



# creative interventions

Strengthening Social Network Responses  
to Domestic Violence

Mimi Kim

Creative Interventions

CPEDV Webinar

May 21, 2015

# Questions

1

- What are *social network* responses to domestic violence?

2

- What is the broader political context for a call to this approach?

3

- How are these *different* than our current responses & *why does it matter*?

4

- What is one pathway we can use to engage social networks? Intro to *Creative Interventions*?

# Key Concepts

words words words

words words words

**Social Networks**

**Transformative Justice**

**Community Accountability**

**Community-Based Interventions**

**over-reliance on criminalization**

words words words

**Social Networks**

**Transformative Justice**

**Community Accountability**

**Community-Based Interventions**

**over-reliance on criminalization**

how do we make sense of this all?

# Starting with Stories

He Korero Iti  
A Small Story

We live in a town, but many of my husband's *extended family* (whanau) live in the valley where he grew up about 40 kilometres away. My husband and his brother are renowned for a number of things – one being how they extend the life of their cars and vans using highly technical items like string and wire – another how they share these vehicles for a variety of tasks such as moving furniture or transporting relatives, building materials, tractor parts, *traditional herbal medicines* (rongoa), eels, vegetables, dogs, and pigs (dead or alive). They are renowned for being people of the people, the ones to call on in times of trouble and death, the ones who will solve the problem and make the plan. They travel to and from town, to the coast to dive for sea food, to endless meetings, to visit *extended family* (whanau) - along the many kilometres of dirt roads in and around the valley, through flood or dust depending on the season in those patched up, beat up, prized cars.



There are a number of things to know about the valley - one is that the last 33 children in the world of their *small subtribe* (hapu ririki) to grow up and be educated on their own lands go to school here, despite government efforts to close the school. Another is that the valley is known to outsiders and insiders as 'patu wahine' - literally meaning to 'beat women' and this is not said as a joke. The mountain for this valley is named as the doorway spirits pass through on their way to their final departure from this life. This valley is also the valley where my husband and his siblings were beaten at school for speaking their first language. It is the valley their mother sent them to so they would be safe from their father - back to her people. It is where they milked cows, pulled a plough, fed pigs but often went hungry, and were stock whipped, beaten and worse.

My brother-in-law still lives in the valley, in a group of houses next to the school. So it's no surprise that one of our cars would be parked by these houses – right by where the children play. Perhaps also not a surprise that while playing that time old international game of rock throwing our eight year old nephew shattered the back window of the car. If I'd been listening I probably would have heard the 'oh' and 'ah' of the other children that accompanied the sound of glass breaking from town, and if I'd been really tuned in I would have heard the rapid, frightened heart beat of 'that boy' as well.

His mother is my husband's cousin – and she was on the phone to us right away. She was anxious to assure us 'that boy' would get it when his father came home. His father is a big man with a pig hunter's hands who hoists his pigs onto a meat hook unaided. He is man of movement and action, not a man for talking. Those hands would carry all the force of proving that he was a man who knew how to keep his children in their place. Beating 'that boy' would be his way of telling us that he had also learned his own childhood lessons well.

So before he got home we burned up the phone lines – sister to sister, cousin to cousin, brother -in-law to sister-in-law, wife to husband, brother to brother. This was because my husband and his brother know that there are some lessons you are taught as a child that should not be passed on. The sound of calloused hand on tender flesh, the whimpers of watching sisters, the smell of your own fear, the taste of your own blood and sweat as you lie in the dust – useless, useless, better not born. This is a curriculum like no other. A set of lessons destined to repeat unless you are granted the grace of insight and choose to embrace new learning.

So when the father of 'that boy' came home and heard the story of the window 'that boy' was protected by our combined *love* (aroha) and good humor, by the presence of a senior uncle, by invitations to decide how to get the window fixed in the shortest time for the least money. Once again phone calls were exchanged with an agreement being made on appropriate restitution. How a barrel of diesel turns into a car window is a story for another time.

Next time my husband drove into the valley it was to pick up the car, and 'that boy' was an anxious witness to his arrival. My husband also has very big hands, hands that belong to a man who has spent most of his life outdoors. These were the hands that reached out to 'that boy' to hug not hurt.

A lot of bad things still happen in the valley, but more and more they are being named and resisted. Many adults who learned their early lessons there will never return. For *people of the land* (tangata whenua) this is profound loss – our first identifiers on meeting are not our own names but those of our mountains, rivers, *subtribe* (hapu) and *tribe* (iwi). To be totally separate from these is a dislocation of spirit for the already wounded. This is only a small story that took place in an unknown valley, not marked on many maps. When these small stories are told and repeated so our lives join and connect, when we choose to embrace new learning and use our ‘bigness’ to heal not hurt then we are growing grace and wisdom on the earth.

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Di Grennell  
Whangarei, Aotearoa-New Zealand

Audio & transcript available at [www.stopviolenceeveryday.org](http://www.stopviolenceeveryday.org)

What are your  
thoughts and feelings?



# Some Key Questions

- \* What are social networks?
- \* How did this family/people's histories contribute to violence?
- \* How did the violence of the "state" or "government" contribute to violence? What are some factors within the broader political context that are important to think about?
- \* How did this family and this people's histories and cultures help to prevent the violence?
- \* How do we as advocates fit in or not fit into this story?

What is  
the  
political  
context?

