

("Live captioning by Ai-Media")

MARCI TAITT-LAMAR:

Welcome everybody, we are ready to get started. My name is Marci Taitt-Lamar and I am so appreciated of everyone who is able to join us this afternoon/morning. Feel free to introduce yourself and use the chat throughout today's session to share your questions for Amarinthia and Edric.

As well as any thoughts or resources that come up that you feel would be helpful to others on the call. When you submit your questions to the chat, we will be able to record them and address them to our presenters before the end of the webinar.

Also, remember that this chat is public so anything you type is going to be visible to everybody participating in the webinar including presenters.

IVONNE ORTIZ:

(Speaks Spanish)

MARCI TAITT-LAMAR:

Thanks again for being part of today's session. We have already started recording so today's session... And I will get us started in about three minutes.

INTERPRETER:

(Speaks Spanish)

MARCI TAITT-LAMAR:

Alright, good afternoon everyone. Thank you so much for joining us today and welcome to our webinar on enhancing services to male identified survivors. Part of our male identified survivors series.

INTERPRETER:

(Speaks Spanish)

MARCI TAITT-LAMAR:

Before we get started, I'm going to invite our interpreters to give us some guidance regarding interpretation.

INTERPRETER:

(Speaks Spanish) good afternoon everybody, as you have seen, the organizers of this event are firmly committed to facilitating bilingual communication in today's meeting. My name is (Name) and I'm going to represent the justice language cooperative.

We will be providing Spanish English simultaneous interpretation. (Speaks Spanish) if you joined on your phone, please join on your resume app. So that you can access the interpretation function. Please

note that this function is not available on chrome.

(Speaks Spanish) if you are not bilingual in English and Spanish, you can select your language channel by going to the bottom right-hand corner on the globe if you're using a computer or three dots if you are connected on a phone.

Click on it, click on interpretation and select English. It is important to activate this option if you do not understand Spanish as we will be interpreting into English if anyone speaks in Spanish and you will only hear it if you are on the English Channel. (Speaks Spanish)

A few guidelines for creating multilingual space. Please do not speak fast, this happens especially when reading a presentation or if you are excited or nervous or running out of time. Also, if you are not speaking please meet yourself. (Speaks Spanish)

We would like to remind you to also speak one person at a time and with one language per sentence. (Speaks Spanish) we create these spaces with everyone's support so please communicate any issues by chat or turning on your volume. Thank you for creating this MultiLink will states.

MARCI TAITT-LAMAR:

Thank you so much to our interpreters today. So, our webinar today is brought to you in collaboration with the team of the national LGBT Q Institute on intimate partner violence.

This is a project of the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence. If this is the first time that you have joined one of NRCDV training webinars, we would love to welcome you and suggest that you check out our website and follow us on social media so that you can learn about the exciting upcoming projects and initiatives.

NRCDV is a national technical assistance provider working to strengthen the capacity of programs responding to domestic violence, victims and their families by creating effective public policy, institutional response research and engagement and prevention.

Today, through key initiatives and special projects, NRCDV works with many organizations and partners who bring various expertise, background and perspectives to improve community response to domestic violence and ultimately to prevent its occurrence.

Now, I would love to welcome our presenters, Edric and Amarinthia Torres. Edric is a first-generation queer raised in Georgia and he strives to embrace the intersections of identity, address the structural determinants that has held his professional and personal endeavours.

Through grassroots organizing and HIV prevention work in Atlanta, he is connected to activists across the country. He spent six years in Seattle supporting LGBT queer survivors of violence and families in use before returning home to Georgia in 2019.

He stays loving, grateful and accountable to his values through the support of a community that stretches across coasts and borders. Amarinthia Torres is currently the policy advocacy specialist at the coalition ending gender-based violence.

An organization working towards gender equity and social justice in Washington. Additionally, she is a board member of the sexual violence Centre which provides holistic trauma informed legal assistance to victims of sexual violence.

Amarinthia's professional experience over the last 18 years has been rooted in holding the determination of survivors of sexual and domestic violence as well as supporting diverse queer and trans survivors for over nine years.

Significant areas of work include survivor advocacy, support group facilitation, primary prevention, program management, grant writing, financial oversight and training to the antiviolence field. Amarinthia's early work in the anti-sexual violence movement in the rural South informs much of her lens on patriarchy, anti-oppression, bodily autonomy and building community.

She earned a BA in sociology from the College in Rome, Georgia. After living most of her life in various small towns and cities of the rural South, Amarinthia moved to Seattle in 2010. Taking a break from the rigour of fighting pay jerky, Amarinthia is a fan of feminist comic books, bubble tea, equipment reviews from America's test kitchen.

In watching any and all of the planet Earth series. I am so excited to introduce you all to Amarinthia and Edric.

EDRIC FIGUEROA:

Hey everybody, thank you so much for reading our bios, Marcy that was really sweet. Amarinthia, Marcy and I have had the pleasure of working together in the past and this is a really sweet reunion.

This is a topic that is a particular passion for me and I know Amarinthia as well. We have both supported LGBT queer survivors including male survivors in the past. And really feel like this topic is super rich and just want to acknowledge that you may have seen a title floating around that said gender-neutral advocacy.

So on our site today we are keeping that out because we're thinking of a better way of how we can support men and survivors of all genders

with gender rich advocacy. So I just wanted to throw it that idea as we get started. And explore these terms. (Static)

AMARINTHIA TORRES:
Hey there everyone.

EDRIC FIGUEROA:
I am going to turn it over to Amarinthia who is going to walk us through (inaudible).

AMARINTHIA TORRES:
Inc. you so much to Marcy and Edric and the resource Centre on domestic violence for giving us this opportunity to think deeply about this topic and share it with you all. As Edric mentioned, we love doing these webinars and it is a very sweet reunion for all of us.

I am excited to dive right into the topic. I did not realize you would be reading out the full bios, sorry man was a little long! But I am excited to share the space with everybody here and looking forward to lots of time in her webinar today for chats and comments and opportunities for input from the audience.

So do please feel free to use that chat, we have lots of time built-in for questions and for sharing. But feel free to do that at any time obviously throughout the content. So I'm just going to get us moving, we have a lot to share and they want to make sure we have time for everybody's questions and good conversation.

So we thought we would just start was talking a little bit about what we are noticing as part of the LGBT Q community and folks who've been doing this work for a long time. What have we noticed about the field and this topic and surveying survivors of all genders. And why this topic? Why now?

