**How to Provide Women/Survivor Safety & Batterer Accountability**

**When the Batterer Uses the Tactic of …**

Physical / Sexual Assault:

• Provide safe space and confidential medical care

• Have the batterer arrested, prosecuted and sentenced to the full extent of the law

• Provide easy access to protection and restraining orders, ensuring enforcement

• Assess for possible threats from his family or friends

• Acknowledge the pain and sense of betrayal that comes from victimization

• Assist and talk with women from a place of compassion and validate her strengths

Male Privilege:

• Act in a way that validates the sacredness of women

• Express the right of women to move through the world with respect and compassion

• Avoid collusion - confront the batterer’s belief about his right to control his partner

• Respectfully confront him about his behavior

• Actively support women’s expertise about themselves and their expressed needs

Isolation:

• Provide respectful support and assistance to women

• Provide outreach and easy access to services, including transportation, childcare, etc.

• Remove any barriers to her regaining power and control over her life

• Deal directly and immediately with on-going threats of violence

• Create and enforce sanctions for interfering with her moving freely and without fear

Intimidation:

• Allow advocates to accompany her

• Shield her from this tactic, being aware that it includes looks or gestures from him, his relatives or friends

• Avoid use of position as an authority figure to reinforce intimidation tactics

• Communicate clearly that intimidation is unacceptable by naming the behavior and enforcing consequences

Emotional Abuse:

• Treat and name women as relatives, not as "cases" or other objectifying labels

• Do not make her justify her actions or requests for assistance or resources

• Validate her thoughts, feelings, actions and decisions

• Provide accurate information that lets her know the violence is never her fault, she did not cause and cannot alone stop his violence

• See and speak to the best in her

• Support her healing in her own way

• Speak with her as a friend, honestly and respectfully

Minimizing, Lying and Blaming:

• Avoid collusion with the batterer by buying into his stories or manipulation of systems to maintain control of his partner

• Believe in her and what she says

• Understand the dynamics of battering to avoid minimizing or blaming her/victim for batterer’s behavior

• Focus on the truth and confront batterer about his dishonesty

• Find ways to hold the batterer accountable and change behavior.

Abusing the Children:

• Act in ways that reflects the understanding that mother abuse is child abuse

• Understand that if we protect women, they can protect their children

• Do not allow the batterer to use children as weapons or means of access for violence against their mother through custody or visitation

• Provide the safety and resources for the mother (non-offending parent) and children to stay together

• Know that removing children from their mother for "failure to protect" revictimizes children and mothers

• Create laws that asserts that battering is child abuse

Economic Abuse:

• Provide free, easily accessible resources and services

• Acknowledge that poverty, especially lack of housing, causes women and their children, and other survivors, to return to the batterer or be homeless

• Create appropriate resources without barriers

Coercion and Threats:

• Create safety and comfort for women (and other survivors) to express themselves and do things freely

• Know that his past use of violence may continue to affect her

• Affirm her thoughts, feelings and opinions

• Understand that using position and authority to make her do what you want her to do is disrespectful and abusive

• Create and enforce laws that validate her rights and hold the batterer accountable for his violence

Cultural Abuse:

• Provide support and accurate information

• Understand our role as relatives to all things in Creation

• Be responsible for our role as Relatives by holding ourselves accountable to women who has been victimized, children and other Relatives

• Respect her Path as being equally important as our own

• Honor her privacy without it being an excuse for inaction

Ritual Abuse:

• Validate her/his fears and concerns

• Provide accurate information

• Provide whatever she/he needs to practice her spiritual ways

• Practice our spirituality so our relationship with our Relatives reflects humility and self-understanding

**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 2S-LBGTQ also have the right to advocacy and resources that are responsive to challenges and barriers posed by heterosexism.

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