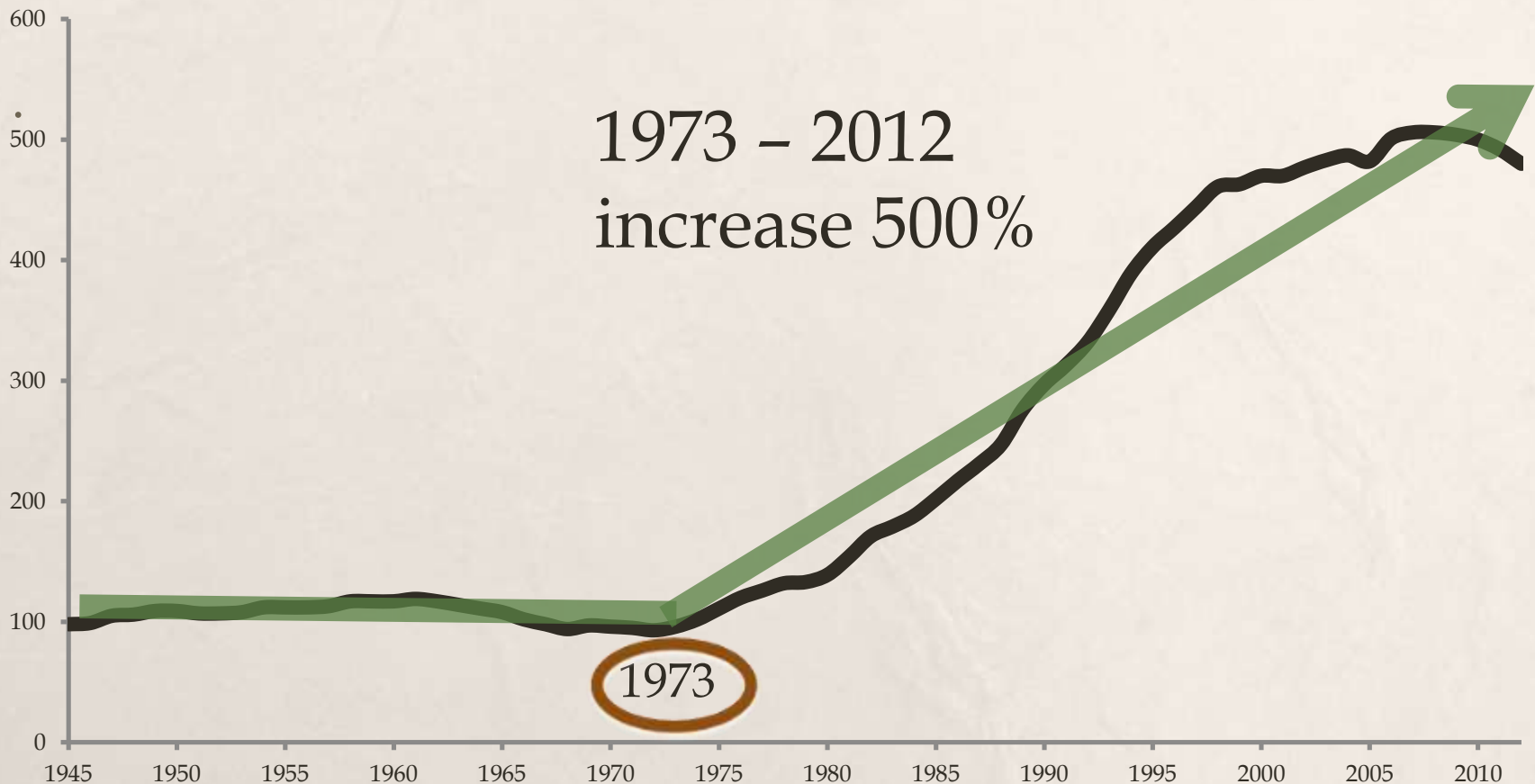
Anti-Violence  
Movement in  
Crisis

# CRISIS



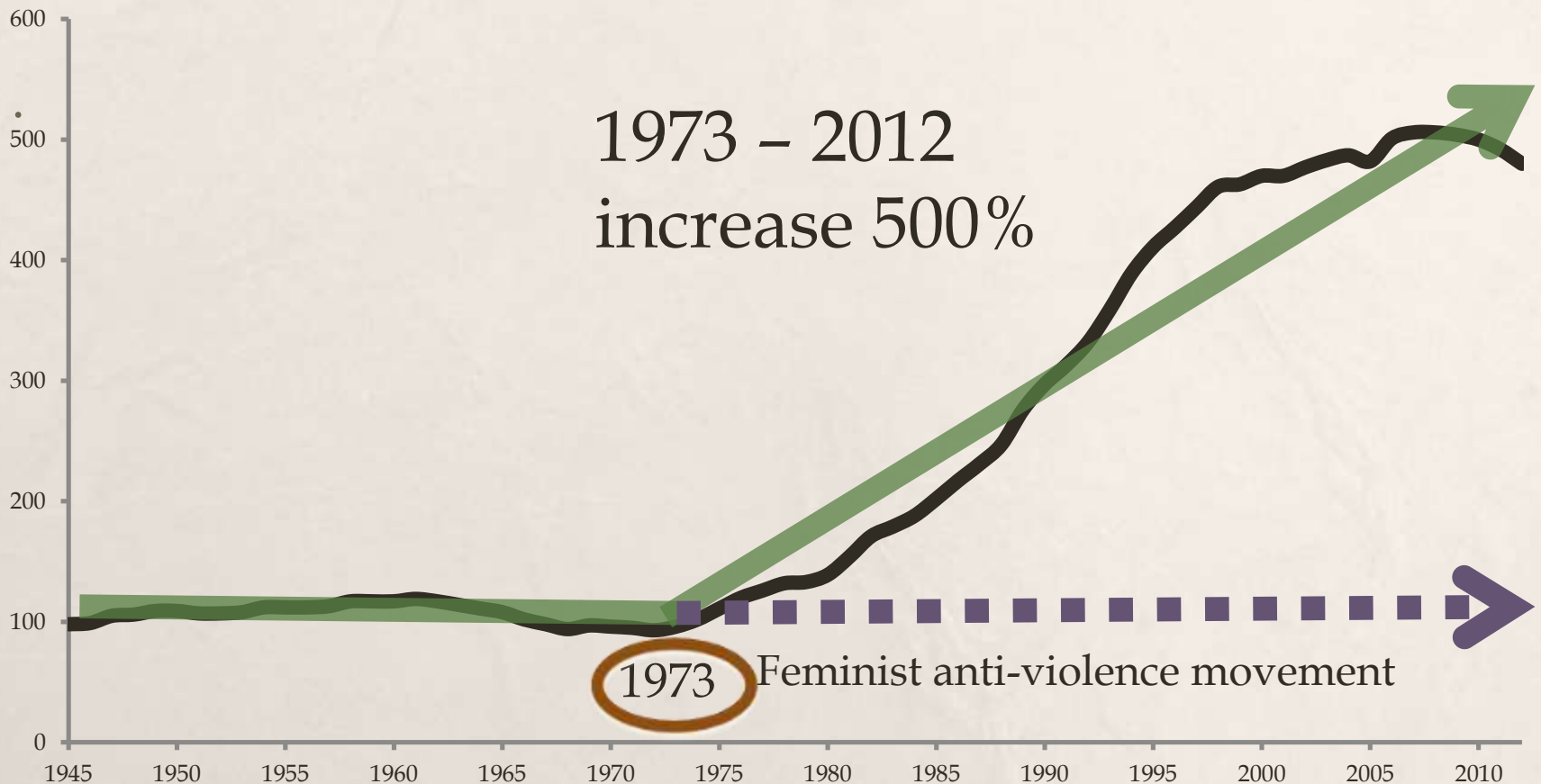
overreliance on  
criminalization

# U.S. Rates of Incarceration



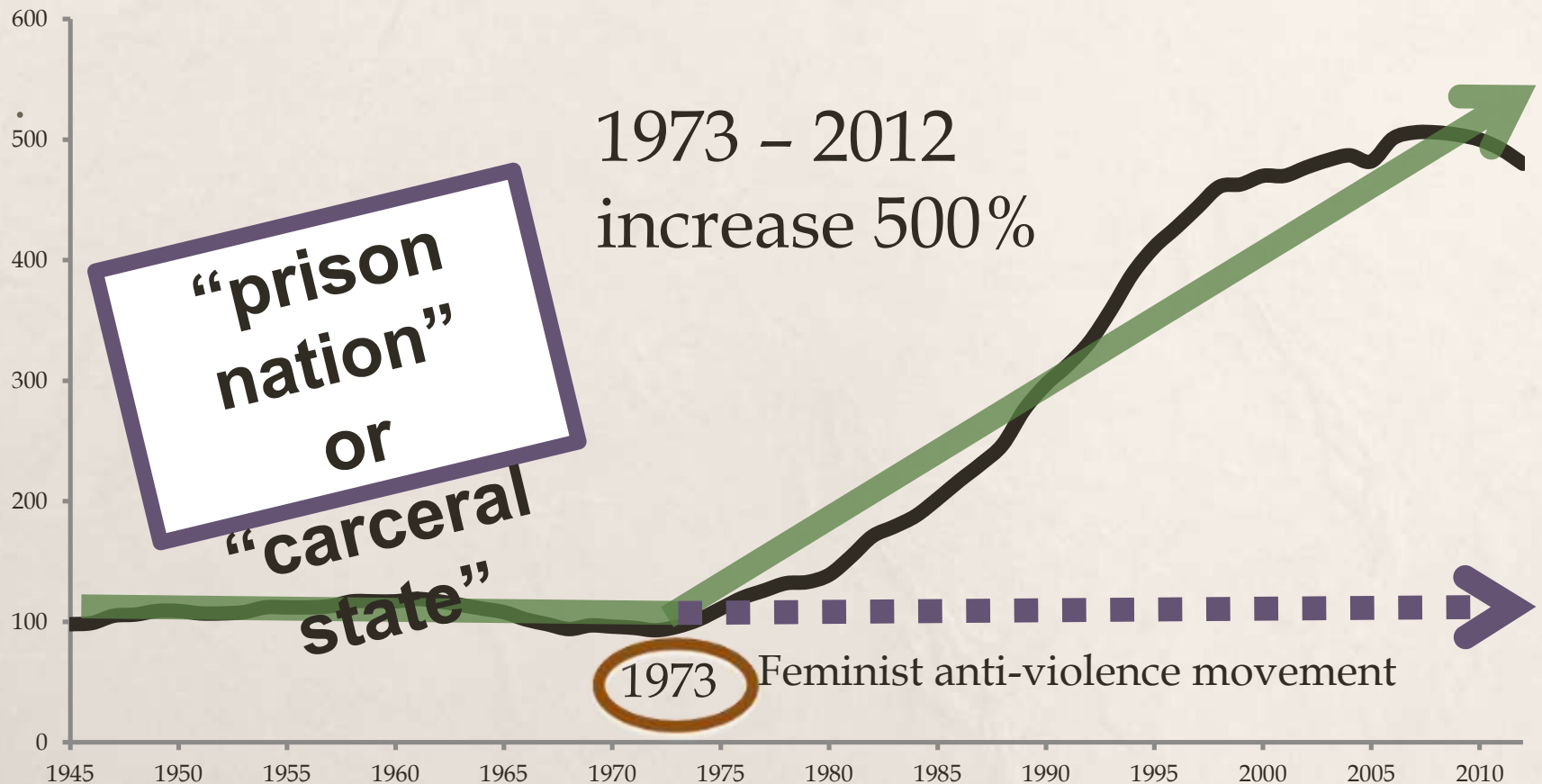
Data from Maguire, Kathleen, ed. (2003), *Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics*. Albany, NY: University at Albany, Hindelang Criminal Justice Research Center, Table 6.28, p. 500; E. Ann Carson, and William J. Sabol (2012), *Prisoners in 2011*, Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Table 6, p. 6; *Bureau of Justice Statistics in 2012 – Advance Counts* (2013).

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# WHAT WE WANT

*accountability*

*human rights*

*women's rights*

*justice*

*safety*

*solutions to social problems*



# SWEPT INTO THE...

*accountability*   *human rights*  
*women's rights*   *justice*  
*safety*   *solutions to social problems*

**PRISON**



**PIPELINE**



# WHAT DO SURVIVORS WANT

# WHAT DO SURVIVORS WANT

- \* Escape to shelter
- \* Arrest abuser
- \* Leave relationship

# WHAT DO SURVIVORS WANT

- \* Escape to shelter
- \* Arrest abuser
- \* Leave relationship
- \* Stay safe at home
- \* Stop violence
- \* Keep homes and communities intact

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# WHAT DO COMMUNITIES WANT

- \* Escape to shelter
- \* Arrest abuser
- \* Leave relationship
- \* Stay safe at home
- \* Stop violence
- \* Keep homes and communities intact



# WHAT DO *WE* WANT

- \* Escape to shelter
- \* Arrest abuser
- \* Leave relationship
- \* Stay safe at home
- \* Stop violence
- \* Keep homes and communities intact



# WHAT DO *WE* WANT and what's stopping us

- \* Escape to shelter
- \* Arrest abuser
- \* Leave relationship
- \* Stay safe at home
- \* Stop violence
- \* Keep homes and communities intact





What is  
the current  
context?

Social  
Movements  
Seek  
Alternatives

# Political Context

mapping alternative landscape

community-based intervention



# Political Context

mapping alternative landscape

community based intervention