One of the things that came to mind for me was working at an organization that supports bi, trans, lesbian and gay survivors of abuse who also have a long history in the movement. We all have a lot of experience supporting male survivors of abuse particularly across the spectrum of gender identity and sexual orientation.

Trans men, bisexual women and gay men. I hope we support this across the future and folks especially who we think of when we are talking about survivors. We have also had a lot of experience working with the larger anti-domestic violence field.

And have seen firsthand some of the challenges that extreme programs were facing and continue to face. Not just supporting male survivors but supporting survivors of all genders. That can be ranging from challenges our own shelter access, challenges are and how you determine who is causing harm or whose surviving harm.

I can be everything from how do you make a gender inclusive support group, what does that look like? So just a range of challenges from the field. In fact, through offering changing and assistance and Edric and I in particular and maybe some of you have been to some of our training in the past.

We did lots of training all over the country in person prior to COVID. We noticed many programs struggling to have a consistent process by which they determine who in the relationship was causing harm and who is surviving harm.

That is especially true when you cannot rely on perceptions of gender to determine who is being abusive. As a queer program, we have had a long history of doing this work in determining who is causing harm without relying on notions of gender that do not serve us and are often rooted in patriarchy.

So when we noticed so many changes over the years, we felt that in an effort for the fields to be more inclusive to people of all genders, which is inevitably very good. The field has also lost sight of some of our fundamental analysis of power.

Especially systemic, structural and institutional power. And how that affects interpersonal violence. And so, we have seen these tensions and it felt like well, you know we notice these things happening in the field. So, we need to talk about them.

We need to talk about it with folks and get the word out there about what we have seen and what we have experienced with working with queer, trans survivors and how that works, by sauntering those folks, that work can fully guide the field and offer resources of best practices.

So here we are, lots of steps in between of course. But with that context in mind, I would like us to focus on a couple of key questions that will guide and focus our time together. This is one of our guiding questions, how do we meaningfully support survivors of all genders?

And if we were to focus in on one part of this question, to emphasize one area, where would that be? What are we noticing in the field and what do we want to highlight? So for us, it is on this aspect of the question.

It is on supporting survivors. So questions like how do we determine who is surviving harm and who is causing it? What is our process for that and is it consistently applied? Do we have a shared definition either organizations about what constitutes domestic violence or coercive control? We will be using a lot of language about power and

control or coercive control. And we are really centering that a lot of her experiences working with survivors of coercive control. An intimate partner relationships, so we know that there are lots of types of harms and violence that our community faces, and that many of you are working with survivors with an array of types of harm and we are focusing in a bit on that particular experience through a lot of the content for today.

So these questions, do we have that share definition? Of what constitutes domestic violence, and control, if so, how do we determine who was surviving in or not when people reach out? These are questions that we think this field is struggling with. And that we hope to be can offer some guidance on today. So the next big guiding question, how do we maintain and strengthen the collective feminist analysis on gender, power, and violence? If we were going to focus on one area best, one area of this question that we want to centre our time today, what would that be?

A little bit of PowerPoint humour here, it is the whole thing, we cannot focus on one thing, it is the entire kitchen here, so all of this is important. -- The entire kit here so all of this is important.... Power and violence, and so we will come back to these native throughout the webinar, and the next couple slides are mostly things that we have noticed in this sociopolitical moment that we think contribute to this issue of supporting no survivors and survivors of all genders.

We will not go into too much detail on each side, because it is more of these are things that we are noticing as factors and that contribute. I remember when the 2013 law passed I added queer organization and I remember health out how proud I felt that my community of anti-violent advocates in the health of and survivors and LGBTQ survivors, this legislation increased protections for those groups, and it was the first time that gender identity and sexual orientation were protected under federal law.

Q effort and a huge amount of power for our movements, in supporting these communities that are still on the margins and are so impacted by pilots. This also that the programs were illegally prohibited from services like traditional shelters, on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. And this inevitably raised a lot of questions for programs about inclusion, gender and power. Additionally, we see the need to movement, allowing us at the systemic level.

We have seen racial justice uprisings that are demanding us to reckon with racism and anti-blackness within our systems and our institutions. We are also seeing a lot of systemic focus as it should be on where power and abuse and violence is flourishing. And where it is allowed to happen. As to remember, it is so (indiscernible). And we are seeing backlash to those efforts, we are seeing similar tactics of

abuse play out at a much larger scale.

Company groups that hold a lot of systemic power can often feel as though they are victimized by these changes. And by these attempts to name and call out systemic power. Advocates know that sometimes people who are abusive, use the language of abuse and hard to obscure their own abusive behaviour. They are the true victim of abuse, not the partner that they are with.

And we are very versed in knowing that that is a tactic, and so that these tactics that served to obscure the role of power, and the actual disproportionate impact are being used across scale at a bigger level of our society. As we grapple with these big, systemic problems, that our communities and our society faces. The question we have to ask ourselves is we bringing our interventions to scale for the survivors that are most impacted by inter-partner violence?

Additionally, there is a lot of things on this slide, additionally, we are noticing, we have noticed and continued to notice a lot of impacts of the field that are showing up, and how we think about who we serve, what type of supports do folks have access to? And really I think struggling with what constitutes domestic violence? So if we just start with the yellow box here up in the top left-hand corner of your screen.

I think that there is a lot much broader knowledge and language from our field, partially because of our own education and awareness about domestic violence. Things like gas lighting, emotional abuse, bipolar disorder comes up in the ways that people talk about their partner. Verbal abuse triggers trauma. There is a shorthand that is often used when folks are reaching out for support. But do we stop to ask the caller how does gas lighting look in their specific situation of a relationship?

That, in addition to, sometimes lack of understanding about how survivors might use violence when both people are using similar tactics on the power and control we will has led to us getting can use about who is surviving and who is causing harm. And that collapsing up a lot of experiences that might really range in terms of the kinds of harm or the kind of violence that may be going on, or the conflict in a relationship can sometimes be lumped into this broader category of domestic violence.

And similarly, I think we are seeing other things related to challenges related to assessing for coercive control, determining who was causing harm and who was surviving heart. There are a lot of attempts to create a more standardized way to determine whether experiences of violence are domestic violence, or whether they are not. Some of these tactics, some of these approaches, excuse me, can be really faulty, they remove a lot of context in which that violence

is occurring.

