



LOVE CURRICULUM FOR PROVIDERS

HANDOUTS

A Resource For Supporting Formerly Incarcerated Women, Girls, and Gender-Expansive People

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ABOUT THE LOVE PROJECT



National Crittenton - in partnership with National Black Women's Justice Institute and Young Women's Freedom Center received funding in 2018 from the Office on Violence Against Women to develop the Leadership of Voices of Experience (LOVE) Project. Core to this project is the development of the LOVE Curriculum for Providers to support advocates, victim service providers, and other stakeholders who work directly with current and/or formerly incarcerated women, girls and gender-expansive people.

At its heart, the LOVE Project critically centers diverse voices and expertise, including formerly incarcerated individuals and leaders in criminal justice reform, victims' services, and gender-responsive services. The deep partnership with the LOVE Subject Matter Expert advisory group, and through learnings from conversations with systems-impacted survivors and providers, the LOVE Curriculum for Providers intentionally centers the needs and expertise of those directly impacted by gender-based violence and incarceration.

How to use the LOVE curriculum for providers - handouts

The handouts in this document support the activities and discussions described in the LOVE Curriculum for Providers Facilitation Guide. These handouts include a brief description of the activity, any additional context that is helpful for working through the activity, and the steps that you, as participants, will engage, as individuals or in small groups.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT WORKING WITH FORMERLY INCARCERATED SURVIVORS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE - *PRE-READING*

This activity provides an overview of gender-based violence and incarceration, setting the context for continued discussions about service provision for survivors of incarceration and gender-based violence.

Step 1: Read What You Need to Know About Working with Formerly Incarcerated Survivors of Gender-Based Violence

Step 2: Participate in a group discussion related to the reading

Defining gender-based violence

Gender-based violence (GBV)¹ is physical, psychological, emotional violence and/or coercion directed at a person because of their gender. Often, GBV is used to refer to sexual assault, rape, and domestic violence. However, it can also include:

- physical abuse
- emotional abuse
- sexual assault
- sexual violence
- child sexual abuse
- domestic violence
- intimate partner violence
- sexual harassment
- stalking
- inappropriate touching

Early on, GBV was a term used to characterize violence directed at women by men. However, as society's conception of gender has evolved, the meaning of the term has expanded accordingly. Now, GBV includes violence directed at a

¹ New York City Mayor's Office to end Domestic and Gender-Based Violence. (n.d.) What is Gender-Based Violence? <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/ocdv/services/introduction-to-domestic-violence-and-gender-based-violence.page>

person because of their gender identity or expression, in recognition that GBV occurs outside of the antiquated gender binary. At its core, GBV is violence used to demonstrate one's power and dominance over another person because of their gender identity.²

Pathways to confinement

The criminal legal system exercises its dominance and control over people and communities using violence and an extensive repertoire of coercive control. Yet, the harm and violence the criminal legal system exacts is targeted with considerable precision. The data show that people of color, particularly Black Americans, are at significantly higher risk of law enforcement contact and incarceration.³ There is also evidence that the factors that increase women and girls' risk of contact with law enforcement and the criminal legal system are different from the factors associated with men's risk of contact and incarceration. These differences have led scholars to argue there are "gendered" pathways into the criminal legal system.⁴ In this section, we will highlight how race and gender intersect to create conditions that uniquely shape women and girls' risk of contact and their interactions and experiences with the criminal legal system and its actors.

Race

The U.S. incarcerates more people per capita than any other country.⁵ Over one million people are incarcerated in state prisons across the country.⁶ In 2016, Black people represented over one-third of all people who were incarcerated, although they only accounted for only 12% of the general population. Meanwhile, white people were 32% of all incarcerated people in the US but represent 62% of the total U.S. population.⁷ While Black people and other groups of color (i.e., Latinx and Indigenous people) are overrepresented in prisons nationwide, by comparison white people are significantly underrepresented.

² New York City Mayor's Office to end Domestic and Gender-Based Violence. (n.d.) What is Gender-Based Violence? <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/ocdv/services/introduction-to-domestic-violence-and-gender-based-violence.page>

³ Wang, L., Sawyer, W., Herring, T., & Widra, E. (2021). Beyond the count: A deep dive into state prison populations. Prison Policy Initiative. <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/beyondthecount.html>

⁴ Chesney-Lind, M., & Shelden, R. (2014). Girls, delinquency, and juvenile justice (4th ed.) Wiley-Blackwell

⁵ Widra, E., & Herring, T. (2021). States of incarceration: The global context 2021. Prison Policy Initiative. <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/global/2021.html>

⁶ Wang, L., Sawyer, W., Herring, T., & Widra, E. (2021). Beyond the count: A deep dive into state prison populations. Prison Policy Initiative. <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/beyondthecount.html>

⁷ Wang, L., Sawyer, W., Herring, T., & Widra, E. (2021). Beyond the count: A deep dive into state prison populations. Prison Policy Initiative. <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/beyondthecount.html>

Distressing racial disparities are evident throughout the criminal legal and juvenile legal systems, including at the front-end, starting with law enforcement contact. Cities across the country, most notably New York City, implemented race-based policing practices in Black neighborhoods that were widely known as “stop and frisk.” This practice stopped only after the courts determined stop and frisk was unconstitutional, citing that police officers were stopping and frisking Black and Latinx people without probable cause merely because of their race and ethnicity.⁸ Despite the unconstitutionality of stop and frisk, Black people remain more likely than other groups to be the subjects of street and vehicle stops. Black people are more likely to experience vehicle stops by police, even though there is no evidence that they are any more likely than other racial and ethnic groups to commit moving violations while driving.⁹

For Black people in particular, the disproportionate risk of contact with law enforcement also significantly increases their exposure to police violence and brutality, as well as their risk of being killed by police. While data show that Black men and boys have the greatest lifetime risk of being killed by police (it is estimated that 1 in 1000 Black men and boys will be killed by police in their lifetime), the risk of being killed by police is also greatest for Black and Indigenous women (2.4-5.5 per 100,000 and 4.2 per 100,000 respectively).¹⁰ Unfortunately, the brutality and harm that Black women and other women of color experience at the hands of police is often overlooked because it is perceived to be a less severe problem.

Gender

Despite efforts to reduce the number of people in U.S. prisons, the growth of the women’s prison population has outpaced the growth of the men’s prison population. In fact, in eight states, the number of incarcerated women increased while the number of incarcerated men declined.¹¹ The rise of women’s incarceration is due in part to policies that criminalize women’s survival strategies; mandatory arrest policies that criminalize women for fighting back

⁸ Center for Constitutional Rights. (2022). NYPD Continues to Underreport Use of Stop and Frisk; Severe Racial Disparities Persist. Retrieved from <https://ccrjustice.org/home/press-center/press-releases/nypd-continues-underreport-use-stop-and-frisk-severe-racial>

⁹ Baumgartner, F. R., Epp, D. A., & Shoub, K. (2018). Suspect citizens: What 20 million traffic stops tell us about policing and race. Cambridge University Press.

¹⁰ Edwards, F., Lee, H., & Esposito, M. (2019). Risk of being killed by police use of force in the United States by age, race–ethnicity, and sex. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 116(34), 16793-16798. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1821204116>

¹¹ Sawyer, W. (2018). The Gender Divide: Tracking Women's State Prison Growth. Prison Policy Initiative. https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/women_overtime.html

against domestic violence,¹² and the arrest and punishment of women and gender-expansive people who engage in sex work to financially support themselves.¹³ Women of color have always experienced heightened risk of incarceration compared to white women, and that risk has only increased as the size of the women's prison population has grown and the net of correctional control has widened.

The criminal legal system also disproportionately incarcerates women who are survivors of gender-based violence. One study found that 86% of women in jails reported they were survivors of sexual violence, 77% reported they were survivors of intimate partner violence, and 60% reported they experienced caregiver violence as children.¹⁴ Another study found that nearly 70% incarcerated women reported sexual victimization during their lifetime, and 17% reported experiencing sexual victimization in prison.¹⁵ These are distressing statistics. The prevalence of gender-based violence among incarcerated women is much higher than among women in the general population, which was 44% for women in 2015.¹⁶

Experiencing sexual violence is one of the strongest predictors of women and girls' criminal legal system involvement.¹⁷ Although empirical research has not yet established a direct, causal link between gender-based violence and women and girls' incarceration, studies suggest that experiencing gender-based violence sets off a series of aftershocks that increase women and girls' risk of coming into contact with the criminal legal system. Many youth who run away

¹² Hovmand, P. S., Ford, D. N., Flom, I., & Kyriakakis, S. (2009). Victims arrested for domestic violence: Unintended consequences of arrest policies. *System Dynamics Review: The Journal of the System Dynamics Society*, 25(3), 161-181. <https://doi.org/10.1002/sdr.418>

¹³ Sawyer, W. (2018). *The Gender Divide: Tracking Women's State Prison Growth*. Prison Policy Initiative. https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/women_overtime.html

¹⁴ Swavola, E, Riley, K, Subramanian, R. (2016). *Overlooked: Women and Jails in an Era of Reform*. Vera Institute of Justice. <https://www.vera.org/downloads/publications/overlooked-women-and-jails-report-updated.pdf>

¹⁵ Blackburn, A. G., Mullings, J. L., & Marquart, J. W. (2008). Sexual Assault in Prison and Beyond: Toward an Understanding of Lifetime Sexual Assault Among Incarcerated Women. *The Prison Journal*, 88(3), 351–377. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0032885508322443>

¹⁶ Smith, S.G., Zhang, X., Basile, K.C., Merrick, M.T., Wang, J., Kresnow, M., Chen, J. (2018). *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2015 Data Brief – Updated Release*. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/2015data-brief508.pdf>

¹⁷ Herrera, V. M., & McCloskey, L. A. (2003). Sexual abuse, family violence, and female delinquency: Findings from a longitudinal study. *Violence and victims*, 18(3), 319-334. DOI: [10.1891/vivi.2003.18.3.319](https://doi.org/10.1891/vivi.2003.18.3.319)

from home are survivors of child sexual abuse;¹⁸ running away is also the most common “offense” for which girls are placed in youth detention.¹⁹ Running away was the second most common reason Black girls came in contact with the juvenile legal system. Nineteen percent of Black girls had cases involving running away, compared to 8% of white girls.²⁰ Meanwhile, a study of incarcerated adult women found that trauma exposure, particularly from sexual violence, increased their risk of severe mental illness, triggering substance abuse, drug sales, and property crime as coping and survival mechanisms.²¹ In effect, the criminal legal system criminalizes women, especially women of color, for their survival.

