

August 25, 2020

Enhancing Services to Male Survivors Part II: Voices from the Field



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House Philadelphia, PA

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National Resource Center
on Domestic Violence

NRC DV 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.



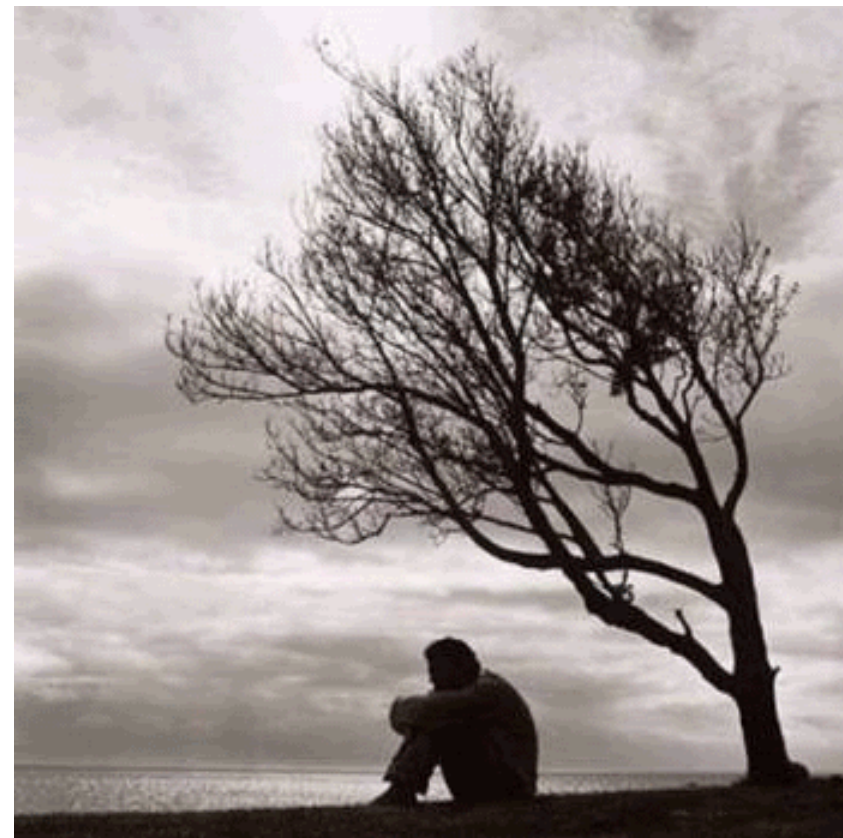
National Resource Center
on Domestic Violence

November 11, 2016

SHELTERING MALE SURVIVORS

NO ONE DESERVES TO BE HURT BY
SOMEONE THEY LOVE

ROSA GREENLEE AND NATHAN HAWKINS
AUGUST 25, 2020



NATIONAL RATES OF MEN WHO EXPERIENCE INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

More than 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men in the United States have experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime.

About 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men have experienced severe physical violence by an intimate partner (e.g., hit with a fist or hard object, beaten, slammed against something) at some point in their lifetime.

Most female and male victims of rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner experienced some form of violence for the first time before 25 years of age.

The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey 2010 Report CDC

RATES OF VICTIMIZATION BASED ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION

26% of [gay men](#) and 37.3% of [bisexual men](#) have experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime, in comparison to 29% of heterosexual men.
(NCADV.ORG)

Some studies show little difference in the rate of violence against gay men versus heterosexual men



“Any focus on differences between men and women should not obscure the fact that nearly 16 million men have experienced some form of severe physical violence by an intimate partner during their lifetimes and over 13 million men have experienced intimate partner violence during their lifetimes that resulted in a negative impact.” (Breiding, 2014)

THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN PROVIDING SHELTER TO MALE SURVIVORS