And it can ignore the way that patterns of violence happen over time that many of us see.

SPEAKER:

We have one interpreter asking if you could just speak just a bit more slow.

AMARINTHIA TORRES:

Thank you for that feedback, I am a very fast talker, and some things to fully to be mindful, so thankful thank you.

Let us hear a little bit from you all, this is some of what we have noticed, this is some of the dynamics at play that we have been seeing in society, and in our work, in our field. But what have you been noticing? Are there aspects of this topic that you have been seeing Clay out in a systemic level, or even just things that you notice in your work? That you want to share with the group, that feel like important things to note it about this current sociopolitical moment or what you have seen in the field in doing their work with domestic violence survivors? As we try to support folks of all genders.

I am going to attempt to see my chat here, I have to go to a little bit of a different place. Great, thank you so much, I am seeing things around navigating a complicated relationship with law enforcement. Yes, absolutely. Assuming, making assumptions about physicality that might lead us to have biases about who is causing harm, who must be the perpetrator, or a victim would never ask this way. -- Never act this way.

Some challenges here that people are sharing about abuse against men is often not recognized by police, and I think that as we talk more about the impact of patriarchy, and rigid gender roles, and assumptions being made around gender. And who is vulnerable and who is victimizing who is not, so we will have some space for that later on. It sounds like folks are sharing as well some difficulty in stigma sometimes around disclosure.

Particularly for male survivors feeling worried about not being taken seriously or believe. I think that is something that certainly we see is true for a lot of survivors. Around not being, not feeling like they are going to be heard, and believe. OK, this is great to be sharing, thank you so much everybody for sharing your thoughts.

It sounds like. Mentioning some things that I am seeing around, yes, around different environments that might perpetuate toxic masculinity and how that can create culture in which setting boundaries or seeking support for being more in touch with say no or what is not OK with you is harder because of cultural peace. And that is so true for so many,

for all of us probably in some way or another. In coming up through patriarchal society, and trying to find our way to our own choice. To our own choices, to our own sense of self. Two gender expression that fits and works for us.

A lot of redefining that can come up. Thank you so much for sharing this, I think that for time, I want to keep us moving along. But keep adding things into the chat, obviously folks attending can read the chat and participate in some discussion around this topic. Thank you so much for sharing, I am glad I got a chance to see some of your comments.

So this is just a reminder to bring us back to this goal, and this theme of our time. That this large, big question is a lot of where we want to focus the next few sections of our time together. And while this is a very big, big question and difficult one. We already have the skills and tools we need to do this work. Much of the anti-balance movement, especially advocates of colour built this practice of connecting individual, interpersonal experiences of violence to larger systems of aggression. We have a lot of, we have a lot of history here. And folks that we have been doing this work for a long time, so let us lean into that and know that we have done this before.

And we have to stay diligent and savvy, and persistent. With that, I'm going to pass it over to Edric was going to talk us through a little bit of that content related to this big question before us.

EDRIC FIGUEROA:

Thank you Amarinthia, that was out beautiful analysis. Can you hear me?

AMARINTHIA TORRES:

I can hear you but it was a little bit delayed.

EDRIC FIGUEROA:

Kicked out and right back in. Grace, so we are going to explore our ideas of what constitutes and feminist analysis in these next few slides. The first day of building any type of analysis against oppression is understanding institutional inequality, and the impacts oppression has on survivors. From there, we can take safety plans actually respond to some of the barriers that people have.

Before you keep going, I am happy to turn off my video if the audio is a little bit off.

SPEAKER:

I'm not sure people are sharing, I've been hearing you more smoothly now I'm a little bit earlier. So it has been OK on my end.

EDRIC FIGUEROA:

Perfect. So, (Static) has Amarinthia mentioned, the recent killings of black Americans, (indiscernible) the particular communities, particularly the effects of COVID-19 have also highlighted some of these things. We have seen disproportionate impacts of the virus in communities of colours across this country.

This moment is really a reminder of the importance of centering and anti-oppressive analysis that can't be fully engage with people of colour and start from the margins. And this is particularly important for applicants, because we know that people are abusive, can rely on equality to establish and maintain abusive control.

So when we are talking about abuse, we find it really important to draw into sections to oppression because the to inform each other as Amarinthia said earlier. One way to think about it is that we believe abuse happens when one of us believes and they can believe this consciously or unconsciously, that they have more value than the other person.

Over time, they could to dynamic they gives that person where access to resources, decision-making power then the other person. So the key words here are just like oppression and a pattern of control does not happen overnight. It is something that is established over the course of relationship.

There is no prescribed time of what it takes to establish a pattern but we know that it does take some time. Similarly, no one on this webinar caused the oppressive commissions that are around today but all of us have a responsibility to interrupt it and learn how it impacts the services that we offer in the lives of the people we are supporting.

And, someone who causes harm might not know and they may not have this idea of their value is more than the other person. But, either through surviving and abusive harm of their own, they may be causing harm for the other person and inevitably spreading this says that their pain, their time, their triggers are more important than someone else's freedom or desires.

We can go to the next slide, Amarinthia. So, under oppression there are many ways to quantify and break it down and many systems that impact the oppressive dynamics that we live in. Particularly in the United States. One thing we wanted to highlight his patriarchy.

And that really is a system through cultural beliefs that establish a binary gender, something and another thing that is black and white, in this case it is men and women and under patriarchy, men are given more power and privilege at the expense of really, everybody else.

So women, transgender, non-binary folks. So when we talk about men in

this context, we are talking about cis gender men which is the opposite of trans. So there is the idea of sub- domination being created so what this means is for every marginalized community, there is a privilege to get there.

So men, women, heterosexual, white, gay people and so on and so forth. Because patriarchy and so many of the systems that are socialized are influenced by capitalism and the impacts of its desire to feel competent above all else in society.

We really see these ideas being sustained by the institutions we live in the Telus if you buy the right product, where the right clothes, do all the things necessary, consume the right media, you come a bit closer to this idea of privilege and power.

Personally, I believe it is important to look at the systems and if we do not acknowledge that they exist, and try to treat everyone we encounter the same, we are not really seeing survivors fully. And we are risking offering culturally dismissive, colourblind services.

So paycheck use just one system we wanted to highlight as an important thing to recognize for our analysis. Go to the next slide, Amaranthia. So how does this relate to interpersonal violence? "Interpersonal violence usually belies a whole host of social conditions that are hard to qualify and quantify, i.e. privilege, race, poverty, gender, oppression, resistance, wealth, cultural norms, etc."