Incarceration is traumatic. Prisons and jails inflict violence and harm that has long-lasting effects. While incarcerated, people are subjected to punitive practices that strip them of their identities, isolate them, and force disconnection, and deny them control and management over their own bodies. For survivors of gender-based violence, incarceration resembles their experiences of sexual abuse, intimate partner violence, and exploitation. For example, strip searches and the lack of privacy in prisons and jails can be triggering for incarcerated survivors, reminding them of past abuse. People who are incarcerated are also particularly vulnerable to sexual assault by prison staff and others while inside. For survivors of gender-based violence, incarceration compounds past trauma and engenders new traumas.

¹⁸ Davis, L. (2019). Why youth run away – national runaway prevention month. Retrieved from <https://familyresourcesinc.org/2019/11/why-youth-run-away/>

¹⁹ Ehrmann, S., Hyland, N., & Puzanchera, C. M. (2019). Girls in the juvenile justice system. US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh176/files/pubs/251486.pdf>

²⁰ Ehrmann, S., Hyland, N., & Puzanchera, C. M. (2019). Girls in the juvenile justice system. US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh176/files/pubs/251486.pdf>

²¹ Lynch, S. M., DeHart, D. D., Belknap, J. E., & Green, B. L. (2012). Women’s pathways to jail: The roles & intersections of serious mental illness & trauma. Bureau of Justice Assistance. <https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/womens-pathways-jail-roles-intersections-serious-mental-illness>

Special topics: sex work, immigration, and trans and gender nonconforming (GNC) populations

Trans and GNC populations in prisons and jails

The US criminal legal system subscribes to the conventional gender binary, which asserts there are only two genders: “male” or “female”. More than that, the system generally categorizes people based on the gender they were assigned at birth, not the gender with which they self-identify. Even though the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) prohibits federal, state, and local prisons and jails from assigning people to places of confinement based on their external genitalia, administrators are only required to consider a person’s self-identified gender when deciding where a person should be incarcerated. As a result, people throughout the country are incarcerated in prisons and jails that do not align with their gender identity. Not only does this practice negatively affect the emotional well-being and mental health of transgender, gender nonconforming, and nonbinary people who are incarcerated, it poses a serious risk to their physical safety. A study of California state prisons for men found that transgender people are most likely to experience sexual assault and rape while incarcerated.²² More research is needed to understand how gender identity affects the safety and well-being of transgender women placed in women’s prisons.

Immigration detention

Risk and fear of immigration detention are especially high among undocumented immigrants. Although there are provisions in the Violence Against Women Act that mitigate detention and deportation risk domestic violence survivors, fear may override immigrant women’s willingness to report experiences of violence and victimization. Although the Department of Homeland Security defines immigration detention as the temporary placement of people in physical custody while a determination is made about deportation, the experiences and conditions inside mimic prisons and jails. In 2017, a report from the Inspector General noted serious concerns about the care and treatment of people placed in detention. Just as in prisons and jails, people in immigration detention are subject to strip

²² Jenness, V., Maxson, C. L., Matsuda, K. N., & Sumner, J. M. (2007). Violence in California correctional facilities: An empirical examination of sexual assault. *Bulletin*, 2(2), 1-4. <https://www.prearesourcecenter.org/sites/default/files/library/55-preapresentationpreareportucijennesetal.pdf>

searches, delayed and inadequate healthcare, misuse of segregation, and physical and sexual abuse.²³ Four women at an immigration detention center in Georgia reported that they were sexually assaulted by a male nurse, from whom they sought medical care.²⁴ The differences between prisons, jails, and immigration detention centers are superficial. Immigration detention is not outside the U.S. carceral system at all. Immigrants' experiences of coercive control, punishment, and unsafe living conditions inside detention centers are akin to the experiences of people incarcerated in prisons and jails.

Sex work

The criminalization of sex work disproportionately impacts women and trans gender people of color. In 2017, 61% of people arrested for sex work were women, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Uniform Crime Report. Many consider sex work a “crime” of survival that people turn to when other employment opportunities are limited or difficult to access. For formerly incarcerated women, sex work may be the only available source of income, given the difficulty they have securing employment after incarceration, especially formerly incarcerated Black women who have the highest unemployment rate at 47%.²⁵ There are legislative efforts within Congress and in state houses to decriminalize sex work because of the harm and risk that policing poses to sex workers. Police abuse of sex workers is well-documented. In addition to verbal and physical threats and violence, police may extort or coerce sexual acts from sex workers who fear arrest. The violence and abuse against sex workers by police, and others, is undoubtedly under-reported due to fears that people would not believe them or think they could be victims of sexual violence because of their work. A fear of retaliation and being targeted by police also discourages reporting to law enforcement and others, making sex workers susceptible to ongoing police violence. Although there have been calls to decriminalize sex work, arguing doing so would increase workers' safety, others contend that full decriminalization would jeopardize the safety of people engaged in sex work, particularly people forced to engage in sex work. Nevertheless, all agree that people who engage

²³ Office of the Inspector General. (2017). Concerns about ICE Detainee Treatment and Care at Detention Facilities. Washington, DC: Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Inspector General (OIG), 2017-12. <https://www.oig.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/2017-12/OIG-18-32-Dec17.pdf>

²⁴ 'Abuse and cover-up': Complaint alleges sexual assault, retaliation at for-profit immigrant prison in Georgia. (2022). Retrieved from <https://www.splcenter.org/news/2022/07/14/complaint-alleges-sexual-assault-retaliation-immigrant-prison>

²⁵ Couloute, L., & Kopf, D. (2018). Out of prison & out of work: Unemployment among formerly incarcerated people. Prison Policy Initiative. <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/outofwork.html>

in sex work should not be policed and criminalized, as arrests for sex work can have serious consequences, including impeding access to housing, healthcare, employment, and other services—all of which are vital resources for mitigating the risk of contact with the criminal legal system and preventing rearrest and reincarceration for women returning home.²⁶

²⁶ ACLU. (2022). It's time to decriminalize sex work. Retrieved from <https://www.aclu.org/news/topic/its-time-to-decriminalize-sex-work>

POWER AND CONTROL ACTIVITY

The Power and Control wheel was developed in Duluth, Minnesota by the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project.²⁷ This wheel describes tactics of power and control exerted through physical and sexual violence in relationships where there is intimate partner violence. This wheel described most commonly the experience of violence by cisgender men toward cisgender women.

For this activity, we will be using the updated Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Trans Power and Control Wheel, adapted by Roe and Jagodinsky, which updates the wheel to be inclusive of LGBTQIA+ relationships.²⁸

Step 1: Review the updated Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Trans Power and Control Wheel

Step 2: Determine which group(s) will work on each of the three handouts: Before Incarceration, During Incarceration, Post Incarceration

Step 3: Take a blank copy of the Power and Control handout for your group. Consider how survivors of gender-based violence may experience similar types of violence outlined in the Power and Control Wheel through interactions with police, the court system, and other interactions related to policing and incarceration.

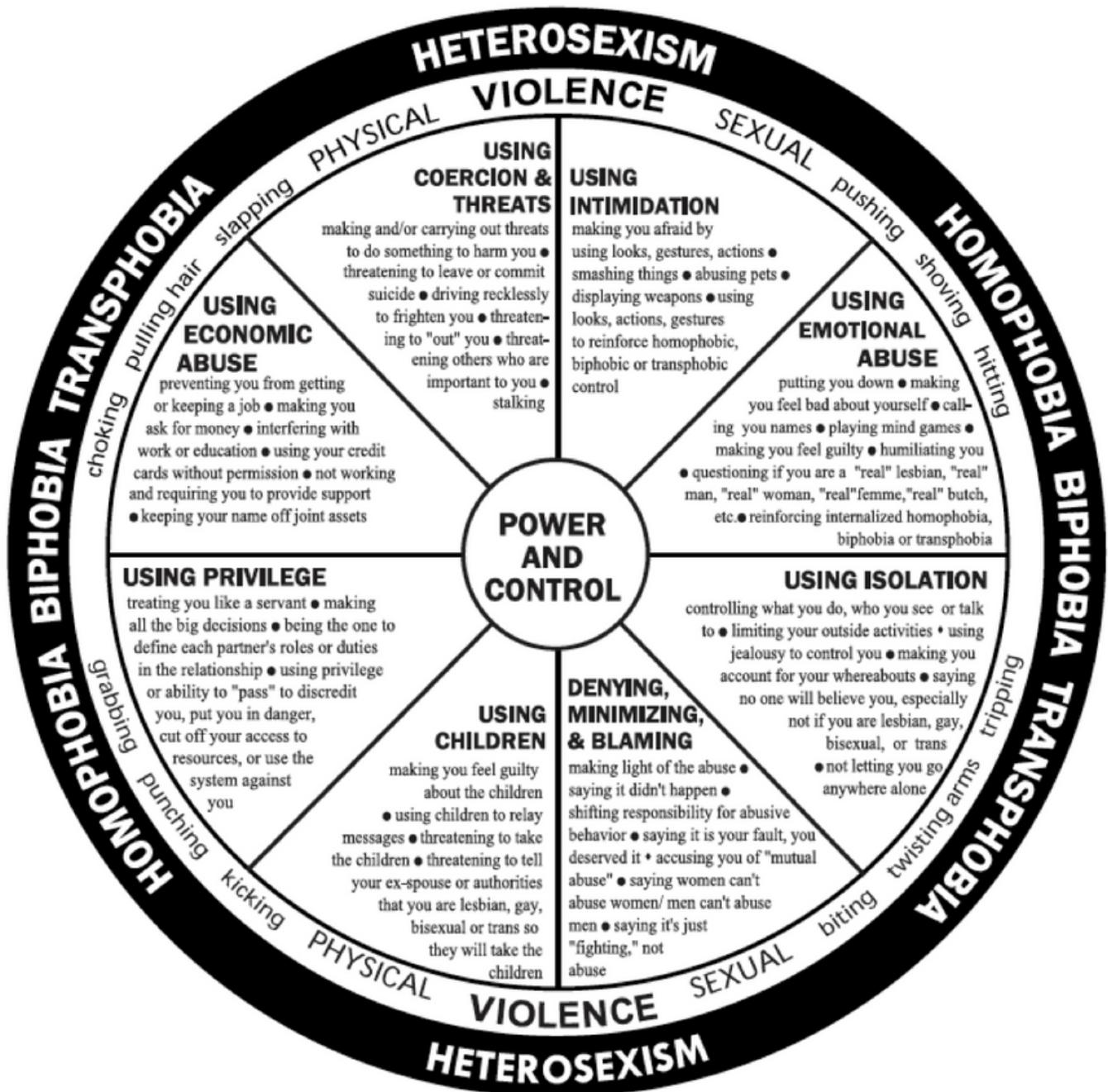
Fill in the blank forms with possible examples within each of the following experiences:

- Before Incarceration (e.g. through interactions with police, court process)
- During Incarceration
- Post Incarceration (e.g. during reentry, while on parole)

²⁷ More information on the Power and control wheel is available on the Domestic Abuse Intervention Website, available here <https://www.theduluthmodel.org/wheels/faqs-about-the-wheels/>

²⁸ The Power and Control Wheel for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans Relationships is available here <https://www.thehotline.org/wp-content/uploads/media/2020/09/LGBT-Wheel.pdf>

Power and Control Wheel for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans Relationships



Developed by Roe & Jagodinsky

Adapted from the Power & Control and Equity Wheels developed by the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project • 206 West Fourth Street • Duluth, Minnesota 55806 • 218/722-4134

Power & Control, Before Confinement

(e.g. through interactions with police, court process)

How are the tactics of power and control used by systems stakeholders and reinforced by the legal system itself? List examples of how the tactics of power and control may appear during the experiences of survivors' contact with the criminal legal system prior to confinement in jail or prison.

