



Accountability is a Requirement for Safety and Change

Brenda Hill
Director of TA & Training
bhill@niwrc.org



Critical Questions:

- Who are the offenders?
- What is accountability?
- What is accountability from the perspective of survivors?
- Who has responsibility for holding offenders accountable?
- What do comprehensive, culturally based offender accountability programs look like?
- What are the resources needed to create a system that holds offenders accountable, and also support change for them to become respectful relatives?



Foundation

- Understanding where we are today
- How we got here as Indigenous People – Root Causes
- Dynamics and tactics of Intimate Partner Violence/
Battering
- Where do we want to go? What is our vision for our communities?
- How do we get there?

VIOLENCE UNNATURAL LIFEWAY

Materialism
Fear
Cultural Abuse
Battering
Incest
Homophobia
Ritual Abuse
Rape
Ageism
Sexism
Isolation
Classism
Child Abuse
Racism
Murder

- Chemical abuse
- Boarding schools
- Witnessing violence
- Stereotypes
- Confusing anger with violence

VIOLENCE IS THE BELIEF SYSTEM

- Power defined as violence
- Colonization
- View reality as male-dominant hierarchy
- Justifies violence and oppression
- Promotes myths of white male superiority
- Treats women and children as property of men

NON-VIOLENCE NATURAL LIFEWAY

Compassion
Peace
Freedom
Honoring of Relationships
Laughter
Understanding
Humility
Love
Wisdom
Health
Life
Respect
Generosity
Courage
Sovereignty

- Prayer, ceremony
- Honor the gift in others
- Ways of non-violence and respect modeled
- Mental self-discipline
- Seek advice of women and elders

NON-VIOLENCE IS THE BELIEF SYSTEM

- Understand that all things have spirits and are related
- Respect is the foundation of all relationships
- People are spirits in physical bodies on individual lifepaths
- Women are sacred
- All people and things of creation are part of the sacred circle of life



BRANCHES **OUTGROWTH**

TRUNK **CONTRIBUTORS**

ROOT **CAUSE OF**

Ending Violence Against Native Women
FROM THE ROOTS UP

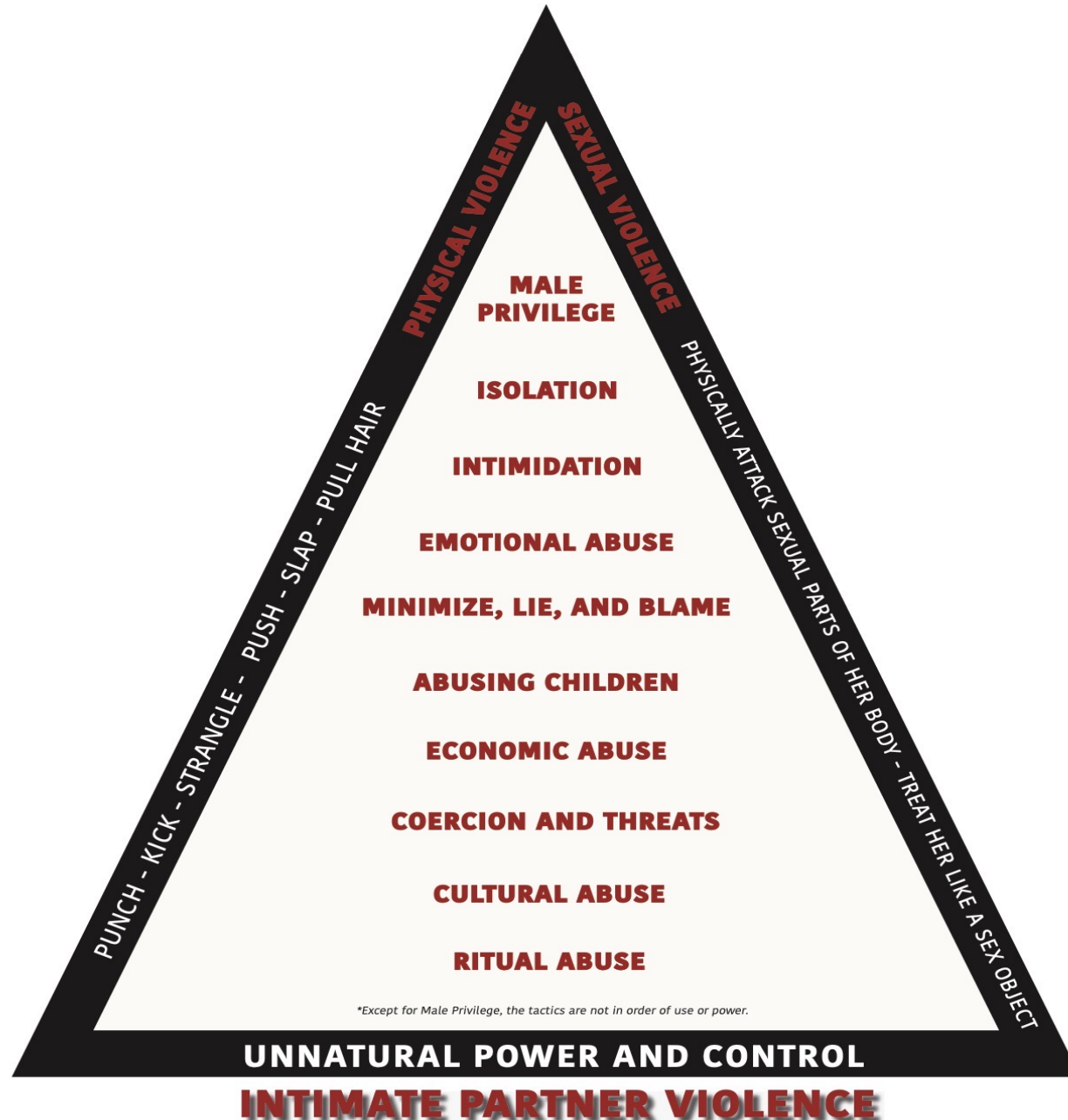
We change the trajectory of colonization by returning to our sacred traditional ways of safeguarding the lives and respecting the strengths and integrity of Native women.