**Support from
staff and board of
directors**



Facilities design



**Segregated or
integrated
services?**



**Are your
materials gender
specific or gender
neutral?**



**Is the
organization's
name inclusive?**



**Support of key
partners**

SUPPORT FROM STAFF AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

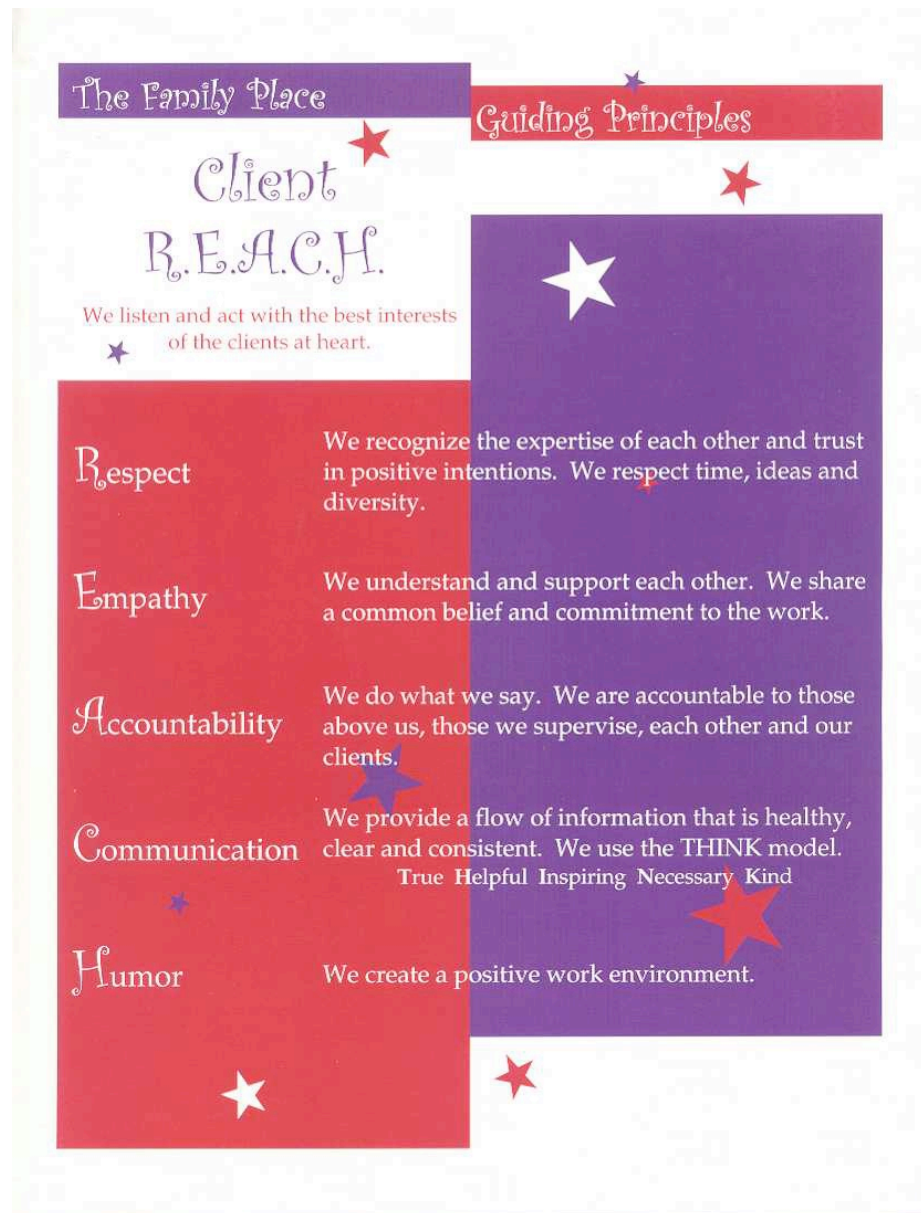
BOARD MEMBERS

- Assess the need for these services
- Engage with stakeholders for buy in
- Decide and Act
- Communicate the vision



STAFF MEMBERS

- Engage in group discussions about their concerns or fears
- Host 1:1 conversations with staff about the vision
- Provide surveys
- Host scenario building conversations-best case/worst case
- Appreciative inquiry-Encourage staff to think “what are we good at? Or “what has worked in the past?”
- Communicate what is going to change, when, why, what will not change
- Anticipate what staff will need from you: training? New policies and procedures?



AT THE FAMILY PLACE WE...

