**THE ROLE OF ADVOCATES**

• To advocate for the woman who is battered in a manner that respects and validates her individuality,

experiences, decisions and strengths. To advocate for LGBTQ2S and cisgender male survivors in the same manner.

• To model courage and resistance in the face of oppression, intimidation and fear.

* To provide leadership and ensure that women’s/survivor’s safety is a priority in the coordinated community response initiative that promotes and enhances the spiritual and cultural traditions of the sacredness of women and children.

• To advocate for the expressed interests and safety of survivors, and their children, including provision

of safe space and any other resources necessary for the woman/survivor to regain control of her life.

• To focus attention on the operational meaning of safety and integrity of women and renewal of

traditional life ways as guiding principles at all levels of the justice, law enforcement, social and medical

systems dealing with domestic violence cases.

• To provide expertise based on the experience of women/survivors who are battered and their children on issues related to domestic violence within the justice, law enforcement, social and medical systems.

• To ensure that all who have been battered/sexually assaulted have 24-hour access to support, accurate

information, crisis intervention, and other advocacy services.

• To educate personnel within the relevant systems regarding the most effective responses to domestic

violence on behalf of batterers, victims and at-risk family members, prioritizing victim safety and offender accountability.

• To be conscious of the educational role within all advocate activities.

• To remain accountable to the woman/ survivor who has been battered, including maintaining

confidentiality.

**NOTE**: Up to 96% of victims/survivors of battering are female, so the *words woman, women, she* and *her* are used in these documents. However, men who are victims of battering should receive the same kinds of advocacy and resources in ways that meet their needs. Additionally, victims/survivors who are LBGTQ2S also have the right to advocacy and resources that address challenges and barriers posed by heterosexism.

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