By centering women, our cultural lifeways, language knowledge, ceremony, and values, we reclaim women's sacred status and integrity as the heart of indigenous people's life ways.

Prioritizing the safety of women and accountability of offenders are integral in this process.





*Except for Male Privilege, the tactics are not in order of use or power.

Intimate Partner Violence/Battering is the purposeful, continuous use of tactics to maintain power and control over an intimate partner. This violence is gender based, systemic and unnatural. It is not part of Indigenous cultures.





This can seem like a daunting task.

However, the blessing and strength of indigenous advocacy is that the vision for our communities and nations we strive to reclaim, and the ways to achieve that vision, come from our Ancestors.



Who are the offenders?



- 95% of assaults on spouses or ex-spouses are committed by men against women. Nearly one-third of the women who seek care from hospital emergency rooms are there for injuries resulting from domestic violence.
- The victim's friends or acquaintances committed more than half of the rapes and sexual assaults, intimates committed 26 percent, and strangers were responsible for about one in five.

[Bureau of Justice Statistics'](#) National Crime Victimization Survey.

- 96 percent) of AI/AN female victims of sexual violence experience violence at the hands of a non-Native perpetrator

NIJ Report (Rosay, 2016)



44% of percent of lesbian women and 61% of bisexual women – compared to 35% of heterosexual women – experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime.

26% percent of gay men and 37% of bisexual men – compared to 29% of heterosexual men – experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner at some point in their lifetime.

Source: National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 2010 Summary Report. Nat'l Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Division of Violence Prevention, Atlanta, GA and Center for Disease Control and Prevent

**Just as racism makes Native women increasingly unsafe,
heterosexism & homophobia makes members of the LGBTQ2S communities
increasingly unsafe.**

Violence against women is seen internationally as a human rights violation.

Women's Use of Force



- Women's violence is very different from men's on historical, cultural, systematic, situational, and individual grounds;
- Women's abusive behaviors include self defense, retaliation, reclaiming self respect and controlling abusers' violence;
- Cross-cultural perspective is necessary to avoid inappropriate policy and criminal justice responses.
- Women's use of force against their male partners needs to be recognized in context of:
 - socio-cultural backgrounds
 - family and community networks
 - systems and institutions of intervention
 - motivations and intentions, immediate situations
 - consequences.