- Will always exhibit the courage to stand for social justice
- Work from the strengths of our clients, building on what they have , not what they are missing
- At ALL times we will have the respect for the dignity and value for ALL individuals

THE FAMILY PLACE FACILITY DESIGN

- Renovated a quadplex to a 20-bed gated facility to include:
- 4 bedrooms with 2 bunk beds (pictured)
- 3 larger bedrooms with 4 beds for men with children
- 4 bathrooms, IADA compliant bathroom
- Shared living area with computer access, phone access, TV, gaming consoles and fossball game
- Basketball goal, weight bench and gardening outside
- Laundry facilities on site and areas for food storage
- Within walking distance of public transportation



WHAT ARE OTHER FACILITIES OPTIONS?

- Place client directly into an apartment using a Master Lease program
- Shared structures, single rooms
- Shared bedrooms
- Designated rooms in your shelter for men
- Clients decides where to room
- Gendered floors or wings



SEGREGATED OR INTEGRATED SERVICES?

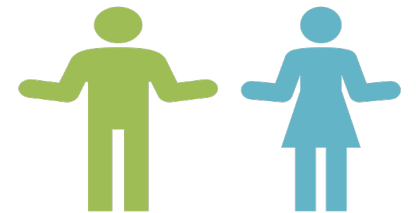
FORGE recommends integration, when possible because:

- It avoids revictimizing the survivor
 - “Not requesting services because a survivor fears they will not be treated with respect and dignity is a form of revictimization.”
- It minimizes your overhead cost
 - “Integrated shelter structures that house all genders therefore reduce the total cost to agencies and provide more comparable services to all survivors.”
- Transgender survivors are not forced to “pick a gender”
 - “Provide integrated services to all victims regardless of their sex or gender identity.”

FORGE forward: Gender Integrated Shelters: Experience and Advice

ARE YOUR MATERIALS GENDER SPECIFIC OR GENDER NEUTRAL?

- Create a focus group to review pamphlet materials, website, images, etc.
- Change agency data collection forms as needed
- Be mindful of language: gender alone cannot determine who is abuser power
- Challenge hotline advocates to screen differently:
 - Can you tell me about the worst time?
 - Do you ever make certain decisions because of what you think your partner might do?
 - What are you most frightened about given your current situation?



IS THE ORGANIZATION'S NAME INCLUSIVE?

- Our agency names hold power and send clear messages to the community about who we are and what are agency stands for
- What does the mission statement of your agency say about survivors?
- If a name change or brand change is needed consult with board and stakeholders.



SUPPORT OF KEY PARTNERS

- Law Enforcement
- Medical
- Faith Based organizations
- Veterans Programs
- Colleges
- Substance abuse centers
- LBGTQ+ community centers
- Social Service Providers



BARRIERS TO SERVICE



LACK OF SERVICE
PROVIDERS
ACCEPTING MALE
SURVIVORS



BELIEF THAT NO
ONE WILL
UNDERSTAND,
BELIEVE, ETC.



DIMINISHED SELF
WORTH



FEAR/RISK OF HARM
IF SERVICES ARE
SOUGHT



SHAME



MINIMIZING
VIOLENCE



NOT RECOGNIZING
THEY HAVE BEEN
VICTIMIZED



IN A SAME SEX
RELATIONSHIP BUT
NOT "OUT" TO
FAMILY/FRIENDS



- Lack of service

- Only 2 shelters dedicated solely to housing male survivors in the entire county
 - The Family place in Texas
 - The Taylor House Domestic Violence Shelter for Men in Arkansas
- The need for services outweighs the resources available



- Fear/Risk of harm for seeking services

- Power and control by the abuser can lead to lack of privacy
- Threats of violence, self harm, legal action



- **Will anyone understand/believe me?**

- Religious beliefs
- “Men can’t be abused”
- “So it’s a homeless shelter?”
- “You let a woman beat you?”
- “So all the men are gay right?”



- **Shame**

- Stigma surrounding how men “should” act
- Instilled in men from an early age



- **Diminished self worth**

- Power and control can lead to poor self esteem
- Can begin to expect abuse or even believe they deserve it



- Minimizing Violence

- Due to stigma and societal norms, men often downplay what they are experiencing
 - Commonly portrayed male role models don't suffer from things such as DV
 - Men are supposed to be able to endure hardships and pain
- Become used to violent behaviors
- Willing to endure abuse



- Failure to recognize victimization

- The idea of “abuse” has been tied to physical violence
- Previous trauma with abuse
- Normalization of abusive behaviors



