

# The Difference in treatment approaches between PTSD & Domestic Violence:

- PTSD Treatment:
  - Work with victims/survivors of traumatic experiences.
  - Goal of PTSD treatment is to quiet the PTSD symptoms & facilitate re-integration into the full range of social experiences.
  - Therapist/s accept what is offered by the client at face value and approach with empathy and compassion.



## The difference in treatment approaches for PTSD & Domestic Violence:

- DV perpetrator rehabilitation:
  - Goal of treatment is to stop all forms of abusive and violent/assaultive behaviors towards intimate partners by holding the batterer (not the victim) responsible for the violence and abuse and accountable for stopping it.
  - Characterizing behaviors of a DV perpetrator are lying, minimizing the violence, and blaming the victim (thus, verification is needed through police reports, etc).



## The difference in treatment approaches for PTSD & Domestic Violence:

- While the DV perpetrator treatment therapist remains respectful they do NOT take what is offered at face value.
- DV perpetrators misrepresent and lie about what has happened (re: their behaviors), misrepresent the victim (and the victim's behaviors), and they alienate the victim from the therapists and treatment services .
- DV perpetrators may also be victims/survivors of trauma (e.g. childhood abuse, war trauma, etc).
  - Both types of treatment are important, but very different.



## Guiding Principles in DV perpetrator rehabilitation:

- Safety of victims & their children is a priority.
- Respect the integrity & authority of each battered woman over her own life choices.
- Hold perpetrators responsible for the abuse and for stopping it.
- Advocate on behalf of victims of DV and their children.
- Respond to DV victims & perpetrators in a culturally competent manner .
  - (Ganley, 1995)

Think about what messages we give in PTSD treatment...are they consistent with these guiding principles?