



Thank you for joining us today!

Facilitating Groups with Men Who Batter

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The materials are available on our website: <http://www.bwjp.org/training/webinar-facilitating-groups-men-who-batter.html>

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Facilitating Groups with Men Who Batter

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Experience in Batterers Intervention Programs (BIP)

- CCR Coordinator in Itasca and northern St. Louis County
- CCR Co-Coordinator in southern St. Louis County
- Co-facilitated men's BIP groups off and on for 17 years
- Co-facilitated groups for women who use violence for over 10 years
- Co-Author on "Addressing Fatherhood with Men Who Batter"
- Co-Author on "Turning Points: A Non-Violence Curriculum for Women"

BIP Guiding Principles and Purpose

- To increase the safety of women and children
- To develop a process that deconstructs men's historical and socially constructed entitlement to be violent to women in the culture and community in which they live
- Create an ongoing, formal relationship with advocates

BIP Guiding Principles and Purpose

- Dialogue in facilitation is central to creating an educational process of change for men who batter
- Be responsive to the advocacy and safety needs of the women whose partners are in the program
- Co-facilitation by a man AND woman
- Integrated part of a community CCR

Who are the facilitators?

- Who are the best facilitators?
- Who should not facilitate?
- Are letters after the name necessary?
- What disconnects the facilitators from the men in the room?
- Liberators or Oppressors? It is NEVER neutral.

Paulo Freire

- Brazilian Educator
- Worked with peasants in literacy programs
- Found language an important part of people learning to read the *word* and *world* (revolution and liberation).
- 1964 exiled by government
- 1967 published first book – accepted a teaching position at Harvard
- 1980-86 returned to Brazil and supervised the Worker's Party Adult Literacy Project
- 1997 died of heart failure at the age of 75

Paulo Freire

Paulo's teaching helps us:

- Understand **mythical** structures of thinking (nature vs. culture)
- Understand that to **change our world view** (entitlements), we need to know our myths (beliefs), be conscious of them, look at the consequences and know we have other choices
- Make the shift away from the banking system and toward a problem posing one

Paulo Freire

The process of Dialogue:

- Involves **Problem Posing** questions
- Exposes **Interrelationships and connections** between our personal and cultural beliefs
- Exposes the dehumanizing **Consequences** of our world view on ourselves and others
- Creates **alternative views** of reality – other ways of understanding our world

Four Pillars of Paulo Freire's Work

1. Be concrete – start with the lives of people
2. Dialogue is the medium of learning
3. Education is never neutral – conversations with oppressed people either function to domesticate or liberate
4. Liberated consciousness is borne out of love, not hatred

The Role of the Educator

- Be authentic
- Promote dialogue without collusion
- Work with lived experience rather than theory
- Challenge without judgment
- Make connections and expose contradictions
- Encourage critical thinking
- Expose contradictions in men's thinking
- Simultaneously see the beauty the men bring to the world and the threat they pose

Accountability

- Facilitating a class / group in a way that allows for men to critically examine the beliefs that inform the men's violence, how they've been socially constructed to batter and nonviolent alternatives
- Developing and organizing a BIP that facilitates personal accountability as opposed to "oppressive" and "non-changing" accountability
 - MAKING men deconstruct the violent episode that got them there
 - COERCING men to talk about their use of violence
 - All in an effort for us to be able to say "He took accountability for his violence."

“Shred” all of your handouts

- They impose thinking on people
 - Education is never neutral – conversations with oppressed people either function to domesticate or liberate
 - Most handouts seek to “impose”
- What is the culture they come from? The dominant culture?
- Especially the ones with the word “healthy” in them

Words Matter

Respect and Emotional Abuse

Respect

What does it mean to respect your partner?

What does respect look like during a disagreement?

What beliefs make respect for your partner possible?

Emotional Abuse

What is emotional abuse?

What does emotional abuse look like during a disagreement?

What beliefs make emotional abuse against your partner possible?

Modeling Role-Playing

- Don't judge
- Don't tell the other person what to do
- Don't be abusive

Core Components of Facilitating Groups with Men Who Batter

- Male and female facilitators in class
- Co-facilitation
- Dialogue without judgment
- Exposing contradictions
- Facilitate men 'reading their world'
- Spend 75% of class time exploring themes that are non-violent and non-abusive
- Provide culturally specific programs for men

Collusion

Anytime we facilitate a class or a program in a way that keeps participants in group from critically examining the beliefs that inform their action, we collude.

Collusion

- Facilitators who co-present as opposed to co-facilitate
- Facilitators as the cause of the resistance with the men
- Not addressing sexist and offensive clothing, jokes, and judgments about women
- Thinking of violence as a conflict and relationship problem
- Thinking of every type of domestic violence as battering
- Not committing ourselves to addressing our own entitlement we have and doing our own personal work

Skill Practice as Type of Collusion

- A strong trend in groups is to incorporate skill practice
- Focuses on improving behavior by teaching the “right way”
- Skill practice is ACTION focused and does not address the thinking (BELIEFS) that leads to it

Group Facilitation Issues

- Prep time
- Co-facilitation
- Your questions....

Resources

Global Rights for Women
www.globalrightsforwomen.org

Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs
www.theduluthmodel.org

Domestic Violence Turning Points/Advocates for Family Peace
www.dvturningpoints.com www.stopdomesticabuse.org

Battered Women's Justice Project
www.bwjp.org

Casa de Esperanza
www.casadeesperanza.org

Mending the Sacred Hoop Technical Assistance Project
www.msh-ta.org

Praxis International
www.praxisinternational.org

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