

**SUPPORTING
SURVIVORS WHO
ARE
SYSTEMS-INVOL**

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AGENDA

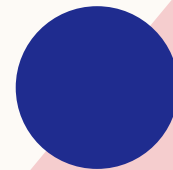
Introduction

Definitions

Scope

Tools for systems-level advocacy

Client rights and resources



INTRODUCTION



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THE ABILITY OF VICTIM SERVICE PROGRAMS TO BE VICTIM-CENTERED IS WHOLLY DEPENDENT ON THEIR ORGANIZATION-WIDE COMMITMENT TO CULTURAL PROFICIENCY. CULTURAL PROFICIENCY IS BASED IN A COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL JUSTICE AND THE ELIMINATION OF SYSTEMIC OPPRESSION.

”

One victim’s ability to leave a violent situation and thrive does not change the systemic or community-level conditions that allow violence to occur

DEFINITIONS

SYSTEM:

A way of working, organizing, or doing something which follows a fixed plan or set of rules.

SYSTEMIC OPPRESSION/ SYSTEMIC RACISM/ INSTITUTIONAL RACISM:

A form of racism or oppression that is embedded as normal practice within society



WHO IS IMPACTED BY SYSTEMIC OPPRESSION?

- People of Color
- LGBTQ+ community
- Women
- People who are differently abled
- People who have mental health issues
- People experiencing poverty, especially generational
- The elderly
- People who are overweight



DIFFERENT SYSTEMS WITHIN OUR SOCIETY

- Legal system
- Child protection
- Sexual assault advocacy
- Medical system
- Schools
- Transportation
- Housing
- Standardized testing in schools, and tying funding to test scores
- Religion
- Police/law enforcement

HOW DOES SYSTEMIC OPPRESSION IMPACT ADVOCACY CLIENTS?

- Women
- People of Color
- LGBTQ+ community
- People who are differently abled
- People who have mental health issues
- People experiencing poverty, especially generational
- The elderly
- Immigrant community

INDIGENOUS EXPERIENCES OF SYSTEMIC OPPRESSION

Legal system

Medical system

Transportation

Housing

Child
Protection

Religion

Police/law
enforcement

SYSTEMS INVOLVEMENT AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS

- Criminalization of trauma responses
- Substance use
- Forced criminality
- Housing insecurity or felony barriers
- Emergency shelter barriers
- Child protection intervention

OPPRESSION AND VIOLENCE

- Men and women of color experience higher rates of lifetime violence
- Women who identify as lesbian or bisexual experience rates of sexual and domestic violence and stalking at higher rates than heterosexual women
- Women of color who are also experiencing poverty have even higher rates of violence
- Economic insecurity, isolation, racism, and discrimination shape how women of color experience and respond to domestic violence
- Women and men with disabilities experience higher rates of violence
- Systemic oppression and sexual violence are intertwined in our history

SYSTEMS



- If you work within a system, you represent that system
- It is not the client or client family's responsibility to overcome racism and systemic oppression to build a trusting relationship with you

TANGIBLE NEEDS OF INDIGENOUS TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS

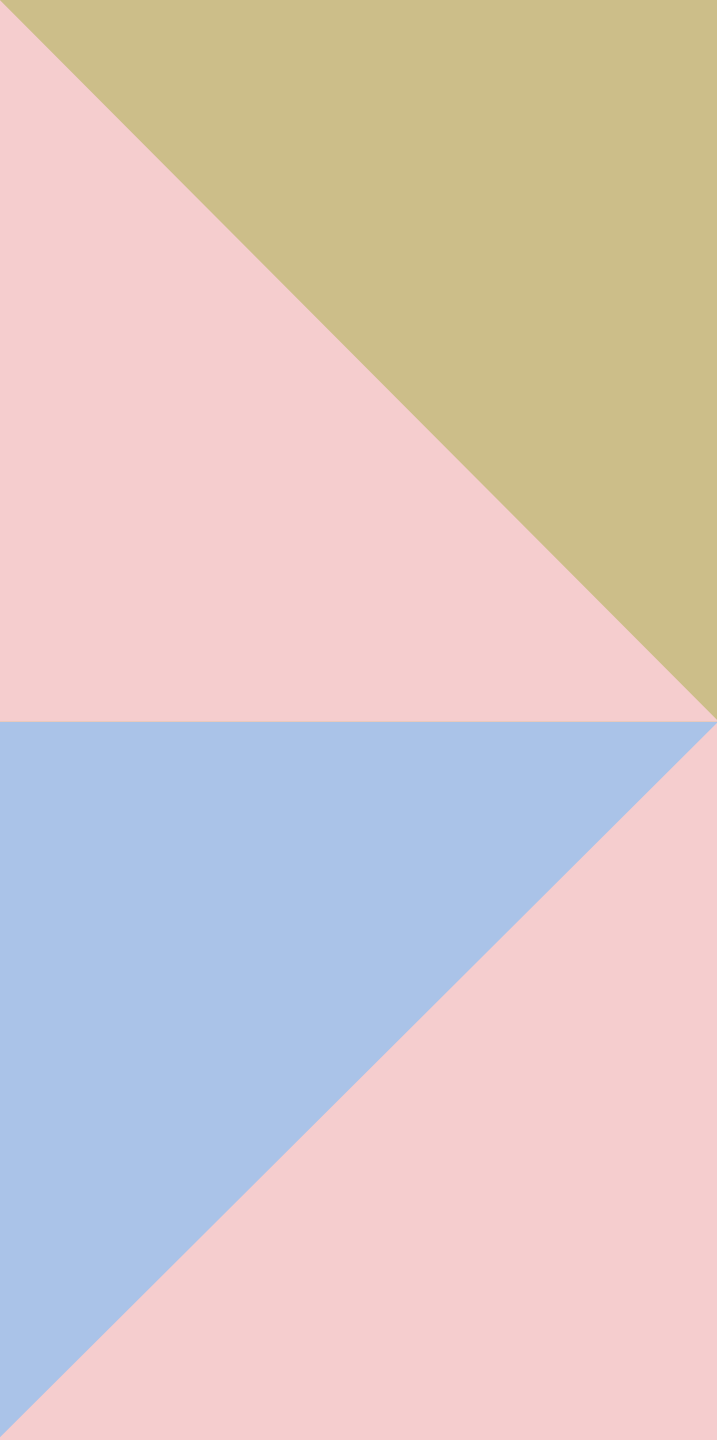
- Cultural connection and healing
- Unbiased and confidential services
- Emergency and long-term housing
- Legal advocacy and support
- Family reunification
- more

CLIENT RIGHTS AND RESOURCES

- Legal resources, including for ICWA
 - Native American Rights Fund
 - National Indian Law Library
 - ICWA Law Center
- Ombudsperson with state systems
- Trafficking Victims Protection Act
- Expungement and vacatur
- Civil remedy for coerced debt
- Human Trafficking Housing Voucher through HUD (Housing Choice Voucher)

HOW CAN ADVOCATES WORK TO BE ANTI-RACIST/ANTI-OPPRESSIVE?

- Center and elevate the voices and experiences of minoritized or resource deprived populations
- Consider Indigenous pathways to justice and healing
- Recognize and confront our own biases
- Look at ways your organization may not support minoritized or resource deprived populations
- Practice allyship
- Recognize that the criminal legal system may not be the right route for healing of people of color and LGBTQ+ folks
- Advocate for system change



HOW TO BE A GOOD ALLY/ADVOCATE?/ADVOCATE AGAINST SYSTEMS HARM?

- Listen and Learn
- Speak out, even when scared and/or inconvenient
- Be prepared to do the work
- Do NOT rely on members of the community to educate you
- Center the stories and voices of the community
- Do NOT deny history and lived experiences
- Get comfortable with being uncomfortable
- Stand in solidarity
- Use your privilege
- Do no harm

SPECIFIC WAYS TO LEVERAGE OUR POWER AS ADVOCATES



**ORGANIZATIONAL
EFFORTS**



**LEGISLATIVE
EFFORTS**



**COMMUNITY
EFFORTS**



**INDIVIDUAL
EFFORTS**

THANK YOU

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