This came from the (unknown term) feminist collective and I find it especially striking with the topic of serving survivors ears -- survivors because it is hard to quantify the situations that lead to interpersonal violence. But it is important to do when we talk about marginalized folks and centering survivors in the margins, as Amaranthia put it earlier.

In bringing our interventions to scale for the most marginalized groups in society. By doing that, I believe we will get closer to improving conditions for all survivors and survivors of all genders. Go to the next slide. -- Slide.

So we talked about tactics of abuse across scale. So really, we can see how coercive power impacts people individually, we know that many of us had to use the power (unknown term) before and using physical violence and sexual violence to explain the lived experience of coercive control on a survivor.

We often tell survivors it was not but one thing and that one incident of violence. It was this whole other list of things that have happened in so many survivors have found that to be a powerful way to connect and heal from their experiences.

But when we ignore that so many of these things happen on a societal level for example, physical and sexual violence, this country has a long history of slavery and colonization. Which displaced and heard a lot of communities of colour.

If we do not acknowledge that, what we are doing is inevitably keeping an oppressive dynamic intact instead of trying to go forward and challenge it. These ideas that happen in abusive relationships particularly out of nowhere I seen across our society.

You can go to the next slide, so I know I am covering a lot of information and we will have a pause for your question soon. A couple of things we wanted to discuss I am sure by now every person on this webinar has probably seen a pyramid of power.

And on those, it is usually who holds the most power and societies at the top and people usually put white people on there, cis gender man on there, wealthy man on there. In all other identities that we associate with having power in society.

Underneath it is basically everybody else. So while that pyramid might be a useful way of identifying OK, very few amount of people actually hold the wealth and power in society. And all of us are just down here, it is very helpful to visualize that.

What it does not say that is important to note and if we're talking the powers that every single person is capable of prejudice against violence regardless of how privileged or oppressed you are. However, it is only people who are closer were at the top of the pyramid that have access to institutional and cultural power.

And are able to act on their prejudice through policies, laws and worse. -- Norms. Many of those policies, laws and norms are written to support a certain kind of person, usually white folks. In the lot of our programs were designed to support certain types of survivors.

Now, as we are looking to be more equitable. We have to think about are these policies to remain survivors in the margins? And can we build a bottoms up approach to serving all survivors? We can go to the next slide.

So an example of ways in which dominant groups have used systems to keep their power in place is this case. So, the lesbian mother's national defence fund was an organization formed for women going through divorce and custody cases.

So that they could retain custody or at the very least, visitation with their children. In the 1972, there is not a single case in which a lesbian mother had one custody. Not even just that there was no evidence that the lesbian mother had more visitation rights.

Fast-forward to 1986, there is this case in Florida where a judge gave custody of a 12-year-old girl to her father even though he was convicted of murdering his first wife. His first wife was a lesbian, and then in this other marriage, he was with the lesbian and he still won custody even though he was convicted of murder.

So we see clearly that while we have come some ways in society, the systems in place I heard in the chat earlier that while a lot of males think the systems won't work for them if they reach out for support, while we still have a long ways for the systems to work for all women as well.

So we can go to the next slide, AT. And if we are really talking about who is facing the disproportionate and the most disproportionate amounts of violence in a society we have to talk about transgender communities.

Trans folks experience a number of barriers to just existing in the world. In particular, trans women of colour face disproportionate amounts of homicide simply by being who they are. A useful resource is the National Centre for transgender equality.

They have a lot of different information on here, this snippet that you see right here from their website talks about the employment barriers that a lot of trans women face. And things like harassment, physical and sexual violence should never happen on the job but they are common occurrences for a lot of trans communities.

So the question for us is how can we respond to these disproportionate anomalies in our work? And one way to think about it is we have to make sure we are using an advocacy model this that supports survivors. There are many models to help support, such as the criminal legal systems of this like you will see has advocacy model on one side and the legal system on the other.

We are not going to get into it into much depth. But we did want to point out that in advocacy model, what you are looking for is a pattern of coercive control. When we are talking about intimate partner violence. So talking what a single incident silent, we are talking about looking for a pattern of control that occurs 24/7.

Which a lot of things happen, there are a lot of tactics didn't abusive partner can use. Only some are illegal, most are legal and importantly, they rely on systems of oppression in social inequalities to maintain their control.

So with all that in mind, I would love to hear how this is landing for people and take some questions and pause right here.

AMARINTHIA TORRES:

Sounds like the dog has a question in the background.

EDRIC FIGUEROA:

She always has questions, is it dinnertime yet? If there aren't any questions we can keep it moving Amarithia.

AMARINTHIA TORRES:

There are lovely tech support here on the webinar provided by the NRC DV folks so if there questions, they can certainly elevate them to us throughout so there will be more time and things to talk about for you.

OK, thank you so much Edric for that really great review of systemic harms. And how much that is connected to interpersonal violence. And how much it really matters that we are censuring those folks on the margins and also, really being clear about disproportionate impact.

Right? That that data and research into is actually experiencing disproportionate harm is so much of what systemic oppression is about in these big areas of scale as well as what we see so much in domestic violence. Right?

Which is so often about inequity and disproportionate impacts in a relationship where one person has inevitably way more power and access to choices than the other. So in many ways, I think our field and advocates are so skilled at being able to draw those connections.

We just need to ensure that we are continuing Now bringing us back to you, we started with these two big guiding questions, and only focused a bit more on some of these large collective analysis of gender. And I want to share a little bit more with you all about how we support survivors.

In focus a little bit more on this part of these guiding questions. And the next few slides are going to mostly be focusing on something of the LGBTQ Institute's approach to this topic, so we will be looking up it had some of the training and thinking and guidance on how to support survivors of all genders. And some of the tied coasts that we might use -- guide coasts that we might use as reference.

So these are a few cornerstones that we think about when we are thinking about supporting folks of all genders, and when we look to buy into programs, and national organizations like the LGBTQ Institute which have had a lot of years in doing this work. It is not a new thing to work with folks of all genders, these are things we have been doing for a long time.