Using economic abuse

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Using coercion and threats

- 1. _____

- 2. _____

- 3. _____

Using intimidation

- 1. _____

- 2. _____

- 3. _____

Using emotional abuse

- 1. _____

- 2. _____

- 3. _____

Using isolation

- 1. _____

- 2. _____

- 3. _____

Minimizing, denying and blaming

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Using children

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Using privilege

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Power and Control, During Confinement

How are the tactics of power and control used by systems stakeholders and reinforced by the legal system itself? List examples of how the tactics of power and control may appear during the experiences of survivors' contact with the criminal legal system during confinement in jail or prison.

Using economic abuse

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Using coercion and threats

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Using intimidation

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Using emotional abuse

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Using isolation

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Minimizing, denying and blaming

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Using children

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Using privilege

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Power and Control, Post Confinement

(e.g. during reentry, while on parole)

How are the tactics of power and control used by systems stakeholders and reinforced by the legal system itself? List examples of how the tactics of power and control may appear during the experiences of survivors' contact with the criminal legal system post confinement in jail or prison.

Using economic abuse

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Using coercion and threats

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Using intimidation

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Using emotional abuse

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Using isolation

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Minimizing, denying and blaming

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Using children

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Using privilege

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

SCENARIOS

The Power and Control Wheel allows us to begin to examine how coercive power and control can not only exist outside of intimate partner relationships, but can be reinforced by systems themselves. As described in the previous activity, these control mechanisms exist after incarceration, particularly if criminalized survivors are under community supervision through parole or probation.

Parole can come with very unrealistic conditions or requirements. Victims of violence may be unable to fulfill all of these requirements without stable housing, employment, and a steady stream of income. Stay away orders and restraining orders may hinder your client's ability to see loved ones. Being on parole can also impact custody agreements for parents.

This activity allows us to go deeper into the experience of reentry, including possible barriers and resources for successful transition.

- In-person training: each small group will have one handout. Cut up cards and draw from each category.
- Virtual handout: <https://1drv.ms/p/s!Al0PYE08rAHDazDYRChivq694QA?e=vxanVQ>
 - Choose a number from 1 to 3 for each category/column, starting with housing
 - Click multiple times on the screen or use the "right" arrow on your keyboard to make the face cards disappear
 - Click three more times for the card descriptions to appear
 - Discuss the scenario based on the card number you chose (1 to 3)
 - Note: if you experience technical difficulties, group members should pick a number from 1-3 for each of the six categories in the following two-page handout - housing, employment, relationships, probation/parole, programs, and children - and review the corresponding scenario.

Step 1: Choose a card within each category.

Step 2: Pause after drawing each card to discuss how the situation might create barriers to successful reentry, including meeting possible requirements of parole or probation. Additionally, answer the questions below:

1. How does this impact your safety?
2. How does this impact your health and wellness?
3. How does this impact your sense of self and dignity?
4. What opportunities or obstacles does this create for you?
5. What options do you think are available to you?
6. What kind of services or interventions would support you in your current circumstances?

Step 3: After drawing all six cards, one in each category, discuss the experience as a whole. Possible small group discussion questions:

- What were some of the major barriers or challenges?
- How are these circumstances exacerbated by traumatic experiences, including current or former experiences of gender-based violence?

Step 4: Reconvene for large group discussion

Scenarios Handout - Front

HOUSING Card 1	HOUSING Card 2	HOUSING Card 3
EMPLOYMENT Card 1	EMPLOYMENT Card 2	EMPLOYMENT Card 3
RELATIONSHIPS Card 1	RELATIONSHIPS Card 2	RELATIONSHIPS Card 3
PAROLE/PROBATION OFFICER Card 1	PAROLE/PROBATION OFFICER Card 2	PAROLE/PROBATION OFFICER Card 3
PROGRAM Card 1	PROGRAM Card 2	PROGRAM Card 3
CHILDREN Card 1	CHILDREN Card 2	CHILDREN Card 3

Scenarios Handout - Back

HOUSING - SCENARIO 1

found affordable housing and have access to resources that help cover expenses

HOUSING - SCENARIO 2

denied housing, forced to live with toxic family or previously abusive partner

HOUSING - SCENARIO 3

Staying with family. Small apartment. Living situation is safe but chaotic.

EMPLOYMENT - SCENARIO 1

Was offered a job only to be told before the start date that background check showed criminal history so the offer was revoked. Having a difficult time finding work.

EMPLOYMENT - SCENARIO 2

Found a 28-30 hour/week job making little over minimum wage. Hours are consistent but not able to access benefits. Commute takes 90 minutes each way, through walking and bus.

EMPLOYMENT - SCENARIO 3

Connected to a program while incarcerated that created a pathway to stable and secure employment.

RELATIONSHIPS - SCENARIO 1

Was offered a job only to be told before the start date that background check showed criminal history so the offer was revoked. Having a difficult time finding work.

RELATIONSHIPS - SCENARIO 2

Contact with toxic and abusive relationships. Fear police contact due to possibility of parole violations.

RELATIONSHIPS - SCENARIO 3

Have contact with trusted person at a community organization. Other relationships are mixed. Trying to avoid possibly harmful relationships.

PAROLE/PROBATION OFFICER - SCENARIO 1

Was assigned a supportive parole officer, but was shortly after transitioned to parole officer who is unsupportive

PAROLE/PROBATION OFFICER - SCENARIO 2

Parole officer is connected to community organizations, connects survivor to resources, and actively supports survivor in meeting parole requirements.

PAROLE/PROBATION OFFICER - SCENARIO 3

Parole officer regularly threatens to find a reason to violate parole.

PROGRAM - SCENARIO 1

Parole to program without support. Program calls the police because of a minor altercation.

PROGRAM - SCENARIO 2

Parole to program with good support systems. May have formerly incarcerated survivors on staff. Program connects to resources, community. Program supports meeting requirements of parole.

PROGRAM - SCENARIO 3

No connection to reentry support programs. Have to look for resources independently.

CHILDREN - SCENARIO 1

Able to regain custody of children but they have experienced harm in placement and are exhibited behaviors based on trauma responses.

CHILDREN - SCENARIO 2

Trusted family was caring for children while incarcerated. Family is reunited upon release.

CHILDREN - SCENARIO 3

Incarceration created custody issues. Getting custody may not be possible without considerable resources, if at all.

FIRST 30 DAYS: A LETTER TO PROVIDERS

Conversations with formerly incarcerated survivors reveal that the first 30 days after release is extremely important. If they don't find a place to stay, connect with their support system and know where they can get resources, the likelihood of returning to incarceration increases.

In this letter to providers, a formerly incarcerated woman writes to describe why the first 30 days is so important, what formerly incarcerated survivors need, and how service providers can support them. We are hoping it will give you, as providers, some insight into how you, and your agencies, can prioritize when working with newly released individuals.

Step 1: In a large group, read *First 30 Days: A Letter to Providers*

Step 2: Participate in a group discussion regarding the letter, using the questions below:

- What are your initial thoughts after reading this letter?
- How would you respond to these questions from a survivor?
 - Do you understand and have the patience to assist and help me navigate my reintegration into society (with the understanding that I have nothing but possibly the clothes on my back)?
 - What do you think is the best approach in meeting me at the beginning stages of navigating my first 30 days?
 - Are you aware of the insecurities (housing, food, etc) that people are experiencing upon their release? Are you able to identify what could trigger a person to relapse or go back to prison?
 - Understanding that I might need help with making the right decisions and choices independent of systems, how would you help me navigate that?
- Is there anything about service provision that you are thinking about differently after reading this letter and responding to these questions? Especially as you consider service provision for formerly incarcerated survivors?

First 30 Days: A Letter to Providers

Dear Service Provider,

I need you to know that what I need in the first 30 days after my release is patience and the time to plan what the next 90 days of my life should look like. I know that if I can get through the first 30 days staying on the right path, I'm gonna be ok.

I also need you to know that for me to truly succeed, preparing to go home happens BEFORE we are released.

The first 30 days is full of lots of different emotions for me. I'm excited to not be locked up, but scared because it's been a while and I really want to visit people I love, even the ones I was with when I got arrested, but I know I can't.

I need you to know that I haven't made 80% of the decisions about my life while I was locked up. I want you to ask me "what do you want to do" because nobody asked me that inside, but I also need you to help me understand all the choices I have so I can make an informed decision. I need to be affirmed when I make a good choice. It's also important for us to constantly talk about what I can do so that I don't get stuck talking about what I CAN'T do.

I definitely need safe and affordable housing but I also need resources to pay for my safe and affordable housing.

I need you to help me get things that are important for me to make it. I wasn't released with all the things I needed to live on my own. I need my birth certificate and an ID in the first 30 days. Please help me figure out how I can get these documents. Please don't make me feel bad because I don't have them and remember that I don't have a lot of money to purchase these things.

I need a cell phone so that I can contact potential employers and services I may need. A cell phone is also important because I have people to call that I want supporting me now that I am out. I want to call my family. Sometimes this means my children. Please don't tell me to use the house phone or that this isn't important. It will be helpful to remind me that phones can be a negative thing to have too. I could use a conversation on the dark

side of social media and remind me that social media isn't for meeting up with men and forgetting about my priorities. Some of us have codependency issues that we need help working on. Some of us don't feel loved unless we have a partner. We can be naive. Social media can become a trap.

Know that I am going to prioritize time with others who have also been incarcerated. Helping me find a positive peer group would be helpful. It can feel really lonely if you don't find the right support. It can feel so lonely that you wish you were with your sisters you left behind inside.

I need you to know that I also can't spend the first 30 days just sitting in the house doing nothing. These rules make no sense to someone who has been locked up in jail or prison. But, I may have got paroled to an area that I am not familiar with. I need help understanding where I am at any opportunity to go out and explore my neighborhood with positive people is important.

If you give me task to follow up on, if it requires a computer, please don't expect me to know what to do. Some of us have not had a lot of experience with technology, we may need help with setting up emails and navigating a computer to do things like apply for jobs online. Sometimes it is easier to have paper applications for those of us to succeed. If it must be done on a computer, it may be easier for me to dictate my answers to someone who can type for me. This isn't me being lazy, this is me trying to get things done with support. I want to know how to do things on my own. Be patient with me. I am learning in a world that has been advancing since I was locked up.