**Transformative Justice**  
**Restorative Justice**  
**Community Accountability**  
**Community Based-Responses to Violence**  
**Alternatives to Criminalization**

# Historical Context

## Mapping Social Movements

### Restorative Justice

Juvenile justice reform  
in New Zealand

Move from  
punishment model

Elevate voice of victim

Harm is collective, not  
just individual

Collective  
responsibility

### Transformative Justice

First promoted in US  
by generation FIVE

Rejection of criminal  
justice system

Started as survivor-led  
strategy & movement

Harm caused by  
systems & conditions

Collective/community  
self-determination

### Community Accountability

First promoted in US  
by Incite!

Rejection of criminal  
justice system

Intersection of gender  
& police violence

Harm caused by  
systems & conditions

Focus on practical,  
historical strategies

# Current Context

## mapping alternative landscape

### Restorative Justice

More familiar & longer history

Often tied to criminal justice system

Better resourced & documented

Longer practice with youth

Legislation for youth

### Transformative Justice/Community Accountability

More aligned with social justice movements & values (especially communities of color)

Autonomous from and alternative to criminal justice system

Acknowledges harm caused by systems & social conditions

More flexible and adaptable

Supports collective/community action, power & self-determination

# Defining Transformative Justice



Transforming communities to change conditions that create, maintain, sustain and support oppression, exploitation, domination and harm to people, places, institutions  
*generationFIVE*

# Holistic Model of Transformative Justice/Community Accountability



**Honoring safety,  
healing, and  
agency of  
survivors of  
violence**



**Engaging people  
who have done  
harm in  
accountable and  
transformative  
community-  
based processes**



**Transforming  
communities  
from conditions  
of oppression &  
harm to self-  
determination,  
equality, health  
and liberation**