So some of the things that seemed important to name an hallmarks of this approach, is that ideally you are setting up your program to have

lots of ways for people to get support. Lots of ways that recognize the range in which violence is happening, so that we can focus on not just survivor support, but also perhaps prevention. Preventing harm from happening to begin with. And recognizing that at least four many communities, and many organizations that are doing the work in the community, community engagement, community support, supporting people within this community and culture in a specific way is a really important part of what it means to do thorough and meaningful advocacy community. What that looks like is having supports and programs that are open to everyone.

A program that is not screened in any way, and that those kind of community engagement activities that are open to all our really carefully created so that they are not, they are not meant to be heavily screened, they are not meant to be only spaces where survivors are gathering. They are more meant to be inspiration and content -- information and content that is available to everyone.

Talking to communities about healthy relationships and identifying red flags of abuse. Those are skills that everybody needs, even someone that might be causing heart relationship may need information, good information about what abuse is like, what healthy relationships mean and look like. And that that information is information that everybody should have. Survivor supports on the other hand, things like sub survivor specific support groups, survivor specific efficacy.

One-on-one activity on the way, those can be really important to have spaces for just survivors that have survived coercive control are accessing those supports. And that all of these programs, the part of what that relies on, is that relies on having a consistent process by which you are determining if in fact that person's surviving coercive control in their relationships.

Because many of you probably know that there are times that folks reach out to your program, feeling a lot of conflict or challenges in their relationship, you may talk to them about their relationship and ask some good clarifying questions about what is going on. And you may come to find out that they may not actually be experiencing a pattern of control or coercive control, they may be experiencing some real incompatibility with their partner.

They may be experiencing some challenges with their partner respecting their boundaries in certain situations. But they may not be experiencing that patterns nature, that 24/7 nature of domestic violence survivor specific support groups might be really helpful to address, some of those types of experiences. And concerns that we know, through experiences of domestic violence.

So it can be really important to be really clear about that, about that particular distinction between survivor supports and open to all

supports. Because we know that folks that cause harm are not some popular group or other people. We know that those folks are part of our community, and they are in our community spaces, they are friends, they are family, they are people that we know.

And so we also do not want to be seeing those folks as disposable. But we do know that the supports that someone is causing harm might need will be very different in the force that someone was surviving harm might need. One of the strengths that I think of this approach is to really recognize that distinction and to build your programming such that you have a method by which you are determining who is causing harm, who was surviving harm, and building some programming that allows for a range of supports for people.

That way all of your programming can be still supporting all folks of genders -- folks of genders, but you also do have specific supports but also supports for people that may be causing harm. That is a way that we have seen that being successful in other culture specific program. And from support groups to what I want at sea, we have a lot of ex -- back of the sea advocacy... And hold a difference and some facilitators. We will talk more a little bit later about how support group in particular can look in an advocacy model and a model that is recognizing folks of all genders needing that support so that there will be sometime later on to get more into that as we go.

Similarly, our work supporting LGBTQ survivors of abuse, our own experiences with abuse, and all the LGBTQ at Québec pickets that came before us have really highlighted these -- algae LGBTQ advocates that have come before us have highlighted these.

To have these binary notions of who is causing harm, many of us may have had experiences where we have survived abuse by a woman we have been in a relationship with. We know that these narratives that are so limited do not equate in reality. And we know that we have to be more specific about what we mean by safe space. We know that when we are working with folks of all genders, we know that women, we know that men can survive abuse, and we know that men can cause harm.

We know that women can survive abuse, and we know that women can cause harm. That we know that folks everywhere along the gender spectrum can survive abuse and cause abuse, be abusive. And so we have to be more savvy about how we are determining who is causing harm. We cannot rely on gender, we can also not just rely on a checklist of behaviours. Any behaviour that we believe this approach would suggest, that any behaviour can be used to maintain coercive control or survive it. Even very problematic behaviour, even very violent behaviour, even behaviour that might be on that power and control meal.

Those behaviours if we see them showing up with someone that we are talking to, all of those behaviours can be used to cause harm, and

they can be used in a course of surviving. I'm sure many of us that work with survivors who have used behaviours that might fall on the wheel and are still in fact surprising hours of control, -- surviving coercive control... Complicated feelings about what they had to do in order to survive, the kinds of choices that maybe they felt they had to make.

That were not allied with their values or did not feel good for them, but seemed like the only choice that they had to survive what might have been very dangerous. You know, very scary harm. And they have been away, they were surviving in that relationship.

We know that it is not about singular behaviours, but that pattern of coercive control over time that I mentioned previously as well. Another area of the LGBTQ Institute's approach is really looking at research and data that exists in our field about what some of the impacts and harms are when people are experiencing domestic violence. Or coercive control, and so there is some research and studies that I will point people to. We will not go super into unpacking all of the data, but they are there for you to access at a later time.

Additionally, we find that it is really important to look at the impacts of violence, just as we have been talking about looking at disproportionate impacts at the systemic society level. We also felt it is important to apply that to what we know about domestic violence at the interpersonal level. We have to really think about who was just a fortunately in impact to, disproportionately impacted... That abuse is inherently to that word about one person holding more power over the other at the expense of another person.

This research shows that some of these differential impacts, and who was experiencing harm and what those impacts are. Significant impact was something that they measured in the study. And they looked at what are some of the tangible impacts from people that have experienced rate, stocking or physical violence by partner. -- Experienced rape stocking, or physical violence from a partner.

... Gauged what those impacts were, and so the staff from that slide is from this national sexual violence survey, and so this is just giving you a little bit more depth into what those implants were.

It is not so much about, this whole survey was trying to get at not so much about someone experiencing harm, or experiencing a behaviour, they did a lot of data on who experienced what kind of violence. But they also wanted to know what are the actual impacts of back? Sometimes the impacts of were higher for some folks, and having to go to the hospital because of injuries. Or, needing to miss days of work as a result of the violence that's open experience, and for other folks in their own way of self reporting on the violence of experience. They did not list or name that they have these kind of

impact.

There are disproportionate impact of the ways that violence can sometimes be experience. And I think that tracks to a lot of people's experience with efficacy, sometimes people experience the same but the impact on them might be very different. And so this was a way of trying to quantify that and understand what some of those impacts were.

And so when we looked at that, when the survey looked at Pat, this is some of what emerged. And so what we want to highlight here, rather than go into all the details of the data, what we want to highlight is that we know people of all genders experience coercive control. And we know that people of all genders need support to survive the impacts of coercive control.