Ellen Pence, Domestic Abuse Intervention Project

What is accountability?

One batterer program participant stated “Accountability means to me, behaving in thought and actions according to my beliefs and being honest to others about those beliefs. Also, it means accepting responsibility for my actions and being willing to take the consequences and, where possible, make amends for my actions.”

“Accountability is more than just a response to an individual person; it needs to be cultural and societal.”

--Network Program Director

Vermont Network Against Domestic & Sexual Violence; Center for Court Innovation



“We must be the change we wish to see in the world.”

“We must return to honor.”

What is accountability from the perspective of survivors?



“The shelter said I have 30 days to find a house, get a job, change the kids’ schools, figure out transportation. The doctor said no stress or changes for 2 months because of my concussion. Can’t even eat or sleep much less think!”

“Where the hell am I supposed to go? He’s everywhere in my life! If it’s not him, it’s his family! There’s a two-year waiting list for low-income housing! I lost two jobs because no daycare and he keeps calling and showing up. Protection order? ...there’s like a four hour to two-day response...and I’d have to go back to court!



“He was screaming “I’ll kill you!” while he was pounding on me. Somehow, I escaped and ran to the neighbors’ - she heard him yelling but didn’t know if she should get involved... Found out later I had a concussion, a cracked rib and 25 bruises and welts. Shirt was torn. Finally, the cops arrived. I’m sitting there holding my shirt together, just stunned, shocked.

The cop says, with his one hand on his gun, the other on his hip, “So what’s your problem?” He told me I had to stand out on the street and watch when they went into my house to get my batterer.... A few days later the sheriff says “Well, I’m surprised you didn’t drop this yet. Most do.”



“I knew I had to leave. Everybody said I should “just” leave him. But the lease was in his name. Closest shelter is 50 miles away – my job? Kids’ school? No car and 3 children.

I call the county housing authority about low-income housing. They say I have to bring all kinds of paperwork and show up on Monday morning at 7:30 in person. That’s the only time they take applications. How do I do that? Especially with getting kids to school? And there’s a huge waiting list!”

Accountability of Offenders



- Stop the behavior and take personal responsibility
- Seek out educational and cultural alternatives
- Become honest (not just truthful) with self and others
- Acknowledge past abusive, controlling, and/or violent behavior and language
- Articulate/talk openly about how the behavior has affected others and how it affects current communication, relationships, and the community
- Acknowledge what level of privilege you may hold, and learn how it guides your choices and impacts others



- Be willing to accept others' (women's/children's) anger as it relates to your behavior and the choices you have made
- Be willing to listen to, and hear others about how your behavior has affected them and how they experience you
- Commit yourself to long term change

By Don Chapin, Men's Re-Ed. Specialist/Advocate



Systems Accountability

“Guess How Many Domestic Violence Offenders Go to Jail”

by Sherry Hamby in Psychology Today (2014):

- One in five domestic violence calls to law enforcement were dismissed over the phone
- Three in five that were investigated led to an arrest
- Of those arrested, almost one in three were *not* charged
- Of those charged, less than half were convicted
- Of those convicted, less than 2% ever spent time in jail



- According to a [2014 report by American Progress](#): Between 2001 and 2012, more women in the U.S. were killed by an intimate partner using a gun than U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan combined.
- When police responded to the scene, they took a report 78% of the time. The offender was arrested, or charges were filed in 39% of reported victimizations, either during the initial response or during the follow-up period.

Police Response to Domestic Violence, 2006-2015

Brian A. Reaves, Ph.D., *BJS Statistician*

Traditional Accountability



Before colonization,
how did your Tribe hold those who were violent
against women and children accountable?

The Importance of Using Accountable Language

by [Moshe Rozdzial](#), Phyllis B. Frank and Barry Goldstein

| Aug 19, 2012 | [Ending Men's Violence](#)



Defining unaccountable language

Unaccountable language refers to the powerful messages in all forms of speech... that obscures perpetrators, minimizes their abuse, and supports blaming victims.

One common example is the phrase “an abusive relationship.” The relationship did not hit the woman, but rather it was the abuser, typically a man who is husband or intimate partner, who was abusive.