# What Options Are We Offering

Current  
Domestic  
Violence  
Options



# CRISIS



overreliance on  
criminalization



underdeveloped  
community  
response

# Who are our first responders?

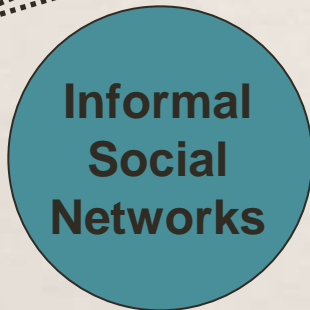


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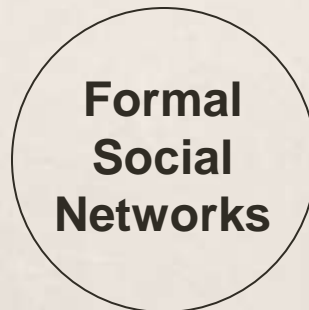


- **Family**
- **Friends**
- **Community members**
- **Neighbors**
- **Clergy**
- **Coworkers**

# Who gets the resources?



- Family
- Friends
- Neighbors



- Civic Groups
- Faith Communities
- Social Clubs
- PTAs

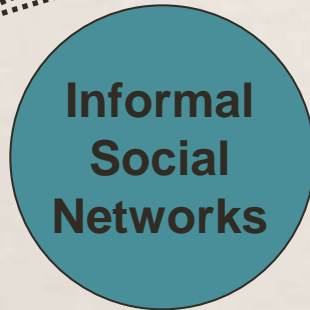


- Shelter
- Health Care
- Schools

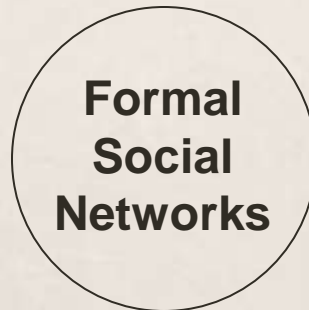


- Police
- Courts
- DSS

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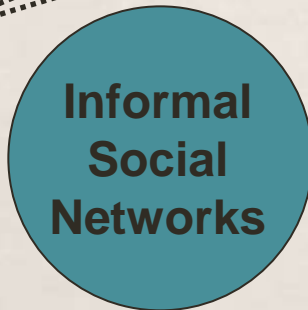


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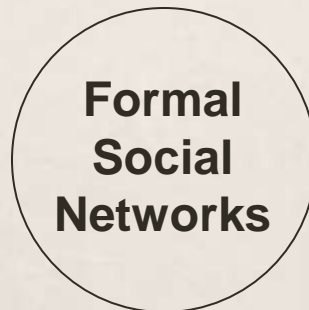


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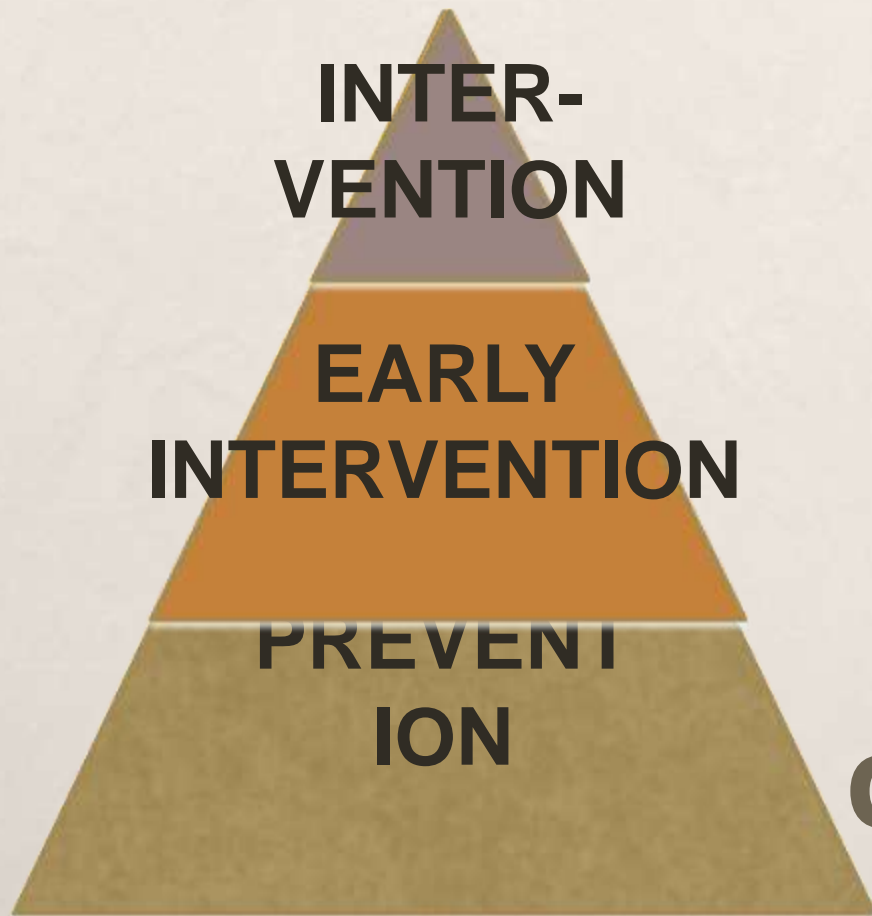


