

DIALOGUE Guide based in the work of Paulo Freire

Paulo Freire, in Pedagogy of the Oppressed, stated, “Dialogue cannot exist, however, in the absence of a profound love for the world and for people. Because love is an act of courage, not fear, love is a commitment to others. No matter where the oppressed are found, the act of love is commitment to their cause – the cause of liberation. If I do not love the world – If I do not love life – If I do not love people – I cannot enter into dialogue.”

Defining Dialogue	Problem – Posing Questions	Reflective Listening	Critical Thinking
<p>Dialogue is a method of communicating that guides the process and steps of a discussion. Dialogue defines the nature of the relationship between the participants in the discussion.</p> <p>Dialogue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Builds a horizontal relationship of mutual trust. • Shares perceptions of the situation by offering opinions and ideas. Then create an opportunity to make recommendations and arrive at joint decisions. • Shares power in a just way. • Bases the relationship on intense faith in human beings: their power to change, make/remake, create/re-create. • True “empowerment”. • Both sides create the agenda. • Uses open-ended and “but why”, or “how come” questions. • Uses “Tell me more” statements. 	<p>What happened?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe what you saw • Describe the actions, gestures, tone of voice, words used of what happened. • Describe what happened like a playwright would write a script. <p>What was the intent of what happened?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What did you want to be different? • What was your intent? <p>What is the cause of the situation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why do you think this happened? • Explore the root causes and what brought this about. <p>What impact does this have?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the consequences of this situation and what problem or difficulties it leads to. • What impact did this have on your children? On others? <p>What beliefs and justifications do you have for doing this?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine your beliefs and how you justify this. • How do you justify what you did? • If your best friend came in right at the moment this happened and said, “Why did you do that?”, what would you say to your best friend? The answer to this question will lead you to uncovering your beliefs and justification. <p>What solutions might there be?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What can be done to improve the situation? • What has to be different in order for this not to happen again? 	<p>Clarify and Learn More:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider saying something like, “Tell me more about that.....” • Get more information and explore all sides and impacts of the situation. <p>Be Non-Judgemental:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You cannot fake being non-judgemental. We give verbal and non-verbal communication in this regard. • Judging the person stops dialogue. • Encourage the other person to keep talking. <p>Reflect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help the other person evaluate their feelings, beliefs and the impact. <p>Be Present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other people know when you are not really listening to them. • Don’t make the other person a “data point” for your collection of data. • It is not about you or your motives and agenda. It is about the other person and growing in understanding them. 	<p>Concepts and Theories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What concepts and theories are they operating from? How does their attachment to this concept and theory shape how they think, act, and understand a situation? <p>Accept the other person’s reality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You can only take people as far as they are willing to go. • You have to start where they are at. <p>Ask genuine questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don’t ask questions that have right/wrong answers. • Ask questions to learn more and not to confirm what you already know. It is not about you ☺. <p>Share Knowledge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share some of your knowledge without dominating the conversation. <p>Exchange Knowledge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When you are in dialogue you are a teacher and someone who seeks to learn. • Don’t let your knowledge overtake the dialogue • If you are in dialogue, you will have learned something new <p>Negotiate “truths”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decide together what would need to change for this situation to not re-occur.

Adapted by Melissa Petrangelo Scaia, MPA and the late Ellen Pence, PhD. for work with victims and perpetrators of domestic violence.