Lastly, I want you to know that I have to believe in myself and take care of myself first, even if I have children and a family we are trying to get back to. Keep reminding me of this when I start to prioritize other people. They are definitely part of my motivation to do good, but they can't be my only reason.

EXPLORING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PROVIDERS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

Direct service provision, including by social workers and other direct service professionals, may center the core values of social justice, recognizing the importance of human relationships, and deeply valuing people and their inherent right to dignity. Recent calls for social workers and other providers to work more closely with police and court systems may be in conflict with some of these values and have the potential to create additional risk to vulnerable communities. While these calls may be described as efforts to support police in engaging with more gentle, holistic responses to communities experiencing mental health concerns, poverty, and issues of safety, this can have the opposite effect of increasing police contact in situations that may be better served through community resources.

This activity walks through two different case studies that outline a couple of potential survivor experiences.

Step 1: You will receive either case study 1 or 2.

Step 2: Review the case study you are provided. Consider the following questions during your review:

- How can direct service providers properly support impacted communities that sit at the intersection of gender based-violence, criminalization, current incarceration, post incarceration and community control?
- How can providers support communities without law enforcement intervention?
- What internal work do service providers need to do to understand the potential for harm that comes with working alongside carceral systems? What are the potential impacts to the most vulnerable, unprotected, over-surveilled people in our communities?

Step 3: Discuss the questions above, and any others that come up for you, in groups of 3-4 people.

Step 4: Reconvene for a large group discussion.

Case study #1: Natalia

Natalia is a 42-year-old cisgender woman who identifies as LGBTQ and is actively experiencing intimate partner violence from her romantic partner, Samantha. Samantha and Natalia have been together for 7 months and were in Samantha's apartment when they started arguing. Samantha slapped Natalia then proceeded to punch her repeatedly. Samantha then smashed Natalia's phone screen, which she had done before to ensure that Natalia would not call the police. Natalia likely would not have done so anyway since she had a previous incarceration history, serving 12 years in state custody. She was released 3 years prior and, at the time of this incident, was still on active parole monitoring. Because of this, Natalia worried about any police contact being considered a parole violation.

Instead, Samantha called the police on Natalia saying that Natalia tried to kill her. Two police officers arrived and joked that these were just two women "cat-fighting" but after Samantha mentioned Natalia's previous incarceration history, and because Samantha called the police, they determined that Samantha was the complaining witness and Natalia was the primary aggressor. Even though Natalia had a split lip and was starting to develop a black eye, police chose to arrest Natalia, enforcing mandatory arrest laws that require one person to be removed from the situation.

Natalia was charged with Class A misdemeanor assault. She was released the next day. Natalia was able to receive an access order, granting her access to retrieve personal items from Samantha's residence, with police accompaniment. Natalia was told to call the police when ready to retrieve items.

After her release, Natalia called and arranged for police to accompany her to Samantha's apartment. After arriving at Samantha's place, Samantha asked to speak to the police privately. After a few minutes, the police proceeded to re-arrest Natalia for violating an order of protection that was issued in court during arraignment, which Natalia was unaware of since she was unable to gain legal representation or support.

Natalia reached out to the corrections counseling and discharge planning department within her facility during her second detainment. After the intake assessment, the mental health counselor informed Natalia that she would not be eligible for any mental health or legal advocacy support when she is released because “DV programs cannot work with felons or anyone with open criminal cases”. Natalia was incredibly confused, feeling that her previous incarceration history shouldn’t impact her ability to access counseling and legal advocacy services to support her through this situation with Samantha and asked for clarification. The counselor explained that she agreed with police that Natalia was the primary aggressor, and if she was a real survivor of gender-based violence, the police would have been able to see that and arrest Samantha instead. The counselor finally informed Natalia that she wouldn’t place referrals for her to receive support from other programs, feeling that Natalia would fail their eligibility standards. The counselor also refused to refer Natalia to bail funds to accelerate her release, citing that she is a danger to others in the community and should remain in custody until her next court appearance. The counselor decided to refer her to a batterer's intervention program instead.

Case study #2: Janet

Janet is a 25-year-old cisgender woman who has been experiencing intimate partner violence with different romantic partners since she started dating as a teenager. Janet was recently arrested following a domestic dispute that occurred at her apartment between her and her partner, Martin, a 42-year-old man, who she had been dating for almost 3 years, and had been living with for the last nine months. During a verbal argument, Martin struck Janet in the face, breaking her nose, which caused immediate swelling in her face. Janet picked up and swung a knife block to defend herself against further attacks by Martin. One of the knives came loose and cut Martin's arm.

Martin was furious and knew he could use this to get her arrested as retribution for fighting back. He called the police to report that Janet physically attacked him. When the police arrived, Martin explained that he accidentally hit her in self-defense when she came toward him wielding a knife "because she's young and wild". The more senior officer laughed at this and asked if he needed an ambulance or medical attention, while ignoring Janet's broken nose, telling her that she would get treatment at the police station.

Due to mandatory arrest policies and initial police assessment, Janet was taken into custody. While at the police station Janet reported to police officers that she and Martin would often hit her but that she had been told by various social service providers that if she continued to refuse to make a formal complaint and press charges, they would not be able to help her and nothing would ever change.

Janet was charged with Assault to cause physical injury with a weapon, a B felony charge. She remained in correctional custody for over a month due to not having the funds to cover bail. During her incarceration, Janet experienced re-traumatization by regular strip searches, that triggered experiences of prior sexual assault. Due to the lack of available mental health services, Janet went without support.

Upon release, Janet was referred to a mainstream domestic violence program where she was assigned a counselor who was intended to help her work through her thoughts and feelings about relationships and better understand how these were impacting her behavior and circumstances. Janet was also assigned a case advocate to support her efforts to find safe and secure housing, stable employment, and economic empowerment resources.

Upon learning that Janet had an open criminal case, her counselor mentioned in session that “there must be something you’ve done that was wrong to warrant you getting arrested instead of Martin.” This made Janet uncomfortable, and her counselor continued, “Anyone can see that domestic violence victims never perpetrate violence, did you hit him before he hit you?” Janet got angry and told the counselor that they needed to learn how to do their job and support people that needed help. The counselor told Janet to calm down or they would call Janet’s parole officer. The counselor then said that they had another appointment and that they would send information in the next few weeks by email, essentially pushing Janet out of the office without resources. This facility also had police officers as security to “ensure staff and client safety”. One of these officers overheard the conversation and showed up to ask if things were ok, quickly told Janet to calm down or he would “haul her to jail” himself, and proceeded to escort Janet out of the building.

Janet’s case advocate also let her know by voicemail that they were unable to get Janet connected to services because of her current and past criminal legal involvement. Janet tried to call to see if there were additional resources but gave up after calling multiple times and not hearing back. Someone who she had been incarcerated with mentioned that she should try the statewide domestic violence hotline. When Janet called, she received information for a family resource center that might be able to help get some of her economic, employment and housing needs met. She decided to visit in person even though her commute by public transportation was over 90 minutes each way. When she arrived, she was screened by police officers for any open criminal and family court cases, which she was not informed of during her call to learn about the services. Upon seeing her previous history, officers and social service workers deemed Janet ineligible for services and she was unable to access any resources within the family resource center.

LANGUAGE MATTERS

Language used to describe the experience of incarceration and system involvement can often mirror the language used within systems. This language is often dehumanizing and demeaning, and may not be reflective of people and their humanity. Formerly incarcerated survivors and systems-impacted people continue to work to replace oppressive and degrading terms with “person first” terms, described in this activity and related materials. While shifting language is only one step to supporting criminalized survivors, it is a critical step in showing commitment to supporting these survivors.

Step 1: In a large group, read An Open Letter to Our Friends on the Question of Language by Eddie Ellis, Center for NuLeadership on Human Justice & Healing.²⁹

Step 2: Engage in group discussion about information shared in the letter.

²⁹ More information on the letter and related campaign can be found on the Center for NuLeadership on Human Justice & Healing website <https://www.nuleadership.org/>. The Center for NuLeadership on Human Justice & Healing (CNHJH) provides use of their materials through a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License. More information on this license is available here <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>. No changes were made to the materials included here. <https://www.nuleadership.org/home>



An Open Letter to Our Friends on the Question of Language

“When there is emotional pain, psychiatrists like me believe that we can help. But before we act we need to find some handle for the problem, some name to guide action. Once in awhile, we realize that these names are inadequate for the problems we are seeing. Then we search for new names, or new ways to group old names.”

-- Mindy Thompson Fullilove, M.D., “Root Shock,” 2005

Dear Friends:

The Center for NuLeadership on Urban Solutions is a human justice policy, advocacy and training center founded, directed and staffed by academics and advocates who were formerly incarcerated. It is the first and only one of its kind in the United States.

One of our first initiatives is to respond to the negative public perception about our population as expressed in the language and concepts used to describe us. When we are not called mad dogs, animals, predators, offenders and other derogatory terms, we are referred to as inmates, convicts, prisoners and felons—all terms devoid of humanness which identify us as “things” rather than as people. These terms are accepted as the “official” language of the media, law enforcement, prison industrial complex and public policy agencies. ***However, they are no longer acceptable for us and we are asking people to stop using them.***

In an effort to assist our transition from prison to our communities as responsible citizens and to create a more positive human image of ourselves, we are asking everyone to stop using these negative terms and to simply refer to us as **PEOPLE**. People currently or formerly incarcerated, **PEOPLE** on parole, **PEOPLE** recently released from prison, **PEOPLE** in prison, **PEOPLE** with criminal convictions, but **PEOPLE**.

We habitually underestimate the power of language. The bible says, ***“Death and life are in the power of the tongue.”*** In fact, all of the faith traditions recognize the power of words and, in particular, names that we are given or give ourselves. Ancient traditions considered the “naming ceremony” one of the most important rites of passage. Your name indicated not only who you were and where you belonged, but also who you could be. The worst part of repeatedly hearing your negative definition of me, is that I begin to believe it myself *“for as a man thinketh in his heart, so is he.”* It follows then, that calling me inmate, convict, prisoner, felon, or offender indicates a lack of understanding of who I am, but more importantly ***what I can be.*** I can be and am much more than an “ex-con,” or an “ex-offender,” or an “ex-felon.”

The Center for NuLeadership on Urban Solutions believes that if we can get progressive

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publications, organizations and individuals like you to stop using the old offensive language and simply refer to us as “**people**,” we will have achieved a significant step forward in our life giving struggle to be recognized as the human beings we are. We have made our mistakes, yes, but we have also paid or are paying our debts to society.

We believe we have the right to be called by a name we choose, rather than one someone else decides to use. We think that by insisting on being called “**people**” we reaffirm our right to be recognized as human beings, not animals, inmates, prisoners or offenders.