**How do we  
strengthen  
social  
networks  
responses to  
domestic and  
sexual**

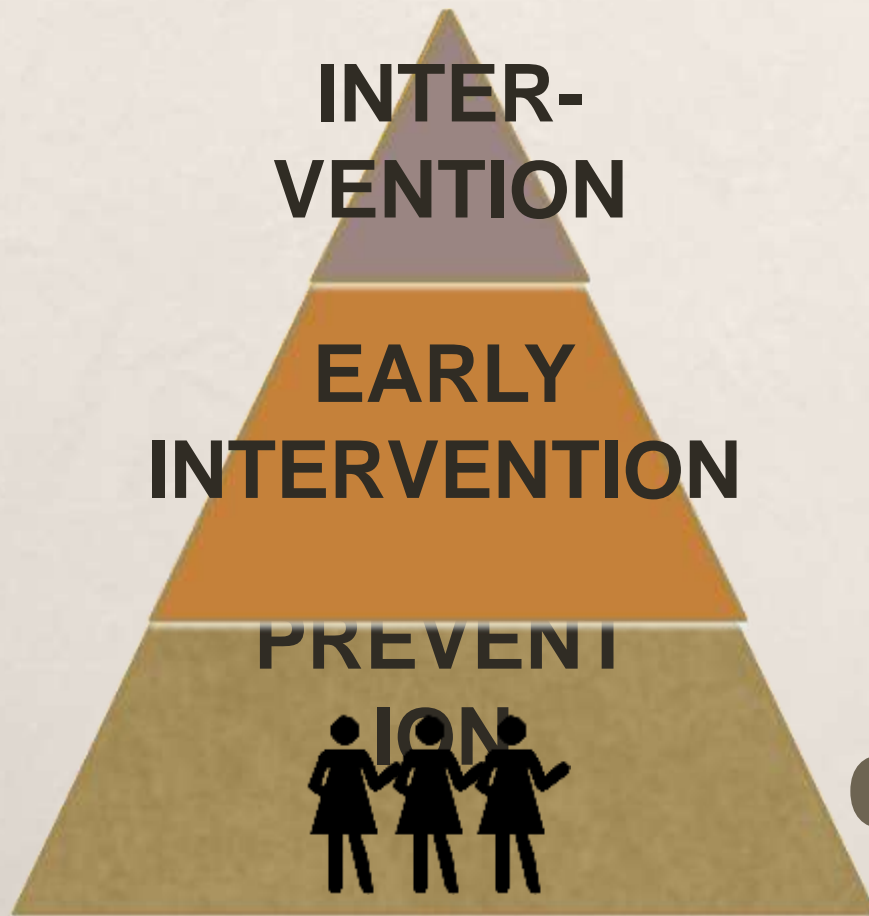


**How do we  
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capacity to  
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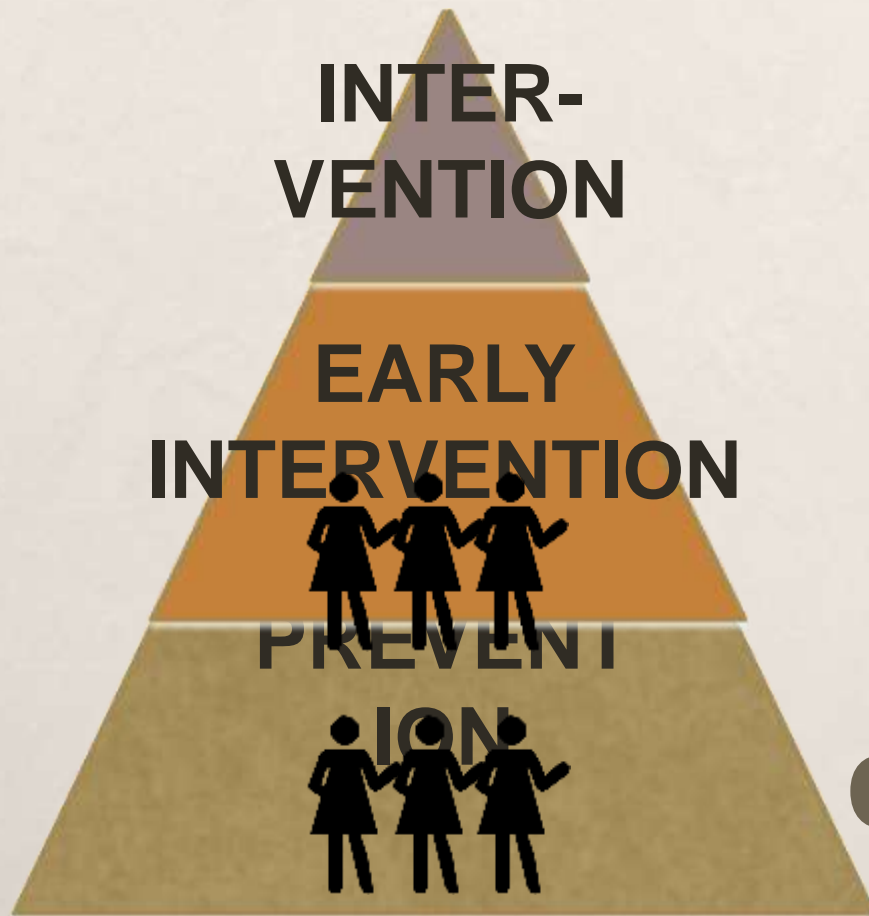




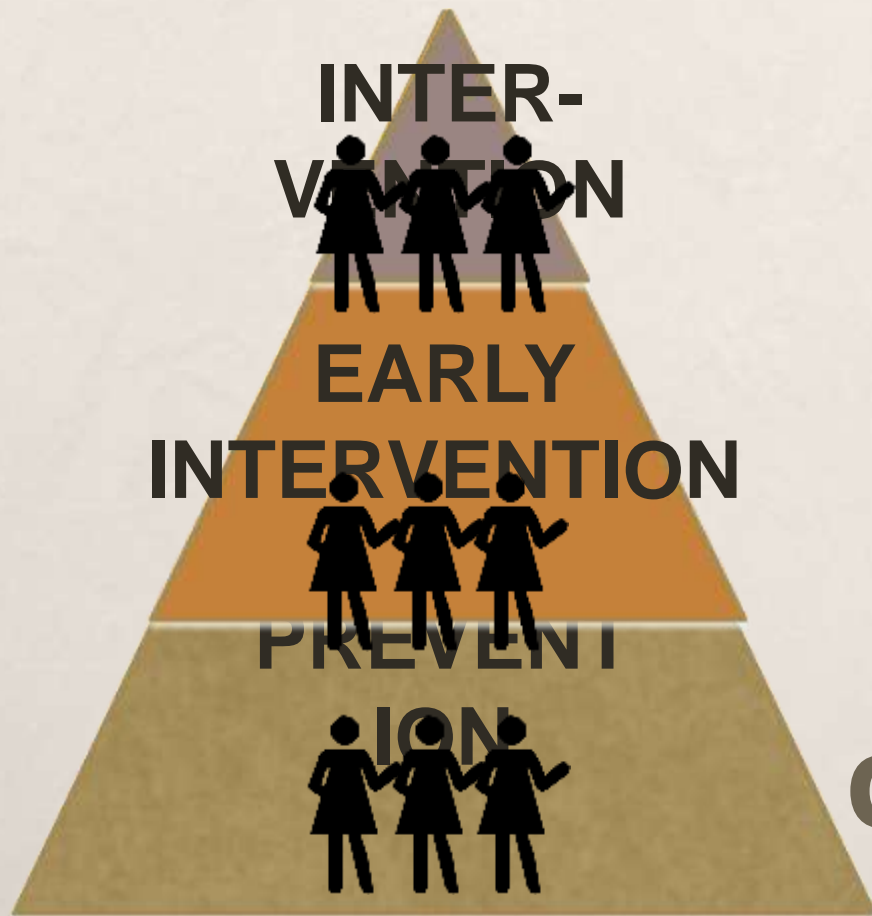
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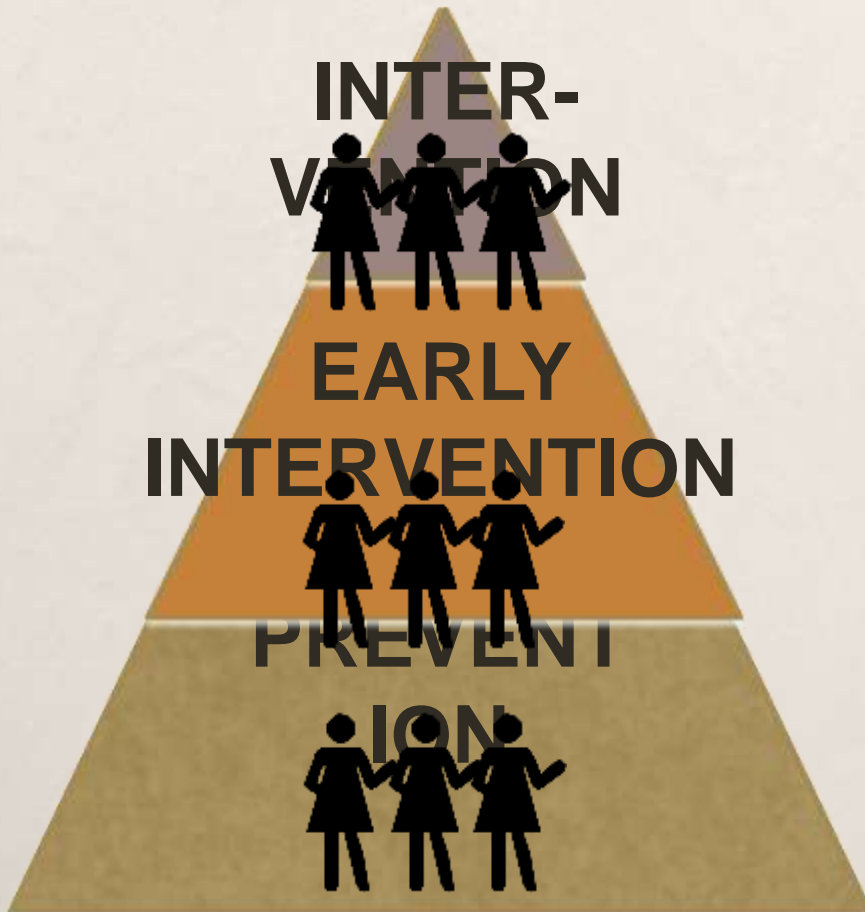