- In same sex relationship but not “out” yet

- Discrimination against homosexual relationships

TRAITS AND EXPERIENCES OF MALE SURVIVORS

Often male survivors have to work hard to convince others that they have been victimized

Criminal record from domestic violence arrest or other interaction with law enforcement

The way society has socialized men affects how survivors and bystanders react to their victimization

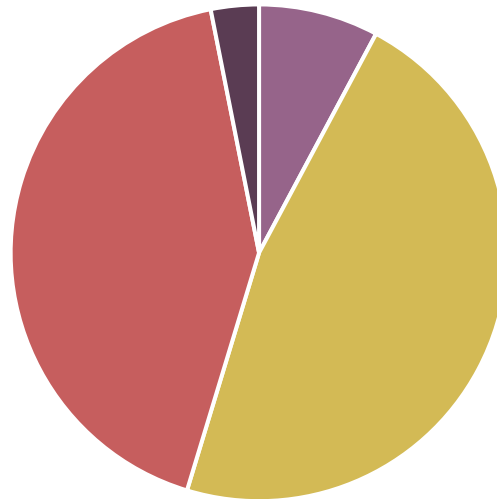
Sexual abuse as a child is a common denominator among male survivors served at The Family Place

Many have spent time in foster care or were removed from home during childhood due to neglect