We also firmly believe that if we cannot persuade you to refer to us, and think of us, as people, then all our other efforts at reform and change are seriously compromised.

Accordingly, please talk with your friends and colleagues about this initiative. If you agree with our approach encourage others to join us. Use positive language in your writing, speeches, publications, web sites and literature.

When you hear people using the negative language, gently and respectfully correct them and explain why such language is hurting us. Kindly circulate this letter on your various list serves.

If you disagree with this initiative, please write and tell us why at the above address or e-mail us at info@centerfornuleadership.org. Perhaps, we have overlooked something. ***Please join us in making this campaign successful. With your help we can change public opinion, one person at a time.***

Thank you so much.

In Solidarity and Love,

Eddie Ellis
Founder

4 Easy Steps To Follow

- 1. Be conscious of the language you use. Remember that each time you speak, you convey powerful word picture images.**
- 2. Stop using the terms offender, felon, prisoner, inmate and convict.**
- 3. Substitute the word PEOPLE for these other negative terms.**
- 4. Encourage your friends, family and colleagues to use positive language in their speech, writing, publications and electronic communications.**

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ADVOCATING FOR FORMERLY INCARCERATED SURVIVORS

Provider advocacy is a critical tool for changing the experiences of formerly incarcerated survivors. This activity will provide an opportunity to brainstorm legislative and political advocacy opportunities that you or your organization can lead, to expand formerly incarcerated survivors' access to victim services.

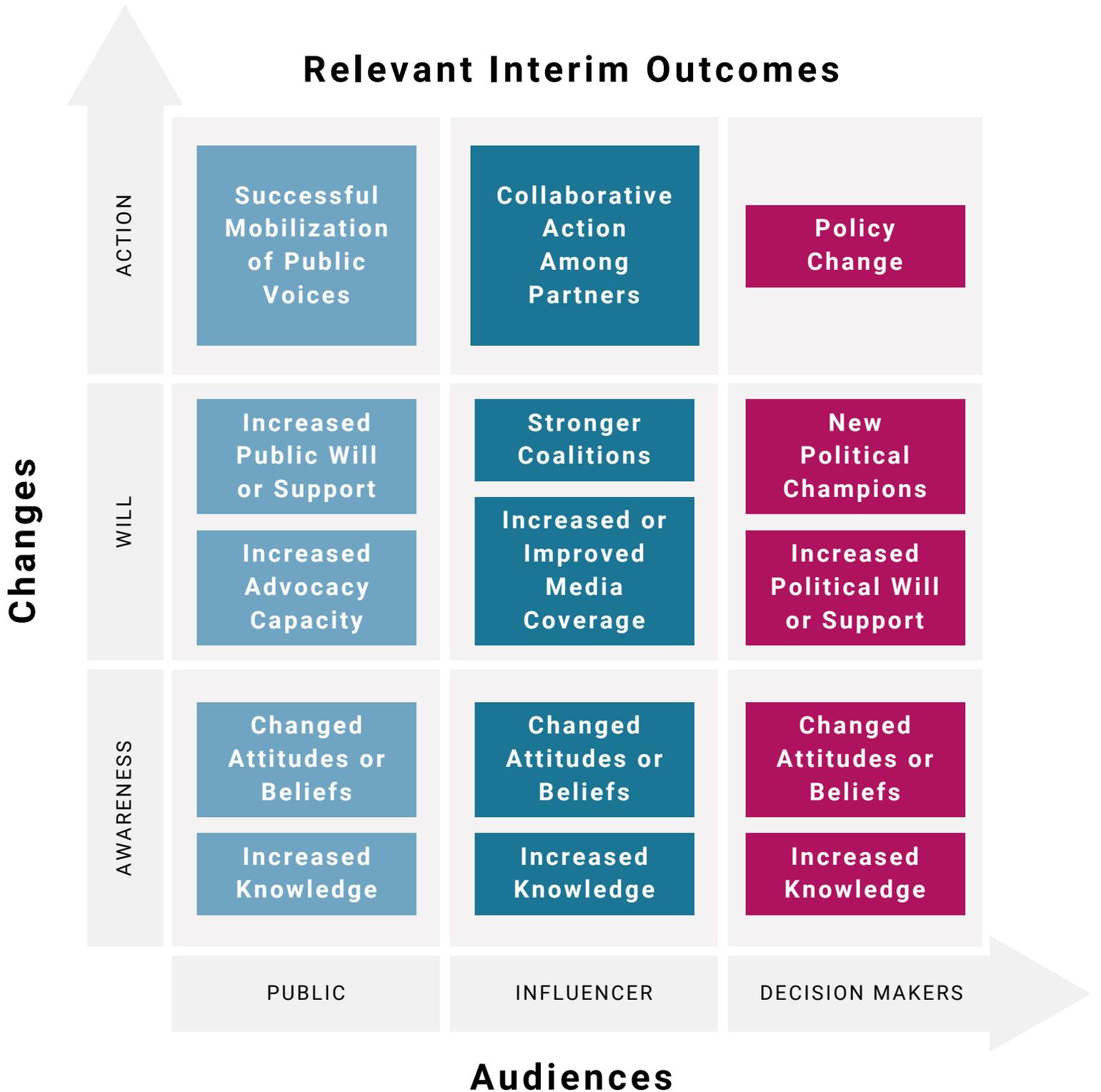
Step 1: In small groups, you will create a plan for an advocacy campaign. Review the Outcomes graphic below, and consider which audience you will target and the type of change you will work toward.

Step 2: In your group, identify a policy goal. Answer the questions outlined in the subsequent resource: "Nine Questions": A Strategy Planning Tool for Advocacy Campaigns.³⁰

Step 3: Reconvene in the large group. Share a summary of the goals and strategies of your campaign.

³⁰ "Nine Questions" A Strategy Planning Tool For Advocacy Campaigns is available for download here <https://www.ndi.org/sites/default/files/Handout%201%20-%20Nine%20Advocacy%20Questions.pdf>

Relevant Interim Outcomes



ADVOCACY INSTITUTE

MAKING SOCIAL JUSTICE LEADERSHIP STRATEGIC, EFFECTIVE, AND SUSTAINABLE

“NINE QUESTIONS”

A STRATEGY PLANNING TOOL FOR ADVOCACY CAMPAIGNS

ADAPTED FROM JIM SHULTZ OF THE DEMOCRACY CENTER

1. What do we want? (GOALS)

Any advocacy effort must begin with a sense of its goals. Among these goals some distinctions are important. What are the long-term goals and what are the short-term goals? What are the content goals (e.g. policy change) and what are the process goals (e.g. building community among participants)? These goals need to be defined at the start, in a way that can launch an effort, draw people to it, and sustain it over time.

2. Who can give it to us? (AUDIENCES; KEY PLAYERS; or POWER-HOLDERS)

Who are the people and institutions you need to move? This includes those who have the actual formal authority to deliver the goods (i.e., legislators). This also includes those who have the capacity to influence those with formal authority (i.e., the media and key constituencies, both allied and opposed). In both cases, an effective advocacy effort requires a clear sense of who these audiences are and what access or pressure points are available to move them.

3. What do they need to hear? (MESSAGES)

Reaching these different audiences requires crafting and framing a set of messages that will be persuasive. Although these messages must always be rooted in the same basic truth, they also need to be tailored differently to different audiences depending on what they are ready to hear. In most cases, advocacy messages will have two basic components: an appeal to what is right and an appeal to the audience’s self-interest.

4. Who do they need to hear it from? (MESSENGERS)

The same message has a very different impact depending on who communicates it. Who are the most credible messengers for different audiences? In some cases, these messengers are “experts” whose credibility is largely technical. In other cases, we need to engage the “authentic voices,” those who can speak from personal experience. What do we need to do to equip these messengers, both in terms of information and to increase their comfort level as advocates?

5. How can we get them to hear it? (DELIVERY)

There are many ways to deliver an advocacy message. These range from the genteel (e.g. lobbying) to the in-your-face (e.g. direct action). The most effective means vary from situation to situation. The key is to evaluate them and apply them appropriately, weaving them together in a winning mix.

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6. What do we have? (RESOURCES)

An effective advocacy effort takes careful stock of the advocacy resources that are already there to be built on. This includes past advocacy work that is related, alliances already in place, staff and other people's capacity, information and political intelligence. In short, you don't start from scratch, you start from building on what you've got.

7. What do we need to develop? (GAPS)

After taking stock of the advocacy resources you have, the next step is to identify the advocacy resources you need that aren't there yet. This means looking at alliances that need to be built, and capacities such as outreach, media, and research, which are crucial to any effort.

8. How do we begin? (FIRST STEPS)

What would be an effective way to begin to move the strategy forward? What are some potential short term goals or projects that would bring the right people together, symbolize the larger work ahead and create something achievable that lays the groundwork for the next step?

9. How do we tell if it's working? (EVALUATION)

As with any long journey, the course needs to be checked along the way. Strategy needs to be evaluated by revisiting each of the questions above (i.e., are we aiming at the right audiences; are we reaching them, etc.) It is important to be able to make mid-course corrections and to discard those elements of a strategy that don't work once they are actually put into practice.

Note: A common confusion in the development of advocacy strategy is the difference between "strategy" and "tactics." *Tactics* are specific actions – circulating petitions, writing letters, staging a protest – that are the building blocks of advocacy. *Strategy* is something larger, an overall map that guides the use of these tools toward clear goals. Strategy is a hard-nosed assessment of where you are, where you want to go, and how you can get there.

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CHANGE IS NOT A LINEAR PROCESS

April Grayson is a member of the LOVE Project team and of the Policy team at Young Women's Freedom Center. In the video below, April shares her thoughts on providing services that consider the healing journey.

Step 1: Watch April's video:

- <https://vimeo.com/733775792>
- For those who experience unexpected technical issues, or others who may need to follow along with the video, the audio transcription is on the next page:

Step 2: Participate in a large group discussion on the information presented in the video.

My name is April Grayson. I am one of the co-collaborators from The Young Women's Freedom Center that is-- has worked on this beautiful curriculum that you are utilizing for your people. And I just wanted to take a moment just to check in with you as a provider and kind of share the heart and the intention behind this curriculum and what we hope people are able to get out of these different exercises.

And so, first things first, like we're dealing with a really special population, a population that probably doesn't always receive the services that they need or the respect and the dignity that they--they deserve. And so, the hope is that when we encounter this population that we are seeing them as people. We are giving them the most holistic beautiful journey through services because ultimately like, who really wants to access services. Especially when you've had to possibly tell the most horrifying situation in your life, you are coming out of a place of incarceration, you probably don't have anything, you're navigating different systems with different of-- parole officers and different supervisions and just different, different stuff. And that's not always the nicest journey, the kindest journey, people are labeling you, people are being unkind to you.