In the impacts of coercive control and abuse are not gender-neutral. This takes us back to our collective understanding of power and gender, and a feminist analysis of that impact of power. We have to be able to acknowledge the ways that gender is powered, and there is a want of history rooted in patriarchy that we are still in the throes of. And so gender neutrality, just having things be seen as neutral is really not serving us.

And in fact, that neutrality approach really erases some of the actual disproportionate impacts that many of us know exist from our work with survivors. And so, actually, I think we have two slides in here I will just get to this one as the better slide use.

Neutrality is not the answer. A gender neutral service model might welcome survivors of all genders, but through a lens of we do not see gender. Kind of like Edric was mentioning. We treat everyone the same, and while this might seem like a simple solution to increase access to people of all genders.

This model really ignores power, and it ignores how gender is powered. And it ignores patriarchy. And if we do not see gender, we also do not see the disparities caused by gender oppression. And that is why this is a more problematic approach to trying to make services more inclusive.

So to say it plain, survivors need to survive or supports. Instead of programs trying to fuss around with separating out we do not serve men or we do not serve these folks are we only serve, you know, we do not know how to serve gender queer people or non-binary people.

Some of these roles that have been created to have so much to do with separating people based on perceptions of gender were based on sex, really miss the point. Right? The filter we should be looking at to understand were set up or supports around is actually around survivor

groups.

And ensuring that we are supporting survivors in our work. That is where some of what we have noticed people struggle with is around this piece of determining who is causing harm and who is surviving harm? In an effort to be inclusive to everybody, we find that programs are sometimes skipping a few steps before they have really determined is this person surviving domestic violence?

So obviously, as we said, the supports are very different that someone might need beyond what is happening in their relationship history. So we have to be really clear but what those are book -- before we can have a position about this is what we suggest to be a survivor support group.

So we will talk a little bit more actually about how are we studying those services in our intake process? Or how are we determining is somebody copping -- causing harm or surviving horn -- harm because it can be complicated and complex.

So that is for talking about advocacy and how we can ensure that we are supporting survivors. So that was also a lot of information, as we said we will go ahead and pause and see if anybody has questions or engage and do our best to answer your questions in the moment as we can.

MARCI TAITT-LAMAR:

Amarinthia, there is a question in the chat that asks what are some more resources to learn more? This was a bit earlier in the chat.

AMARINTHIA TORRES:

Well, and easy when it comes to mind is a little more self promotional I guess in that Edric and I just worked with the LGBTQ Institute to write up some documents on this topic.

And we have the question of the month which is something they offer and we wrote the TA question of the month for both May and June. So there's one that is already out and hot off the presses, that folks can check out to read more about faults on this topic.

And then, there is a second run, that is a follow-up that will be released very soon. In June. It is June now but it will be out there very soon, a couple of weeks probably. So those couple, you know, I would say one book that I can find helpful to this conversation has been some of the older writings.

From some of the queer and LGBT ancestors or forward thinkers. You know, people in the field that have put forward so much guidance and brilliance to these topics. When that comes to mind is homophobia, a weapon of sexism by Suzanne Barr and that has some things that are

little dated.

It is from I think the 70s to 80s but it really has a great way of drawing intersections between sexism, as the primary source of where so much homophobia and rigid gender comes from. And I think it is a great resource.

I have also particularly enjoyed reading and it can be kind of dense but (unknown term) is another great book that I learned a lot from in this topic as well. Those are a few of my thoughts. But maybe there are more questions popping up in the chat and we can pause and see where we are at.

EDRIC FIGUEROA:

Yeah, there were some questions that I think would be good to address right now. There is one that said how do we deal with moniker if they associate their violence with gender? How do you suggest keeping those biases out a safe space but keeping away from triggers?

If I may, I would love to turn this question back to advocates back on here and ask them how do you respond to triggers in general when they come up? Because I think that is something we all have experience with, even if it is not particularly around this idea that having a male in a program or support group would be triggering.

I also welcome your thoughts on that Amarinthia but I thought it would be a good opportunity for sharing.

AMARINTHIA TORRES:

That is great. Yeah, what do people think? I'm going to go back and read through the questions as well.

EDRIC FIGUEROA:

Yeah, so how do you support a survivor that has been triggered? In your advocacy, support groups or other programs? What are some lessons from y'all? "Meet them where they are, just be present" I think that is great.

"The open to whether they would like to talk". Deep breathing is the best. Yeah, I think there are probably a lot of different exercises that are either on active listening, breathing or grounding. Lots of times you can take a break and step out and talk it out with people.

So those are all great things when it happens in the moment. Safety, keeping the lime on the desk is accretive idea. There are a lot of great ideas coming in the chat. Depending on your capacity, I think the answer is going to be different.

But one thing that came to mind that we'll talk but a little later and we can just go through right now is we can be intentional around what

our supports and groups look like. And really have those conversations about this is what the group looks like, is it going to be triggering for you?

Because so often, we will have groups of the same gender or even seem identity and there are still things that people say or do that act as a trigger for other people. So if we just see this as an additional layer to that that we can actually plan for, and some survivors might not be ready.

They may not be ready to enter a mixed group and we can honour that determination and hopefully have options so it does not have to be either/or. Anyway you would respond to that, Amarinthia?

AMARINTHIA TORRES:

I think so much of what that speaks to his challenges that can come from holding space for survivors when there are so many differences. Because many of us probably, if we take gender out of it for a second, not that you can ever really take gender out of anything.

But if we try to put it aside for a split second, many of us have probably facilitated support groups where people might be triggered by another person's experience around abuse. And that there is triggering happening of a group of survivors for a range of reasons that may not have to do with the gender of that person.

Bringing up trauma related to the fact that they share the same gender as the person who is abusive to them. So I would say it is similar in how we might navigate that, I remember having to navigate this in a group setting.

I one point, where someone felt really soothed by essential oils and sent based you know, lavender, things like that in the group to be able to bring them self back and be present. And somebody else felt really triggered by that, triggered by that and had a lot of sensitivity to that.

So there was conflict in the group and we had to sort out together as a group, OK, how do we want to balance these two needs of the group? And really speaking back to the group and having group agreements that you can lean on.

I think also it came to mind for me was sometimes I think as a field we – I think there's a tendency to feel as though someone is triggered, we have to do everything we can to try to avoid that trigger in the future. Or make safe space so no trigger can ease or subside.