Untreated mental health and substance abuse issues

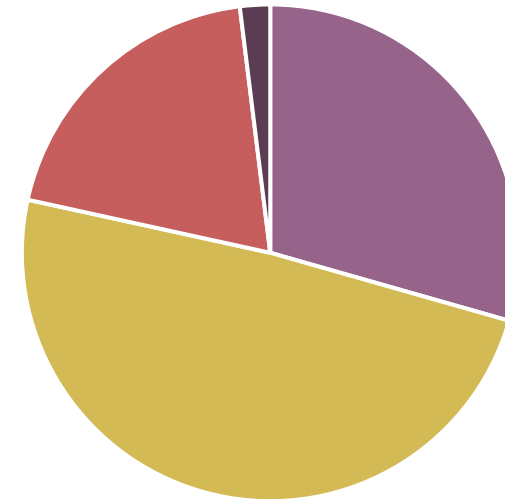
PROFILE OF MALE SURVIVORS AT THE FAMILY PLACE

Age



■ 18-24 ■ 25-40 ■ 41-60 ■ 60+

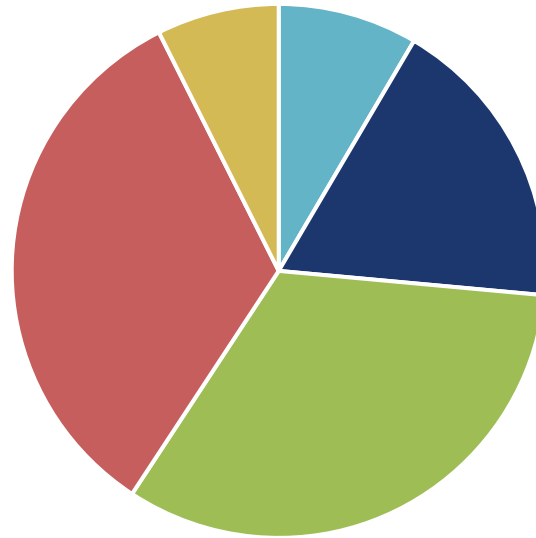
Ethnicity



■ Caucasian ■ African American ■ Hispanic ■ Other

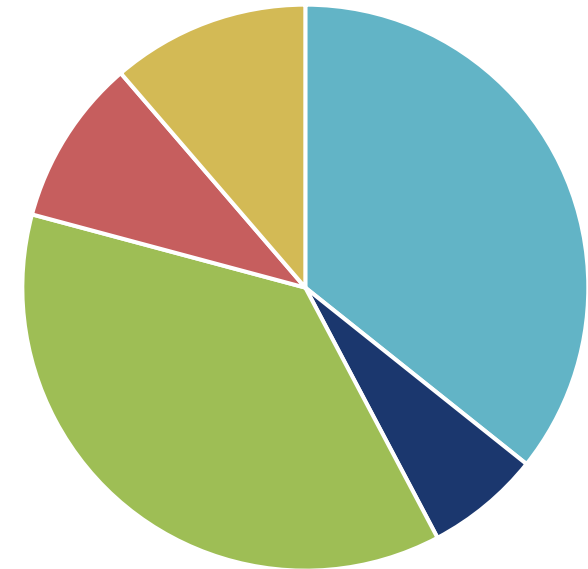
CHARACTERISTICS OF MALE SURVIVORS

Victimization Type



■ Strangulation ■ Stalking ■ Physical ■ Emotional ■ Sexual

Mental Health Diagnosis



■ Anxiety ■ Bipolar ■ Depression ■ PTSD ■ Other

PROGRAMMING FOR MALE SURVIVORS AT THE FAMILY PLACE

Emergency shelter

Life skills support

- Budgeting, housekeeping, cooking skills

Support group – psychoeducational, mindfulness

Therapy – EMDR, CBT

Childcare

Case management

- Documentation
- Rental assistance
- Transportation

Job search and training

Health care

RESOURCE LIST

- The Family Place Hotline 214-941-1991
- <https://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-male-domestic-violence-shelter-20170804-story.html>
- Dolan-Soto, Diane R., & Waite, Robin R. (n.d.) *Guidelines & Best Practices to Address the Service Needs of Male Victims of Domestic Violence: A Training Manual*. New York City Human Resources Administration (NYC HRA), Emergency and Intervention Services, Office of Domestic Violence. (www.communityservices.ny.gov)
- Brieding MJ, Smith SG, Basile KC, Walters ML, Chen J, Merrick MT. Prevalence and Characterizes of Sexual Violence, Stalking and Initiate Partner Violence Victimization-National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, United States, 2011. *MMWR* 2014
- Cook-Daniels, Loree, Munson, Michael, & Taylor, Katie (Spring 2016). *FORGE: Gender-Integrated Shelters: Experience and Advice*. (www.forge-forward.org)
- Keene, Casey, Ortiz, Ivonne, & Stiles, Eric (July 2017). *National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRCDV) Technical Assistance Guidance: Serving Male-Identified Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence*. (www.nrcdv.org)
- *Respect Toolkit: Work With Male Victims of Domestic Violence*. January 2013). Retrieved from <https://respect.uk.net/training/working-with-male-victims-of-domestic-violence/>
- *Why Include People of All Genders In Shelters?* (October 2016). Retrieved from www.forge-forward.org.

The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes in various shades of green, creating a modern and dynamic visual effect. The shapes are primarily located on the left and right sides of the slide, framing the central text.

Working With Male Survivors of DV/IPV

Sean Whiteman and Toby Fraser, Lutheran Settlement House
Philadelphia, PA

Case Study: Adam and Beth

- ▶ While listening, write down the feelings that come up **for you** when you imagine working with this client
 - ▶ Feel free to put them in the chat box—we'll collect and share them out
- ▶ Not a case meant to universalize the experience of abuse men have, or present the “perfect client” but a jumping off point to examine some common barriers and reactions to male survivors

Case Study: Adam and Beth

- ▶ Adam and Beth had been dating for a year and became pregnant unexpectedly. She stopped taking her psychiatric medication over Adam's objection ("it's my body"). After child's birth he said she "was a different person" and there were 1-2 week periods of increasing intensity where she became "crazy" and "unpredictable" and he felt scared and confused
- ▶ During arguments she would scream, call names, and eventually start to throw objects and threaten him. She also went through periods of intense depression where she would barely leave the house.
- ▶ These escalating fights culminated in her chasing him out of the house with a kitchen knife, at which point he called the police. When they arrived they acted like Beth had made the call and Adam said he could tell they didn't believe him
- ▶ He didn't feel safe and moved temporarily into his mother's house nearby, feeling like a "failure as a father," ashamed of leaving, confused about what he should have done, and scared of what Beth would do next. He started getting bursts of 30-40 angry texts per day from her. She also spread a story on Facebook that he was abusive and she began receiving services from a local domestic violence legal agency

Case Study: Adam and Beth

What is your emotional reaction to this story, as an advocate?