But the hope is that we can look at people as whole human people and--and come from the best purest heart condition so that we are providing a service to the population that we have chosen to serve. And just understanding that healing from trauma isn't a straight line, it's not a A to B. It might be a little zigzag, a little jagged. We are all getting to our end at different paces, different spaces. We all have different days, different triggers, and just really realizing that we all are doing the best that we can with what we have.

And I-- like I said, trauma isn't-- healing from trauma isn't this straight perfect line. Of course, we would love it to be and we all would--would love to have this easy journey, but that's just not what we have. And understanding that we all grow and we all learn and we all heal differently. And everybody's struggle is a little bit different as well. Some people might be unhoused. Some people might have food insecurities. Some people might have some financial insecurities.

And so while me, as a provider, I can come home to my house, to my car, be with my friends and my family, that might not be the same for the person that I'm servicing and helping that day, and so just really being mindful that life is different for everybody. . And that we're just trying to do everything through a

trauma-informed lens and that we are trying to see people and help people and understand that they need us in that moment and they need us to be kind. They need us to be considerate. They need us to be our best selves. Even when they're not being their best selves even when they might be having a moment that isn't the most pleasant moment for us to navigate and deal with, knowing that this is still a beautiful whole person and they might be frustrated or we might just be at a different journey in life and it might-- I might be need to be the example of kindness that they need to experience because I might be the only kind person that they have experienced that day, or that week, or that year. We do not know what people are going through.

The hope is that you are also taking care of yourself and you are making sure that you are well and that you are aligned and that you are using practices--if it's meditation, if it's nature, if you're taking hikes. I personally love a good manicure, pedicure. I'm a fan of it, I swear by them. And I have other tools that also used to cope because I too am a survivor of trauma and so, survivors sometimes trigger survivors and understanding that you could possibly be a survivor as well and that sometimes people's stories are similar and they align or it's just, you know, some of those stories sometimes are hard to swallow, people's life experiences--some of them, some people have survived through the most horrifying things and it could be a little triggering for us.

So, the challenge is to see people through trauma-informed lenses. Hopefully your organization is always implementing different practices and you know, understanding that you could take a training but sometimes things come with application. So hopefully your--your organization is training you and allowing you to apply the skills that you're learning so that you can, like I said, help the population that you've chosen to serve, while you take care of yourself as well.

And, like, the challenge is to just, you know, be kind, to be sweet, to be polite, to be your best form of yourself because honestly, you might be the kindest person they have experienced. And we would like for people to leave with a great impression of us and say, you know that one person at that program, or, that one person--everything else was horrible, but Miss Sheila, Miss Sheila was great. And so that is the hope and that is the, the-- the impression that I hope to leave on people, and that I hope that we as providers leave on this wonderful special population. Thank you for your time, I hope you love this curriculum. It has been a journey and a process. But it is from our heart to you. And thank you for your time, be well. Have a great rest of your day.

The challenge is to always be your best self and see people for people.

KEEP DOING / **START DOING** / STOP DOING

For this activity you will reflect on your program and organization. What do you think is needed to ensure you are providing the kind of services and support that formerly incarcerated survivors need and deserve? Use the table below to list specific things you and others should KEEP doing, START doing, and STOP doing

Step 1: Brainstorm within each of the boxes.

Step 2: In a large group, share some of what you came up with and discuss what you hear.

Keep

Start

Stop

WHY PEER PROGRAMMING MATTERS

For this activity you will reflect on your program and organization. What do you think is needed to ensure you are providing the kind of services and support that formerly incarcerated survivors need and deserve? Use the table below to list specific things you and others should KEEP doing, START doing, and STOP doing

Step 1: Brainstorm within each of the boxes.

Step 2: In a large group, share some of what you came up with and discuss what you hear.

Peer Programs are really important.

There is a gap between release and being ready to be home. Peer support makes sure that someone is there to stand in that gap. A peer is someone that speaks your language. They understand your fears of being released.

As a peer supporting other women coming home, I am more than just the support and encouragement they need to stay on track. I'm someone that has already "did it". I've navigated the things they are about to go through. From the moment I meet them, they know I'm there. For them, it means someone is there to pick them up when they come home and help them get to where they need to go. This is important because sometimes where you need to go isn't always where you want to go. We help you stay on the right path. As a peer, I'm giving them tips on how to avoid mistakes I made and others have made. The support we provide as peers is genuine and authentic. We really want folks to be successful in their re-entry journey.

It's a two-way street though. Peer mentors don't just hold the women we mentor accountable though. We inspire each other and remind each other that we don't want to go back. The women we mentor remind us of who we were. It's like a mirror being held up to you. They are your accountability too. We keep each other focused on our priorities and the treasure at the end of the rainbow which is our freedom and our dreams.

In addition with helping you find resources along the re-entry journey, peers help find solutions and remind you that things can be worked out.

It's a tough road coming home. The first few weeks you go through so many emotions. Being home means no one is telling you when to wake up, when to go eat, when to go to sleep. You're navigating so many things; sobriety, new technology, the world moves so quickly that you're sometimes scared of messing up.

Most of us have experienced violence. It can be hard supporting someone who has experienced a lot of it. They get used to the violence and have lived this way for so long that they often go back. We have to be ready. They need more support than most. It's important to know that their peer group before incarceration will most likely be the same group they were navigating DV with so standing in the gap as a peer mentor is extremely important. It takes everybody in the peer group sometimes to convince them they are worthy of so much more. That they can do this on their own. It means a lot of relearning how to love yourself. Being locked up definitely doesn't teach this, but we can. We do our best to keep people busy doing things that are good

for ourselves, which becomes easier when you are doing it with a group. We're rediscovering our neighborhoods and where we live in a different way. We are appreciating it with fresh eyes and sometimes seeing how we ended up down the road we did.

With each person I mentor, I grow too. I get to see a part of myself succeed every time they succeed.

SHARING YOUR EXPERIENCES

Often when people are asked to share their experiences, it can retrigger, retraumatize, and exploit people. Advocacy is an important mechanism for change, and it is important for everyone to recognize that the act of having people share their experiences is often exploitative. Organizations should prioritize advocates' wellbeing, especially when asked to share experiences of trauma.

As described more deeply in the Healing Power of Advocacy activity, participating or witnessing advocacy related to a harm you have experienced can be generative and healing. In contrast, sharing experiences for the benefit of others, without attention and care to personal well-being, can be harmful and exploitative. In this exercise, you will practice identifying parts of your experience that will be most impactful, while creating boundaries and barriers to ensure you are safe. This exercise can serve as an example for how to support survivors who want to engage in advocacy in sharing their experiences in less-harmful ways. Note: You will not have to share what you write with others. The discussion will focus on the process, and your previous experience working with survivors in sharing their stories.

Step 1: Review the key items to consider when sharing your experience

Step 2: Identify an issue or experience that you could share to affect change (independent activity)

Step 3: Fill out the handout, using the tips provided

Step 4: Reconvene in a large group to discuss this process, and your experience supporting survivors in advocacy.

Here are some key items to consider when sharing your experience for advocacy purposes:

- **High level key points:** Tell key moments and details that relate to the topic you are speaking about
- **Tell only what you want to share:** When sharing details of your life, only share what you are comfortable with, recognizing that it becomes public knowledge every time you share
- **Boundaries:** Understand your personal do's and don'ts and any dealbreakers. Stick to these, regardless of compensation or status of those making the request.
- **Story line:** Understand the topic you are speaking on and stick to key points. Prepare with bullet points which help keep the story on topic so people can follow what you are trying to convey.
- **Do not let anyone tell you what to say or how to tell your story:** Your story is yours. You get to decide what to share and how to share it.
- **You can always say no:** if ever you feel uncomfortable or do not agree with the arrangement you can always say no
- **Ask for support:** Whenever you are struggling with finding key points or how to frame your story consult with the folks who asked you to tell your story, or another trusted friend/professional.
- **Person to check in with:** Identify a person you trust to debrief with after talking to unload any stress associated with sharing your story
- **Emotional:** Telling your story is emotional and triggering. Be mindful of what comes up for you while telling your story.
- **Condense story to 2-minute sound bite:** Bullet points to stick to point, rehearse and time yourself to ensure you are on topic and time.

Exercise: Think about an issue you find important and would like to advocate for. Feel free to choose something simple, like choosing the best ice cream flavor for a gathering, or something more complex related to your work.

1. What is your goal from this advocacy opportunity:

2. What are the high-level points you want to express? Write 3-5 bullets

3. What is the storyline you want to work through? Add additional supporting details that help you clarify your story.

4. Think about any boundaries you want to create, especially around parts of your story that might be triggering. Intentionally set parameters related to those boundaries and ensure details do not move outside of those boundaries.

5. Imagine that someone is sharing this story with you. Is there anything you would like to add to make this story more impactful, to achieving your advocacy goal? Add/edit your story as needed.

6. Think of how your story would change from an advocacy opportunity that is 2 minutes, compared to an advocacy opportunity where you have 5-10 minutes to speak or present. What would be different? What could be expanded upon?

HEALING POWER OF ADVOCACY

Advocacy happens in a variety of ways and in many different spaces, including in everyday situations. It can mean advocating for oneself when something is priced incorrectly at the grocery store, advocating for your child in school, participating in a protest, advocating in your place of employment for changes to practice, or advocating as part of your organization for policy change in state or federal government. Often in non-profit and service sectors, we focus on advocacy related to policy change, but accessing different types of advocacy opportunities can be important tools for healing, for survivors and providers alike.

At Young Women's Freedom Center in California, survivor-led advocacy, including by Center staff and leadership, is a core component of healing for formerly incarcerated and system-impacted people, with the clear understanding that advocacy encompasses all of these forms described above, and others. For example, a survivor who participates in a policy training, even if they do not use that training to engage in political advocacy or testimony, is able to witness others engaging in advocacy. This experience can create a sense of representation and community, which can contribute to personal and collective healing, even if that person is not directly holding the mic or megaphone. It is also clear that people bring a range of talents and gifts, and may want to engage in advocacy by supporting speech writing, emceeding an event, coordinating logistics, providing childcare, feeding and hydrating folks, etc.

The Young Women's Freedom Center policy training also provides the opportunity for Center staff to learn more about community members, their advocacy goals, and begin to support folks in their advocacy journey.

The photos below of the Freedom 2030 and Stand With Tracy campaigns show how survivors, providers, and communities coming together to engage in advocacy can support individual and community healing and joy, and ultimately affect change.

Here is a description of the Sister Warriors Freedom 2030 campaign, presented in the subsequent photos:

These photos show advocacy in action: On March 9th of 2020 hundreds of Sister Warriors, our friends, family and community members, our legislative partners and our movement allies gathered at the California Capitol for a beautiful celebration of Freedom 2030. A campaign and strategy that introduced a document that we know communities of color need for equity in California.