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How do we  
increase our  
community  
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respond to  
domestic and  
sexual

- **First responders**
- **Most impacted by violence**
- **Know the actors, culture, situations**





**How do we  
increase our  
community  
capacity to  
respond to  
domestic and  
sexual**



**STRATEG  
IC  
+  
SYSTEMA  
TIC**

**How do we  
increase our  
community  
capacity to  
respond to  
domestic and  
sexual**



Sharing  
Our Story:  
Creative  
Interventions



Moving  
Towards  
Community-  
Based  
Alternatives



# What Do We Need to Expand Our Options

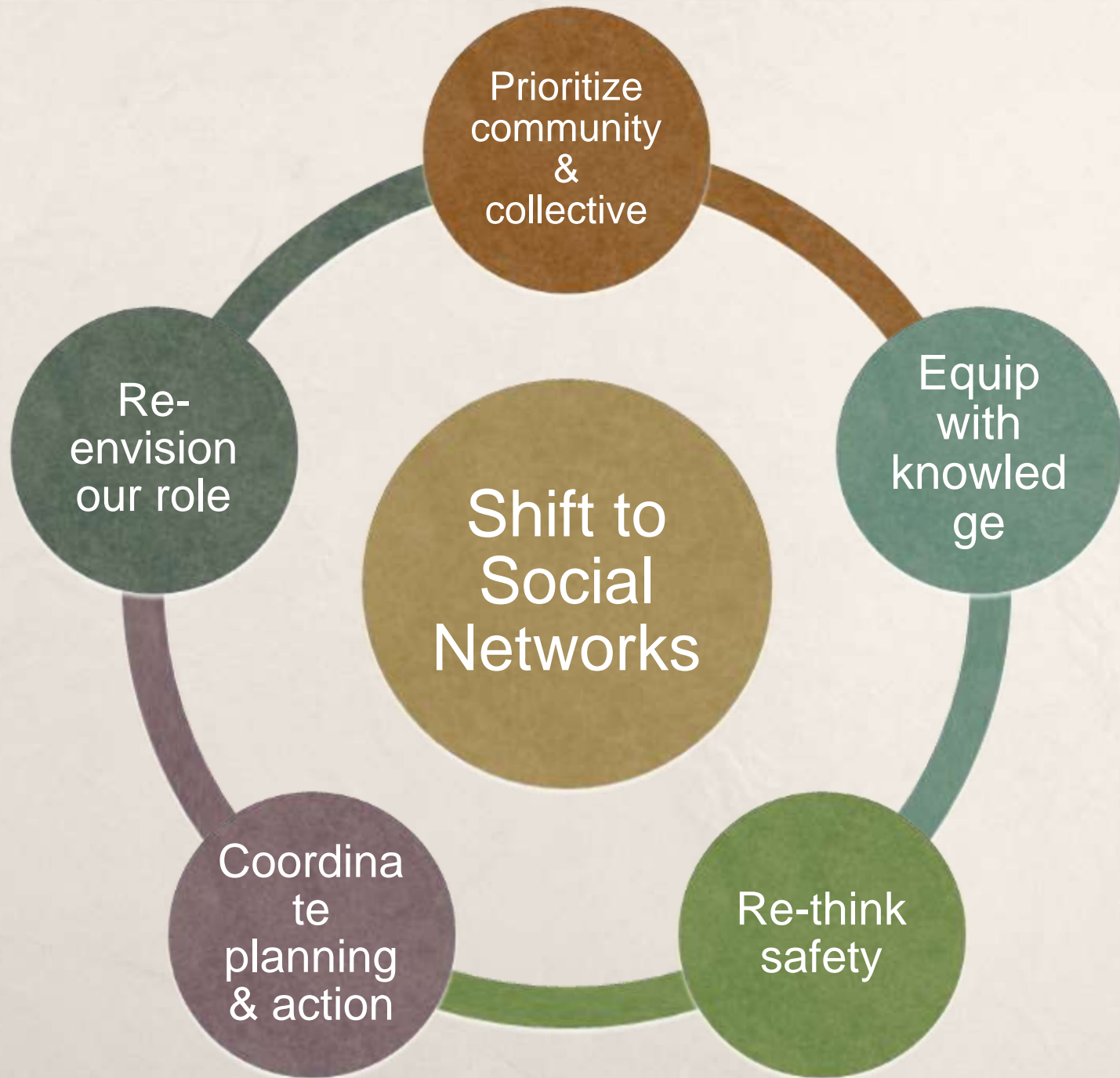
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# What Do We Need to Expand Our Options

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Prioritize  
community  
&  
collective

Equip  
with  
knowled  
ge

Shift to  
Social  
Networks

Re-think  
safety

Coordina  
te  
planning  
& action

Re-  
envision  
our role

Where do we start?

shelters  
advocacy



Where do we start?

