**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 are responsive to challenges and barriers posed by heterosexism.

**For a Woman / Survivor Who Has Been Battered**

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| **Safety means...**…being protected from violence everywhere she goes…having her children with her and being able to keep them safe…being heard and believed…being supported in her decisions…having a home and the things she needs to support herself and her children…not having to explain what she did to survive…having the time, space and support to regain power and control over her life and heal from trauma…not having to justify what she wants and needs…accurate information about battering, oppression, her culture and resources…knowing his violence is not her fault…not having to be “perfect” to be protected or respected or provided resources or advocacy…being able to walk her path without barriers or fear…being treated as a woman, an individual - not sick, crazy, a case or part of the "problem"…having her cultural and gender identity & preference respected…being treated as a Relative | **Accountability means...**…law enforcement and the legal system enforce the law: not discounting violence because they are married/not married, gender-identity/preference, job status etc.…the batterer can't manipulate the system to control her or blackmail her into returning…stopping him from being violent to her in any way…stopping him from using child visitation or custody to frighten, harass or assault her…stopping him from intimidating her, including in court… stopping him from using his friends or relatives to frighten, harass or assault her…he is confronted about his violence and consistently held to the consequences…he is held to the consequences of his actions, even if survivor isn't liked or approved of …people model behavior for him by showing her respect, compassion, humility and providing her support and resources…treating him as a Relative who can make changes, but is responsible for his actions |