I do not think that is a bad approach necessarily but a lot of our advocacy with LGBT survivors was really recognizing that making a

survivors world smaller and smaller and smaller by avoiding trigger after trigger after trigger, is not exactly a robust and you know, not exactly a robust life full of agency.

We want folks to have choices about how they respond and react. And when someone is triggered, there is actually a lot of choices that they have about how to respond and move forward or how they want to take care of themselves and what they might need in response to that trigger.

So I think some of it is also for us to remember that we do not have to be frozen as well or stuck. In just the trigger occurring. And we do not have to promote ideas of just trying to avoid every possible trigger that may emerge. Because that inevitably does not give survivors a lot of skills for how to move through a trigger.

And get on the other side of it we can say OK, there's this trigger, there it is, how do I want to move into it and ease and actually have that trigger be less of an impact to me over time to where it is not so ever present.

And I think that is something we as a field have a lot of experience with but also sometimes I think struggle when we have these conflicting triggers, right? Among survivors, we sometimes struggle with that. Yeah, so those are a few of my thoughts.

EDRIC FIGUEROA:

That was very well put I think in terms of we cannot live in a world that is not going to trigger us. But we can work towards dealing with her triggers and going to the process and acknowledge that what they're feeling is real.

There is another question and how this idea of inviting all genders into a shelter might work and I think that is a much more complicated conversation. That we do not have time for today but some of the ways in which both in environment contributes.

The different gender dynamics of shelter are something to consider. I know that a lot of programs that they do not have money to do a housing first, model of shelter where everyone gets their own private room. And for those shelters, it is probably much easier to say here is rooms for whatever gender you are.

For communal shelter it is probably a lot different. But is there anything that you wanted to add before I move forward, Amarinthia? To that question.

AMARINTHIA TORRES:

I do not think so, I would say there's plenty and this model can absolutely, I believe it can absolutely work with shelter based model

within shelter. And it is true that the built environment creates several challenges for queer people and also inner experience for lots of folks, right?

Sharing personal space with a bunch of strangers you know, where you are trying to navigate kitchens and coaching – my cooking and bathrooms where everyone is at a very difficult, maybe one of the most difficult times in their lives.

And you are trying to add in all these factors in this shared environment. It means a lot of need for creativity and problem solving all the time. You know, we have really benefited in her advocacy programs that we do have yeah, some of this Housing first model where folks have a private room.

In a hotel or apartment complex is part of the program. But there are actually great resources we can see now that speak to some of this. The built environment P so we can certainly send that out to folks so they can follow up since we maybe do not have enough time to address it fully.

EDRIC FIGUEROA:

And loving all of the questions and comments in the chat. Where learning from each other which is all we can hope for when you do a webinar. Amarinthia, some real-time switching things up because some of these questions are around the service provision, what if I just introduce what an assessment tool is?

And then we go straight ahead into the last section of the webinar?

AMARINTHIA TORRES:

I think that is great, yeah. Perfect. When should we skip to?

EDRIC FIGUEROA:

We can skip to the assessment tool. The one says there is no simple formula. You will get all the slides, SEWA (the of time).

AMARINTHIA TORRES:

Just a few slides there.

EDRIC FIGUEROA:

And I will just touch on this life or second before we move forward. -- Touched on this life or second before we move forward. Before we move forward there is no simple formula to determine, and that (Static) understanding oppression but also discerning for patterns of control for the course of control in a relationship so this idea of gender with services is not possible for gender rich survivor specific rather services is not possible without something like an assessment process in place.

Something I can look at, right here is all the things that are going wrong, the dynamics of all parties involved, and here is who we think is surviving based on this information that we have collected from directly talking to the survivors. This is not an assessment training, so we will not go into, we had a bit of an over you but we will just skip ahead to the last section, because I think this is more relevant to the questions here, but he has is to say that we will have another TH you published on that later, even of next week, we will make sure that webinar attendees get a link to that, because it does talk about what the SS across and is and why it is important if we are talking about serving that and serving all survivors.

Let us skip ahead. The next one. 45, yeah. So maybe in this section, we can talk about the neutrality if you want to start with that. I can turn it back to you.

AMARINTHIA TORRES:

Perfect. Great, sorry, you mean this check question?

EDRIC FIGUEROA:

Yeah, we can start with the chaps question. I was also thinking we could respond to Katie's question. In services.

AMARINTHIA TORRES:

Perfect, in the chaps, sorry I did not have the chaps open up. Thank you everybody for hang in there... While also not sick getting services based on identity? This is a great question. Is the idea to address difference in impact with all participants. This is really great.

Yes, I think this is a really good point, because there can be, there absolutely can be not benefit to some spaces being very aligned or connected with a shared identity. I think there is a motto value at times that folks get out of spaces in which there is a common identity shared. And in particular, I think that that is, can be really important, particularly amongst marginalized groups.

Identity-based, shared spaces, whether that is yoga event for folks of colour only, or spaces where black folk can come together and share about their experiences as black people in society that is very anti-black can be really meaningful and the important spaces to have.

I think that we have found so I just want to say upfront, I think Edric you have talked about the this in such a lovely way, I think about really asking the question of whose needs are being prioritized in decisions around doing segregated services or supports. I do not know if you want to speak anymore for that, in terms of services to survivors in our field in the anti-violence field. I am a big fan of, actually a really big fan of the mixed groups, assuming that you can determine that folks are survivors.

Know that you can go through the process of ensuring that everyone in there, has survived violence and has a shared similar experience of surviving. In their relationship. Whether that group is made up of, you know, male identified folks, as Viens, queer folks, gender queer folks, trans folks, ages, different religions, backgrounds, all the ways that survivors are so diverse in their lived experience.

That actually seeing those differences, but also see how similar peoples extremes this option are in surviving violence is hugely profound in people's lives and in interrupting some of the biases that we can have a route people of different identities than us. At least in queer community, that every community has struggles around bias or perceptions or assumptions they are making about another group member.

Even in a clear specific group, you just saw really beautiful -- even in a clear specific group... And I imagine that is a similar experience may be people have had during groups that are bringing together folks of a lot of difference, but the central piece has to be that you are determining that they are surviving.

So that in the relationship, so that that shared identity is what is bringing people together. Otherwise I think that it can get very complicated and can start to feel like less of a safe space, quote unquote. I do not know if that speaks to the question, Edric, did you want to speak?