shelters  
advocacy

criminal  
justice  
BIP



*Where do we start?*

shelters  
advocacy

restorative  
justice

criminal  
justice  
BIP



*Where do we start?*

shelters  
advocacy

restorative  
justice

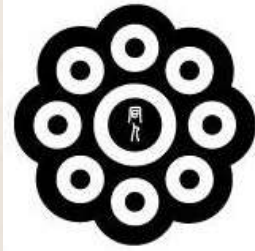
community  
knowledge

criminal  
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BIP

Where do we start?

shelters  
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## creative interventions

Resources for everyday people  
to end violence



*Make ending violence an everyday act.*



## GOALS

- Create model and tools to support community-based or social network responses to violence
- Make them *accessible*
  - No jargon
  - Free of charge
  - Available on web
- Tools can be used by ANYBODY, not just service providers
- Elevate role of community-based/social network interventions as a legitimate response to violence
- Bring this way of thinking and skills part of everyday practice and culture – increase community capacity to intervene & end violence





# DEFINING COMMUNITY-BASED INTERVENTION or SOCIAL NETWORK RESPONSE

- **Intervention:** Action taken to address, end or prevent violence
- **Community-Based:** Intervention is planned and/or carried out by survivor, social network (friends, family, community) and possibly with the participation of the person(s) doing harm
- **Role of Systems:**
  - With the support of systems
  - To reduce or manage the harm of systems
  - As an alternative to systems





# RE-DEFINING ROLE OF PROVIDERS

- **What is our role? What do we do?**
  - We are facilitators – we are NOT the ones carrying out the intervention
  - We offer space (attention, energy and location) for those experiencing violence to support their intervention
  - We offer knowledge and resources (stories, tools, knowledge about dynamics of violence, training on the model & tools)
- **Who do we work with?**
  - Anyone in the social network/community faced with violence





# 3 Strategies

1

- Pilot community-based interventions

2

- Collect stories of social network responses

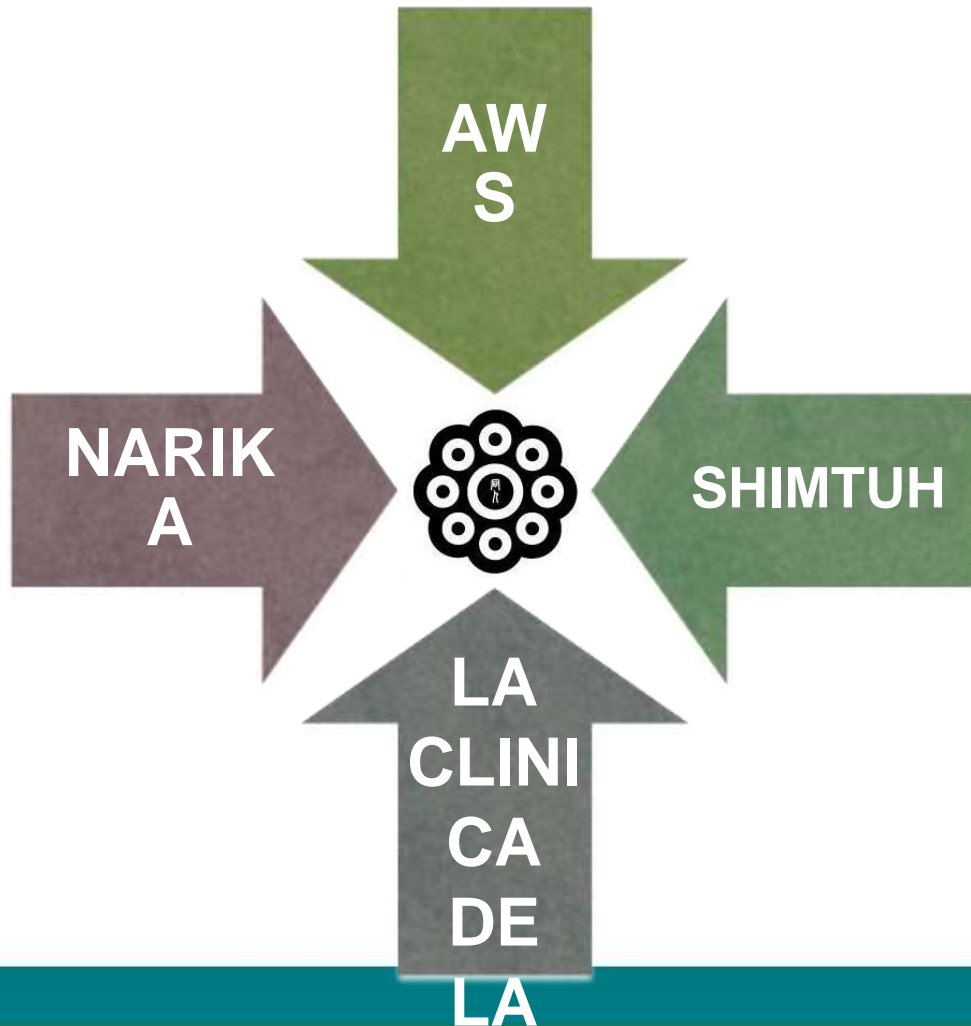
3

- Work collectively with others to shift the movement





# COMMUNITY-BASED INTERVENTION

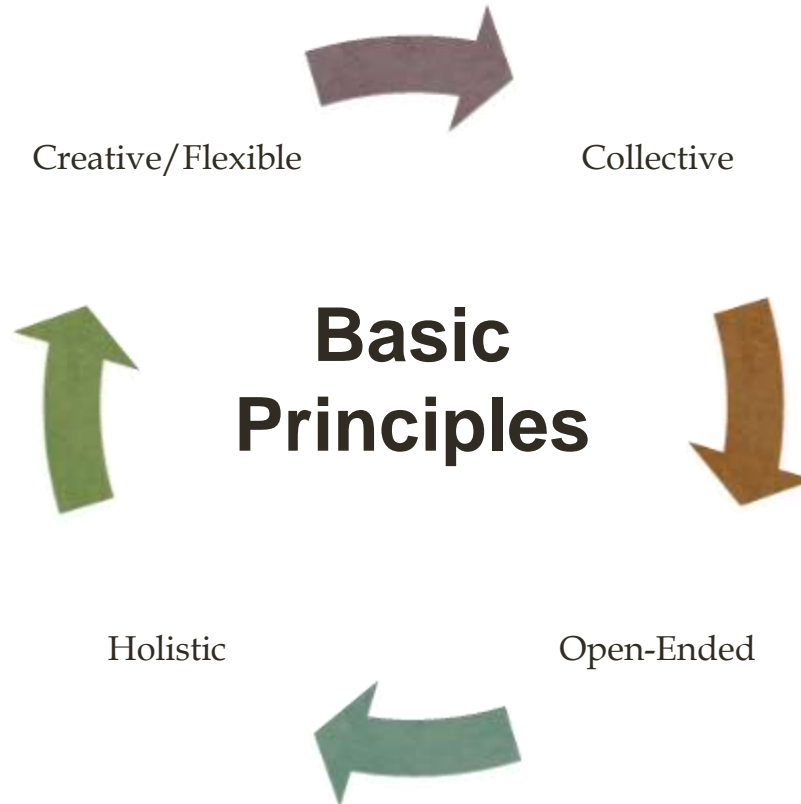


- 5 collaborative part
- 8 person team
- 3 year pilot
- 25 incidences of vic
- 100 individuals