Together, we stood tall on the shoulders of those who have built the movement to decriminalize and decarcerate women, girls, transgender and gender nonconforming people -- and raised our voices to name how far we still have to go to achieve justice and freedom for all by 2030.

At The Young Women's Freedom Center we believe that we are the ones we need to tell our stories and fight for the changes that affect our families and communities. Advocacy in action is believing in yourself, your community and providing a space and platform for those closest to the problem and solution to advocate for themselves.

Step 1: Review photos

Step 2: Large Group Discussion



#FREEDOM2030



#FREEDOM2030





TIPS/STRATEGIES FOR HOLDING SPACE

Intentionally thinking through the “space” you hope to create, physically and emotionally, will provide an avenue for building trust, connection, and community. Because feeling pain, healing, forgiveness, and many other emotions support personal transformation, we want to be intentional about the spaces we create, and how we hold those spaces.

This handout describes questions for consideration that can help you determine how to best create and hold space for criminalized survivors, and related strategies, many of which draw learnings and guidance from activities in this curriculum.

Step 1: Review each category below.

Step 2: Pause after each category and discuss:

- Can additional questions be added?
- What other suggestions do you have in this area?

Group size and physical space

Questions	Suggestions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is the goal of the space? Is it for one-on-one counseling? therapeutic supports? Intake?• What is the most conducive environment for sharing?• Will children be present?• Will participants be asked to share personal information, with staff or with other program participants?• Are there barriers to participation and engagement in the space? Barriers can be physical (e.g. the location is too far or inaccessible to those with physical disabilities), emotional (e.g. there is an expectation of sharing trauma details)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure that physical and virtual spaces are accessible to disabled participants. Ask participants in advance if there are accessibility needs to ensure these are addressed in advance.• Consider creating space for different types of conversations (i.e. one-on-one, small group, large group).• In small and large groups, try to arrange seating in a circle to ensure people don't have to shift in their seats or move to engage with speakers and other participants.• Create access spaces where people can disconnect. Create quiet spaces, areas where people can play music or take a phone call.• Consider if childcare is needed in order for participants to fully participate.

Agreements and conversational norms

Questions

- Are there specific needs of your community that should be addressed in community agreements?
- Will these need to be adapted based on conversations? Is it possible for you to have agreements that work across areas of work and situations?
- Consider the language used in agreements you have seen previously. Do they typically reflect the language of your clients, or of service provision?

Suggestions

- Create or adapt shared communication norms and agreements. Co-develop these with your community to ensure they reflect how you and your community hope to engage with each other.
- The Accords used in this project, developed by Young Women's Freedom Center, are available in Appendix # and can serve as guidance for creating tools for your conversations.

Holding space in conversations

Questions

- What are the power dynamics that might impact this conversation? How can these be addressed at the beginning, and throughout interactions?

Suggestions

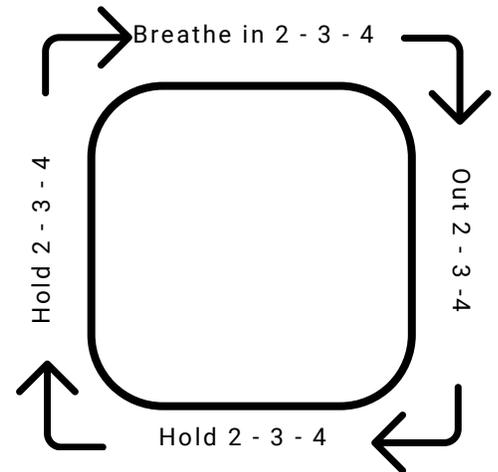
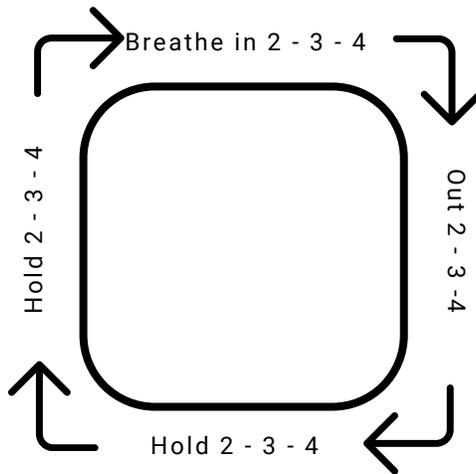
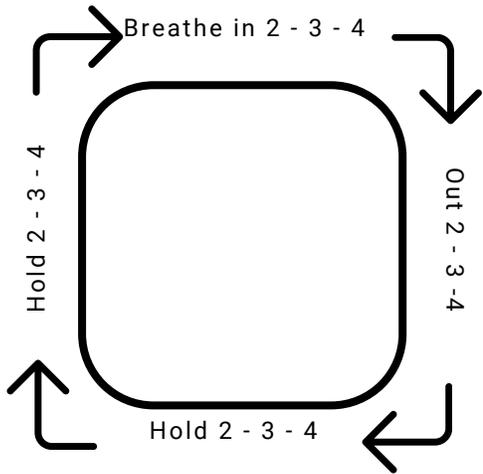
- Remember that healing is a process and, as described in another activity, remember to respond to humanity, not behavior.
- Check ins are one way to gauge where people are at a given moment. incorporate them throughout conversations as needed.
- Listen actively. Pay attention to what people are saying they need. Be conscious of energy and emotion in a given space.
- Pause and adjust as needed. Sometimes the act of conversing and being together is as important as accomplishing tasks and goals. Recognize when a pause is needed to strategize, reconsider, and revise.

SAMPLE BREATHING

EXERCISE

Breathing exercises can be a helpful tool for a variety of situations, including centering oneself in a space or conversation. This activity can be used as an opening or closing exercise to many activities, meetings, and conversations.

- Close your eyes.
- If you're able, sit comfortably in your chair.
- Feet flat on the floor, hands loosely on your lap.
- If you're able, and it's comfortable to you, straighten your back, stretch your spine.
- Pay attention to your breathing. Is it fast? Shallow?
- Take a breath at your own pace... another.
- PAUSE
- Keep breathing.
- We are going to do some box breathing together where you will breathe in for four counts, hold for four counts, exhale for four counts and hold for four counts. We'll do three rounds of these starting on your next breath.



Feel free to take a few breaths at your own pace. Pay attention to your breathing... To how you are feeling. Slowly open your eyes and come back into the group.

Thank you.

APPENDIX A : ACCORDS

These Accords, developed by Young Women's Freedom Center, were used throughout the project to help us set intentions for our shared space.

Accords are a set of agreements that ground everyone in the space and allows for us to always strive for harmony with one another during all of our activities. The accords are a practice; If everyone is not practicing these agreements, it is difficult to understand why we are coming together.

Anyone who agrees to be part of this space is a leader and has the ability to hold the group accountable if the accords are not being practiced or are being ignored.

- **One Mic** - Honor the voice of whoever is speaking - only one person speaking at a time.
- **Mutual Respect (aka the Aretha Franklin accord)** - To give the respect we want to receive, to "see again". Break word down (Re) repeat (Spect) to see. Continuously see me, re-see me every day.
- **Try it on** - Try to share, to participate, to be vulnerable, to learn something new, to be part of something even if it's uncomfortable
- **Right to Pass** - the ability to not respond. This does not mean "not participating". We ask you to stay present and engaged.
- **Confidentiality** - The root word of confidentiality is "confide" which means "with faith/loyalty"; with faith/loyalty we share information knowing it will not be shared with those outside of this space. (Con) with (fide) loyalty. Hold my words with loyalty.
- **No Capping** - No shade/No clownin'/ Bagging. To not discuss someone's physical attributes, abilities or contributions in a negative way even in jest.
- **Amnesty** - Temporary forgiveness, we come from different backgrounds some different hoods and while we are in spaces together we choose to give amnesty/temporary forgiveness for person/people you might not get along with and to keep integrity of space.
- **Take only your own inventory** - Keep the focus on yourself, don't worry about how others are processing information, focus only on how it applies to you.
- **Move up, Move to the side** - We all have something to contribute. Willingly contribute. Be aware if you are speaking too much and make room for others to offer up contributions too. If you are a shy, reserved person try to move up and share your thoughts and brilliance.

APPENDIX B : TIPS AND CONSIDERATIONS FOR SUPPORTING CRIMINALIZED SURVIVORS

Reflect on your organization and/or program policies and practice

- Consider how your program and/or organization can shift to better meet the needs of criminalized survivors. These changes can often improve services for all clients:
 - Are there relationships with police or other system stakeholders that can create barriers to service delivery?
 - Do you have relationships with court and other system stakeholders that you can leverage to engage in advocacy on behalf of criminalized survivors?
 - Are there policies that limit access to services for criminalized survivors? What would you need to change these policies?
- Ensure staff have access to learnings about bias and harm within the legal system, including about the experiences of women and gender-expansive people at the intersection of gender-based violence and incarceration. Address individual and systemic bias about incarceration through education, training, and the development of clear policies and practice.
- Use People First language.
- Consider if trauma-informed and healing practices are sensitive to the healing journeys of formerly incarcerated survivors. How can you adapt these to address harms experienced during and because of incarceration?
- Create values and policies that center the needs of survivors of incarceration and gender-based violence.
- Create protocols to support clients throughout their experience of incarceration, from arrest to parole.
- Consider how funding streams could impact your ability to provide services to currently and formerly incarcerated survivors, including those who are undocumented. Intentionally address possible barriers with additional fundraising efforts, community partnerships, and advocacy around service delivery.

- Consider how intake forms could support or create limitations for criminalized survivors: are you able to ask about incarceration experience to create specific supports for these survivors? Does asking about incarceration history limit access to services?
- Ensure practices and policies related to safety are not negatively affecting formerly incarcerated survivors.
- Hire formerly incarcerated people and create opportunities for peer-to-peer programming.

Provider-and survivor-led advocacy

- See yourself as an advocate for criminalized survivors as much as for survivors who have not experienced criminalization. Engage in small- and large-scale practice and policy change efforts supporting formerly incarcerated survivors. Support survivor-led campaigns and movements toward social and systems change. Familiarize yourself with current and developing legislation that can support criminalized survivors (see appendix x).
- Research how gender-based violence survivors have experienced, and are experiencing, criminalization in your state.
- Connect with advocates in your community to develop a plan for legislative and political advocacy (see *Advocating for Formerly Incarcerated Survivors* activity on page ##).

Engage in court advocacy

- Connect with court stakeholders in your area. Support them in learning about criminalized survivorship to help keep survivors from contact with the criminal legal system.
- Engage in court advocacy on behalf of criminalized survivors.
- Show up for court. Support family and community members in also attending court to show community support.
- Advocate for release.
- Strategize how to support your client if children are involved, especially if there is a connected child welfare case.
- Write and gather letters of support for your client. Include your recommendations for their release, programming, and advocacy for child placement with a trusted family or community member.
- When release is not an option, advocate for your program as an alternative to incarceration.