My feelings, working with Adam:

- ▶ Moments of suspicion and unease: am I working with the wrong partner?
- ▶ Fear for the safety of the child
- ▶ Empathy for Adam's suffering and confusion about what was happening, which seemed sincere
- ▶ Put off by moments where his reactions or decisions felt stereotypically patriarchal, heteronormative, or just unwise
- ▶ Ultimately, trust and a strong emotional connection as his vulnerability increased in sessions

Advocate Feelings → Client Experience

► Anxiety

“I could just tell no one believed me”

► Skepticism

“I don’t think they were expecting to hear a man’s voice on the hotline”

► Suspicion

“It took me awhile to feel comfortable and believe that I wouldn’t be looked down on”

What Works for Male Survivors

- ▶ When advocates notice and process their own feelings about working with men
 - ▶ As we've been doing during this webinar, so that the work isn't as clouded by our own unacknowledged feelings, and we can focus more fully on seeing and hearing them
- ▶ Services that acknowledge the additional barrier of shame/stigma they face
 - ▶ Shame (internal) that may come from gender training. In Adam's case, his shame about "failing" as a protector and provider
 - ▶ Stigma (external) from systems like law enforcement, family court, etc.
- ▶ Services that acknowledge the larger reality of patriarchy and male privilege
 - ▶ So that we can maintain accountability and help clients notice moments of entitlement or assumptions rooted in gender norms
 - ▶ In Adam's case: his expectation about what Beth was "supposed" to do, as a mother

GENDER INCLUSIVE ASSESSMENT

it's not as hard as you think

Gender is everywhere. No matter who is sitting down with us for an intake we need to understand what is happening in their relationship, and ensure that our services are the ones they need.

GENDER STEREOTYPES AND SURVIVORS

Depending on the gender training a person receives they may have less access to certain emotions. Overall survivors socialized as male may exhibit anger more easily than fear, or may scoff at the idea that they are unsafe. Be on the lookout for who's life is shrinking because of the actions of their partner, and listen for the patterns of power and control.



HOW HAS YOUR RELATIONSHIP CHANGED SINCE YOU FIRST GOT TOGETHER?



Open ended questions keep our assumptions out of the way and gives them space to reflect out loud.



Do you hear patterns of **power**, **coercion**, and **control** that play out over time and get worse?



DO YOU FEEL LIKE YOU CAN SAY NO TO YOUR PARTNER?



Survivors are often “walking on eggshells” around their partner when normal, everyday conflict leads to violence or punishment.



Listen for **fear** and **uncertainty**.



ARE YOU EVER AFRAID OF YOUR PARTNER?



Asking directly about feelings skips getting caught up in behaviors and details of “who’s doing what to who” and goes right to the heart of how abusive relationships can feel.



Fear is a red flag for abuse, and no one should ever have to be afraid of their significant other.



WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR YOURSELF?



Survivors need a sense of self and genuine empowerment rather than judgement or advice. Asking what they want puts them at the center of the conversation.



Assess for potential goals in counseling.

Meeting this Moment: Meaningful Engagement for Social Change during Domestic Violence Awareness Month and Beyond

Thursday, August 27, 7-8pm EST, 6-7pm CST, 4-5pm PST



At this moment, together we bear witness as the pandemic of racial injustice, systemic oppression, and exploitation continues to rage across the country, causing many losses. Recent events highlight significant and long-standing health and economic disparities among African Americans and other racial and ethnic groups. Such gaps in treatment reflect inequality and continue to cause immeasurable pain to Black communities. This moment in time is a call for transformation – a critical opportunity to revisit the roots of our movement to end gender-based violence in ways that can purposefully restore humanity for all.

Join us for a conversation about pivoting our work to meet this moment and co-creating the world we all deserve during Domestic Violence Awareness Month and beyond.

Featuring: An original poetry reading by Justin Carter

Presenters:

- Arlene Vassell, Vice President of Programs, Prevention & Social Change
- Casey Keene, Director of Programs & Prevention
- Justin Carter, Activist & Spoken Word Artist



Register: <https://nrcdv.adobeconnect.com/thismoment/event/registration.html>

DVAM National Call for Unity 2020

October 1, 2020 at 3:00pm ET

This event will mark the beginning of DVAM 2020. Join us as we come together in solidarity with survivors, advocates, and partners from national, state and community-based organizations.

Together we will celebrate our movement's accomplishments and reflect on our shared experiences as we move together toward collective liberation and social transformation.





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.

Questions? Comments?





National Resource Center on Domestic Violence

Connect with us:

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. Access our publications online at VAWnet.org.

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