# COMMUNITY-BASED INTERVENTION



LA

RAZA





# COMPONENTS OF THE CI MODEL







# Creative Interventions Toolkit

- ☑ What is the model?
- ☑ Is this model right for you?
- ☑ Stories to inspire and inform
- ☑ Lessons learned
- ☑ Tips and guidelines
- ☑ Tools to Mix and Match
  - ☑ Organized around components
  - ☑ Includes facilitator notes
  - ☑ Points for survivors, “allies”, those doing harm

LA

RAZA





creative  
interventions

Resources for everyday people  
to end violence

ABOUT

VISION

STORIES

TOOLS

ACTION



VISION



STORIES



TOOLS



ACTION

## FEATURES

### WELCOME

#### Creative Interventions Website

Welcome to the website for Creative Interventions! This website will feature useful tools, links and other information to help anyone and everyone create collective responses to interpersonal violence.

Toolkit Under Construction - Pre-Release Version Now Available!

### LATEST NEWS

The Creative Interventions Toolkit: A Practical Guide to Stop Interpersonal Violence is currently under construction. The CI Interventions Team including partners from Asian Women's Shelter, La Clinica de la Raza, Narika & Shimtuh is working hard to transform our on-the-ground work into useful tools for community-based violence intervention.

Pre-Release version of the CI Toolkit now available under Tool

Join Our  
Mailing List



## Evaluation Findings

- Exploratory
- Many types of situations (long ago, current, suspected violence)
- Offered options unavailable in other anti-violence organizations
- Important to have space
  - Listen
  - Open to consider all options
  - Non-judgmental and open about options to stay in abusive relationship or take unconventional actions
- Able to carry out safety measures unavailable in other anti-violence organizations
- Need more supportive options for people doing



# STORYTELLING & ORGANIZING PROJECT



- Many collaborative partners
- Everyday stories
- All levels/types of intervention
- May include methods not necessarily endorsed by Creative Interventions

LA

RAZA





## Welcome to the StoryTelling & Organizing Project

Here you will find [audio clips](#) and transcripts from some of STOP's stories. You will also find information about our [project partners](#), discussion questions and [resources](#) for using STOP stories in your own work to intervene in interpersonal violence, as well as information on how to get involved in the project.

[Australia](#)

[Bay Area](#)

[Los Angeles Listening Session](#)

[Toronto](#)

[Home](#)

[Stories](#)

[Using STOP Stories](#)

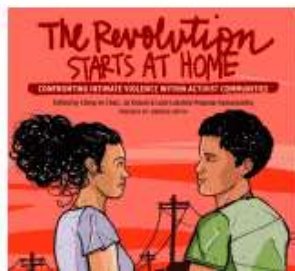
[What is STOP?](#)

### The Creative Interventions Toolkit is Available!

The [Creative Interventions Toolkit: A Practical Guide to Stop Interpersonal Violence](#) is available in pre-release form.

While we are waiting for the finalizing of the designed version of this [Toolkit](#), we wanted to make the contents of the Toolkit available for the public. [Click here to get the kit!](#)

### The Revolution Starts at Home



Keyword Search

[go >>](#)

Browse Stories by Category

STOP RSS Feed

- [All posts](#)
- [All comments](#)



We each have a role to play.

None of us can do this alone...





# 3 Strategies

# Products

1

- Pilot community-based interventions

2

- Collect stories of social network responses

3

- Work collectively with others to shift the movement



Creative  
Interventions  
Toolkit







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Creative  
Interventions  
Toolkit



StoryTelling &  
Organizing Project  
(STOP Stories)





# 3 Strategies

# Products

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- Pilot community-based interventions

2

- Collect stories of social network responses

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- Work collectively with others to shift the movement



Creative Interventions Toolkit



StoryTelling & Organizing Project (STOP Stories)



CI/Strengthening Social Networks Training



# What's Next?

Expanding  
Transformative  
Options for  
Survivors,  
Communities  
and People  
Doing Harm

# Building Alternatives

Audre Lorde Project (New York); Bay Area Transformative Justice (Bay Area); Casa Che of La Clinica de la Raza; Catalyst (NY); Challenging Male Supremacy (New York); Chrysalis Collective (San Diego); Colorado Anti-Violence Program (Denver); Communities Against Rape & Abuse (CARA) (Seattle); Community United Against Violence (CUAV) (San Francisco); CONNECT (New York); Creative Interventions (Oakland); Critical Resistance (Oakland, Los Angeles, New Orleans, national); DataCenter (Oakland); Dulwich Centre (Adelaide, Australia); Females United for Action (FUFA) (Chicago); FIERCE (New York); Freedom, Inc. (Madison); Gender JUST (Chicago); Generating Somatics (Oakland); Generation Five (Oakland and national); Harm Free Zone (Durham, New York); local chapters and affiliates of Incite! Women of Color against Violence (national); Institute for Family Services (Somerset, NJ); Justice Now (Oakland); Ke Ala Lokahi (Hilo); Kindred (Atlanta); Miami Worker's Center (Miami); Project Nia (Chicago); NW Network for Bisexual, Trans, Lesbian & Gay Survivors of Abuse (Seattle); Queer People of Color Addressing Intimate Partner Violence (New York); Queers for Economic Justice (New York); Revolution Starts at Home Collective (national); San Francisco Women against Rape (SFWAR) (SF); Rose City Copwatch (Portland); Shimtuh: Korean Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program (Oakland); Sakhi; Sista II Sista (Brooklyn); Southern California Library (Los Angeles); SpiritHouse (Durham, NC); StoryTelling & Organizing Project (STOP) (Oakland and national); Streetwise and Safe (New

## Join the 2015-16 *Strengthening Social Networks Training*

- ☑ Explore your role in shifting your organization (and the movement)

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- ☑ Explore your role in shifting your organization (and the movement)
- ☑ Become familiar with the CI model, its components and tools

## Join the 2015-16 *Strengthening Social Networks Training*

- ☑ Explore your role in shifting your organization (and the movement)
- ☑ Become familiar with the CI model, its components and tools
- ☑ Consider what and how this can add to your organization's options for engaging friends, family and community

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☑ July 30-31, 2015

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*Space is limited!* Some organizational prep required.

Please email [mimi@creative-interventions.org](mailto:mimi@creative-interventions.org) for more information. I am happy to share more information with you and your staff/volunteers.