Such statements make the person who committed the offense, invisible [and makes] the perpetrator invisible.

Who has responsibility for holding offenders accountable?



Short Answer: We are relatives. Everyone except the survivor is accountable.

Longer answer: Law enforcement and the criminal justice system are usually seen as responsible. There are a myriad of challenges to them providing safety and accountability.

No one institution can end violence against women. The major part of the solution lies in indigenous culture.

Coordinated Community Response - CCR



- An inter-agency effort which prioritizes the safety and integrity of women/ survivors, and their children, and batterer accountability.
- An effort promoting the spiritual and cultural traditions of the sacredness of women and children.
- The establishment of policies, procedures and protocols which consistently promotes the safety of women/ survivors, and accountability of men who batter and the systems involved in this response.
- An initiative which promotes and honors the leadership and expertise of women who have been battered.

COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST NATIVE WOMEN



The Role of Advocates includes Leadership



Advocates provide biased support of women and other survivors who are battered/raped. Advocates prioritize focus on violence against women and address intersections of racism, classism, heterosexism etc.

It is the job of advocates to keep focus on:

- *Safety and sovereignty* of women /survivors
- Offender and systems' accountability
- Women survivors *voices and leadership*



Role of Law Enforcement

- Prioritizes women's safety and offender accountability
- Know dynamics of battering and avoid collusion
- Rapid, consistent response
- Follow law on mandatory arrest consistently
- Document arrests, non-arrests, past offenses etc.
- Police reports available to coordinating agency
- Coordinate with advocates
- Role model respectful behavior towards women



Role of Batterers' Re-Education Programs

- Respect the leadership of advocates and expertise of women and other survivors who are battered
- Prioritize women's/ survivors' safety, promoting the sacredness of women and children
- Maintain focus on issues of violence, abuse, control and change
- Provide accurate information; teach respectful relationship skills
- Act as a relative and role-model
- Remain accountable to women who have been battered and other survivors



Role of the Criminal Justice System

- Respect the leadership of advocates and expertise of women who are battered
- Prioritize women's/ survivors' safety and offender accountable
- Understand dynamics of battering and avoid any form of collusion
- Seek convictions; avoid plea agreements
- Proceed without victim testimony
- Act on all violations immediately
- Role model respectful behavior toward women and children

Full Faith & Credit

It's in the Constitution



The FFC provision in VAWA, states that a valid protection order issued in one state, tribe or territory must be enforced through out the country.

- Enforcing Court Must Enforce as if it had issued order
- Enforcing Court can apply whatever sanctions it would for violating one of its own orders
- Tribal Courts are restricted on their criminal jurisdiction over non-Indians
- Must enforce as long as good in issuing jurisdiction



What do comprehensive, culturally based offender accountability programs look like?

- Most often utilize the Duluth Model of the Domestic Abuse Intervention Program
- Part of a Coordinated Community Response
- Integral involvement of Advocates – leadership, mentoring, monitoring and support

What do comprehensive, culturally based offender accountability programs look like?



- Ideally, men facilitators identifying as recovering batterer; male/female co-facilitators
- Live / role model traditional values, beliefs and life way. Act as Relatives.
- Incorporate indigenous values, beliefs and lifeways into programming
 - Roles of Elders, Societies, Clans
- Social change outside of the program; community ownership and roles



Example of a culturally based program:

Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin's , Men's Re-Education Program

- 25-week domestic abuse intervention program
- Educational rather than therapeutic in approach
- Native-specific curriculum; includes cultural, social, and historical dimensions of violence against Native women.
- Addresses the use of power and control in relationships.
- Mandated to program by County Courts, probation, and the State Department of Corrections, or referred by partnering agencies.
- Weekly two-hour sessions and are held accountable for their offending and compliance with court conditions by a multi-agency Coordinated Community Response team.



What are the resources needed to create a system that holds offenders accountable, and support change for them to become respectful relatives?



Questions and Answers



Thank you!

bhill@niwrc.org

niwrc.org

515 Lane Deer Ave., Lane Deer, MT 59043 Phone 406.477.3896 Toll-Free 855.649.7299 Email info@niwrc.org



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