic violence and it's beautiful.

We have beautiful art.

Joe that's with us today, part of the communications team, has done a great job in helping create a resource that is user-friendly.

And remember, just the one thing that we do can equate to many "One things" and it can turn into, you know, real social transformation like we are saying.

Let's see.

Yes, Pat, you can go to our website and connect with us.

You can connect with Arlene through our website.

And of course, follow us on social media.

We are -- our handle is @NRCDV, but you can just do a search on the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence.

Oop, there goes the chat again.

And we have five more minutes.

Also, I don't know if Casey, you want to answer something.

The PreventIPV website, that haven't had the pleasure to access resources from the website.

>> Casey Keene: Thank you, Ivonne.

As you're thinking about connecting awareness to action for social change, we have some amazing tools on that site.

So we encourage you to check it out at preventIPV.org.

>> Arlene Vassell: And, Ivonne, one thing, I know you had mentioned in the beginning about the pain that our communities are going through.

And I totally forgot to mention the webinar series.

That offers coping mechanisms for individuals who are dealing with various losses during this time.

So we'll send that information out.

I know Breckan had it handy and ready and I forgot to mention it earlier, because again as we continue to live through these times, we also as domestic violence advocates want to provide -- to be a beacon of hope in this time.

And those websites -- those webinars --

[Laughter]

Did an awesome.

Those presenters did an awesome job with addressing losses and grief and how do we navigate this time as advocates and still be beacons of hope.

So there you go.

Thank you, Breckan.

>> Ivonne Ortiz: Also, we have the Care for Advocates resources, and those are specifically -- they're a bundle of resources for advocates and we have inspiring stories, we have webinars included in that bundle and everything you can find in our online library, bonus, and I'm sure you see it right there, that Breckan added.

So anything that you need from us, feel free through, you know, getting comfortable, via social media or just visiting our website.

Yes, Breckan just added it there.

Care4 Advocates.

So any last thoughts.

You wanted to add?

Justin, Arlene, or Casey?

>> Arlene Vassell: No, I don't.

>> Ivonne Ortiz: All right.

Oh, somebody wanted to say something?

At the end of this webinar, you are gonna be taking to a survey.

Please give us your feedback.

That's a way that we, you know, come up with ideas -- well, not come up with, but serve your needs.

We know what you need.

Let us know if you enjoyed this type of presentation.

We need to hear from you.

So please, please answer that survey.

There's a beautiful quote here.

Arlene, do you want to read it?

>> Arlene Vassell: Oh, sure.

"Your purpose in life is to find your purpose and give your whole heart and soul to it."

Thank you, everyone.

Thank you for your time.

Thank you for your heart.

And thank you for spending time with us this evening.

>> Ivonne Ortiz: Thank you so much.

Thank you, Justin.

Thank you, Casey, and of course, Arlene, I just love hearing your voice.

So this has been amazing.

And we'll see you back.

Please follow us, and we'll be seeing and talking to each other very soon.

Take care, everybody!

>> All right, bye.

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