EDRIC FIGUEROA:

I think that you hit it right on, are you segregating the services to build solidarity? There is always going to be the need for culturally specific programs, because that is the way oppression works. But if we are trying to save as is for survivors, then simply saying that we do not know how to deal with this because they are men, or we do not want people to be triggered, it is not actually serve serving survivors or growth as advocates, I think these things are puzzles muscles that it be we can grow our skills with that, and also everybody has to work with them their old cultural movements -- cultural limits.

Understanding what is going to land and what is not, are important, it also not being afraid to take risks. It yourself permission to try something, if it does not work try something different.

AMARINTHIA TORRES:

Since we were just on it, I wanted to skip through to this section on creating structural difference, and if we have time we can also go back to the other ones, but we are talking about group and differences in the self right on point. We can also go back to the more one on one advocacy one later if we have time.

EDRIC FIGUEROA:

Exactly, we are creating our structuralist for difference, meaning that we are embracing people's intersections of identity in our supports and there are many ways to do that. And they are vital to the environment, like we sat a little bit earlier, letting people know up front what our supports looks like, that includes values. Whether the support group is based on a religious background or an antidepressant, all that is important because it will influence the support that you offer.

And the way that we have done support groups is always making sure that our agreements spoke directly towards having an expectation that will respect identities and redirect where correct comments are harmful like racism, sexism, trans phobia or other isms. All of those things are some simple ways to create structures. Anything that you want to add, Amarinthia?

AMARINTHIA TORRES:

, No, I think that was great. I am OK with just knowing that conflict might come up, and that that might also help with some of the concerns that people had around when folks are triggered or when you are activated in some way. Or with physiological response is triggered. Having that structure is really helpful, and making space for the differences that may emerge, and putting that as a regular part of your time.

So now it is not like there is a time conflict around difference, we have to do some different process of the group. You make it, and just as a part of your outline every week's group is how we did it anyway. That way it is not unusual, it is not really something, like an add-on structure that has to happen because someone did something wrong. Some of my we seek conflict in particular for survivors so much about how conflict has emerged has been in an abusive way.

So part of that group is to rebuild, and maybe repair our association with conflict. You can have normal conflicts in a relationship or in a space and in disagreements and it is OK. It does not have to be scary or abusive. But it can be confusing if you have a history.

EDRIC FIGUEROA:

Yeah, this reminds me of the slide that your hat is like a woman space does not medically equal safe space, and even an identity-based spaces for people that are just (indiscernible) there is still lots of conflict and I would say that identity space to space does not value to essay space, and when there is that value spaces like all of us are raising different values, there are going to be different conflicts.

AMARINTHIA TORRES:

Is a great point, it can sometimes be a very, a bomber feeling if you hope that there are value alignments in a shared space, sometimes that can be a bit of a rude awakening.

EDRIC FIGUEROA:

This is an example of what Amarinthia was talking about,

EDRIC FIGUEROA:

And foreign organization, we had time to bring up will business, so you will see that as a regular agenda item, every support group at us time to reflect on the last one, in particular we welcomed participants to say something triggered me last week and here's why. And either go directly towards it with the person that made a statement or thoughts in a respectful way. There was also time for facilitators to model solving likely introduce the topic last week, that we could not facilitate net good way, people feeling triggered, so having a structured in place that models the idea in the ways that we believe that we should be showing them as survivors, as people existing and in perfect world were really helpful. And it is really couple to have the structure for.

And because we were (indiscernible), we also had a bit of ground rules and it was a little bit hard to read on here, but we also made it clear that we expect people that are coming to group to let us know if they are starting to date, we can make a plan out whether they should be in a group or if what is step outside, but they can of course be friends, facilitators, and they were jealous, they can live their lives but we expect to see transparency around what is going on with her outside relationships.

Because that is going to impact the groups. Ways in which, include people of all genders in the group. A quick

AMARINTHIA TORRES:

Do you want to go to the check questions around what support folks might need? Because we have a little bit of time left, and I just try to see how we want to wrap up for today.

EDRIC FIGUEROA:

Thank you for hanging in with us, I think it makes sense for us to take any last questions and we can introduce this last question as if people want to respond to it, but really anything that is coming to your mind, and we only have a few minutes left. We are around for a few minutes afterwards, so do not be shy with those questions.

So what are areas, what areas do you or your program need more support in welcoming folks of all genders? This could be your homework to think about if you do not ask it now.

AMARINTHIA TORRES:

Great stuff in the chat, I am just catching up here. And thank you Megan, and for everybody. Yes, talk about the whole topic of another webinar traps. Or, not -- another webinar perhaps... I think that

there is a lot of that can happen that is not enough room for, just real learning and recognizing that we are all learning.

And that we have a lot to unlearn. And more relational connections rather than sort of more performative way of some of that can be really tricky and difficult. You now, do not get me started on social media, but I think that is a part of the problem. I will leave it there.

EDRIC FIGUEROA:

That is a great thing, because it is performative activism, it is not just in-house to have people of all genders or queer folks, ongoing training is going to be a key component of working with many diverse community. That I hope that there are other resources for technical assistance.

AMARINTHIA TORRES:

Yes, thank you and. Wrapping with this question is at the LGBTQ Institute, we see this as well and guide some of the resources your way. If they exist or can focus more time on following up in some of these areas.

I think helping with shelter policies and thinking but that shared space dynamic and just how hard it can be for shelter advocates to an advocate -- navigate all the needs survivors have in this communal way and the way that brings up questions but inclusion and difference.

So it really is an area with trainings and TA, folks in shelter programs. There is just so much richness there and complication. And it's a complicated approach, maybe not complicated but definitely a need for a lot of creative thinking, leadership.

You know, and a clear sense of purpose to make hard changes. And make it happen for that broader goal of inclusion. So that is great to hear. Any other last thoughts or questions in the chat about anything today or anything that has been shared thus far?

MARCI TAITT-LAMAR:

Awesome. Thank you everybody for joining today's session. We are super excited that everyone was able to make it and please be sure to respond to our brief survey as you log out.

It means a lot for us to be able to get that feedback, thank you and thank you to our wonderful presenters, thank you two are interpreters, or translators. We all appreciate everybody for contributing to this session. Thanks everyone!

EDRIC FIGUEROA:

Thank you.

AMARINTHIA TORRES:

Thank you so much, it was great to engage with you all.

EDRIC FIGUEROA:

Thank you for letting us do this today!

AMARINTHIA TORRES:

Yeah.

("Live captioning by Ai-Media")