Youth-specific court advocacy

- Provide public defenders and judges information on shelter options if youth are eligible for release but are unable to go home, so they are not incarcerated “for their own safety”.
- Engage in advocacy related to violations of probation that might lead them to be incarcerated, especially when related to status offenses which shouldn’t lead to incarceration.
- Advocate for alternative-to-detention programs in your community. Build relationships with these providers so these can be quick resources if you need to engage in advocacy on behalf of youth.

Supporting a client dealing with trauma & revictimization

- Remember that healing from trauma is not linear. Don't react to behavior, respond to humanity. Recognize the harms a survivor may have experienced because of their incarceration. Ensure they have access to relevant physical and emotional treatment
- Provide access to peer-to-peer supports and programs so formerly incarcerated survivors can communicate with someone who “speaks your language” and understands the challenges of reentry, parole, and/or a history of criminalization.
- Offer culturally-responsive counseling and therapeutic services, along with culturally-specific healing practices, to ensure survivors can access their most effective healing supports.
- Work with survivors to identify two to three people they trust who can serve as a support network. Encourage survivors to reach out to their support network in times of crisis. If necessary, ask permission to reach out if a survivor is in crisis and is struggling to ask for support.

Specific considerations for formerly incarcerated survivors

- As a provider, always prioritize your client’s well-being and freedom.

- When supporting clients who are on parole, work quickly to identify gaps in supports (e.g: the court may choose not to deem someone eligible for release without secure housing, so finding housing for this survivor should be a top priority).
- Work with your client to find out what services they can access through referral from their parole officer, engage in advocacy for your client to access related services.
- Offer up your agency as a meeting place if needed for custody or visitation with children.
- Develop temporary shelter options that can serve as alternatives to incarceration if police require two people involved in an altercation to separate for a period of time. Ensure police and survivors are aware of this resource.
- Support criminalized survivors in understanding their rights when interacting with police, including understanding that anything shared with police, even as a victim of violence, can be used against them or result in their children being removed from their custody.
- As always, it is critical for survivors of violence to decide if or when to contact police. Survivors on parole may worry that seeking services will translate to police contact, which can lead to a parole violation. Ask survivors how they would like to proceed and prioritize the trauma. If they would like to see a doctor, ensure they are aware of what, in an examination, may trigger a police response. Are there ways that you, as an advocate, can advocate to support the client's wishes related to police contact?
- Should a client choose to contact the police, support the client in communicating with police, their parole officer, and other legal system stakeholders.
- Create specialized funds to support currently and formerly incarcerated survivors, including for:
 - Meeting basic needs
 - Commissary or phone funds to call their children or loved ones
 - Bailout programs
 - Rent funds: housing is a critical and often urgent concern for formerly incarcerated survivors
 - Attorney fees

Improving services for incarcerated survivors

- Provide services in jails and prisons. Connect with incarcerated survivors 3-6 months prior to release to support them during their transition.
- Accept collect calls from jail and prison. Ensure your messaging system states that you take collect calls.
- Find out what programming is offered in the facility and recommend placement in those programs for currently incarcerated survivors.
- Ensure incarcerated survivors have access to specialized and emergency funds to support them while incarcerated.

APPENDIX C : EXAMPLES OF ORGANIZATIONS WORKING WITH CRIMINALIZED SURVIVORS

These organizations provide services, advocacy networks, and/or advocacy opportunities for currently and/or formerly incarcerated people.

- Court Watch NYC, Envision Freedom Fund envisionfreedom.org/
 - Court Watch NYC harnesses the power of New Yorkers to organize for transformative change toward abolition. We watch court proceedings, shift power in the courtroom, report what we see, and hold court actors accountable to ending the injustices in the criminal legal system that target Black, brown, indigenous, immigrant/migrant, queer and TGNC communities.
- Crime Survivors for Safety & Justice California safeandjust.org/
 - Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice is a national network of over 70,000 crime survivors. They are a flagship project of Alliance for Safety and Justice. CSSJ has chapters and leaders across the country building a movement to heal together and promote public safety policies that help the people and communities most harmed by crime and violence.
- National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls nationalcouncil.us/
 - The National Council is committed to abolishing incarceration for women and girls and is the first national membership coalition founded and run by formerly incarcerated women. They recently completed a 2.5 year listening tour convening formerly incarcerated women and girls from around the country. These conversations informed their platform and their #FreeHer campaign to end the incarceration of women and girls in the United States.
- Pū'ā Foundation puafoundation.org/
 - From trauma to transformation, incarceration to independence. We engage in community organizing, capacity building and training, connecting resources to need in an aligned, strategic and comprehensive way striving to reduce recidivism and end the over-representation of Native Hawaiian women incarcerated.

- Sister Warrior Freedom Coalition sisterwarriorsfree.org
 - The Sister Warriors Freedom Coalition is a powerful community of directly impacted cis and trans women and young women, trans men and young men, and gender-expansive people working together and building a movement to support each other, shift power and lead local and statewide systems and policy changes. They currently have 14 active chapters around the state of California.
- Women on the Rise, Georgia womenontherisega.org/
 - Women on the Rise is a grassroots organization led by women of color who are targeted and/or impacted by the legal system. Women on the Rise works to educate, heal, and empower ourselves, one another and our communities to demand justice, dignity, and liberation for all.
- Young Women’s Freedom Center youngwomenfree.org
 - For nearly 30 years, Young Women’s Freedom Center has provided support, mentorship, training, employment, and advocacy to young women and trans youth of all genders in California who have grown up in poverty, experienced the juvenile legal and foster care systems, have had to survive living and working on the streets, and who have experienced significant violence in their lives.
- Youth Empowerment SD youthempowermentsd.com/
 - Youth Empowerment understands that healing ourselves and our communities is at the core of our ability to build a transformative justice model that ends the cyclical nature of violence and community decline. We believe in the power of using trained Credible Messengers as mentors for our youth and adults, mentors who have lived experience in gangs, criminal activities, incarceration, physical, emotional or substance abuse.

APPENDIX D : EXAMPLES OF SUCCESSFUL LEGISLATION

The list below is a sample of legislative action centering criminalized survivors.

California

- California Passes Tough New Domestic Violence Laws, http://www.purpleberets.org/violence_new_law.html
 - Marie De Santis, Women’s Justice Center, provides an overview of California’s new domestic violence law and discusses the ways in which the law could be further improved.
 - The California Penal Code includes links to Section 836, the state’s law on arrest, as well as sections of Part 4 Title 5 of the Penal Code, governing the law enforcement response to domestic violence <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/calawquery?codesection=pen&codebody=&hits=20>

• Idaho

- The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Family Violence Department and the Center for Court Innovation found that Idaho was the first state in the nation to adopt [legislation](#) authorizing the establishment of Domestic Violence Courts statewide. Not only is Idaho’s provision regarding statewide Domestic Violence Courts legislatively distinctive, the creation and legislative support of a Domestic Violence Court Coordinator is innovative and is currently the only such legislation in the country.
- Find out more about Idaho Legislation and Domestic Violence Courts
 - [Domestic Relations Coordinated Family Services Domestic Violence Courts](http://legislature.idaho.gov/idstat/Title32/T32CH14.htm) <http://legislature.idaho.gov/idstat/Title32/T32CH14.htm>
 - [Idaho Domestic Violence Crime Prevention Statutes](http://legislature.idaho.gov/idstat/Title39/T39CH63.htm) <http://legislature.idaho.gov/idstat/Title39/T39CH63.htm>
 - [Idaho Crimes and Punishments Assault & Battery Statutes](http://legislature.idaho.gov/idstat/Title18/T18CH9.htm) <http://legislature.idaho.gov/idstat/Title18/T18CH9.htm>

- Minnesota
 - Minnesota’s Domestic Abuse Act, Section 518B.01 of Minnesota’s statutes, creates a civil remedy of an Order for Protection (OFP), designates the procedures that must followed in applying for and granting an OFP, and describes the kind of relief that can be granted. For example, the Act sets forth the circumstances under which an ex parte order may be granted and requires that a hearing be held within ten days after the issuance of such an order. The Act also describes penalties for violations of both OFPs and No Contact Orders, orders issued against a defendant in criminal proceedings for domestic violence, and describes how law enforcement officials should enforce such orders. In addition, the Act includes a number of provisions that facilitate victims’ access to the legal system. For example, the Act waives the filing fees for orders of protection and provides that an individual filing for an OFP may request that his or her address not be disclosed to the public.
<http://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/stats/518B/01.html>
 - Section 609.2242 of Minnesota’s statutes criminalizes domestic violence. Under this law, an individual commits the crime of domestic assault by causing another to fear immediate bodily harm or death, or inflicting, or attempting to inflict, such harm. Penalties are increased when the perpetrator has previously committed one or more domestic assaults within a certain period of time.
<http://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/stats/609/2242.html>
 - Minnesota has also enacted a domestic violence arrest law, Section 629.341, that allows officers to arrest an individual without a warrant if there is probable cause to believe that the individual has committed domestic abuse, and that requires officers to provide victims of domestic violence with notice of their legal rights.
<http://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/stats/629/341.html>
 - Section 629.342 of Minnesota’s statutes provides that police departments must develop policies and protocols for dealing with domestic violence, and explicitly requires police officers to assist victims in obtaining medical treatment and providing the victim with a notice of his or her legal rights.
<http://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/stats/629/342.html>

- New York
 - New York State’s Domestic Violence Prevention Act creates a comprehensive network of services for victims of domestic violence. The Act requires social services districts to offer emergency shelter and other services, including advocacy, counseling and referrals. The Act requires shelters that receive funding under its provisions to maintain a confidential address and also mandates that other government agencies keep such addresses confidential. <http://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?cl=108&a=58>
 - New York State’s law on warrantless arrest permits localities to establish mandatory arrest regulations or policies. <http://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?cl=25&a=22>
 - The state’s law on criminal procedures for family offenses directs officers investigating “a family offense” under that provision to “advise the victim of the availability of a shelter or other services in the community” and to “immediately give the victim written notice of the legal rights and remedies available to a victim of a family offense.” <http://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?cl=25&a=71>
 - This law provides an example of the kind of information an officer might give to a victim, and mandates that the notice be prepared in multiple languages if necessary.
 - New York State also passed a law creating an Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence. The Office is charged with advising the governor and legislature “on the most effective ways for state government to respond to the problem of domestic violence” and to “develop and implement policies and programs designed to assist victims of domestic violence and their families, and to provide education and prevention, training and technical assistance.” <http://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?cl=39&a=55>

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The LOVE (Leadership of Voices of Experience) Project, funded by the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ's) Office on Violence Against Women, will enhance victim service providers' ability to support survivors of gender-based violence and incarceration, including partnering with survivors interested in honing and formalizing advocacy skills as leaders for social and economic justice.

For more information and resources, visit
https://nationalcrittenton.org/project/love_project/

