

**Building Reflexive Processes Into  
Program and Policy Development &  
Evaluation: A Resource  
For  
Responding to Violence Against  
Girls and Women  
In Rural Communities**



# Why focus on girls' and women's experiences of violence in rural areas?

- ❖ To draw attention to the unique barriers rural women and girls experiencing violence face:
  - isolation and privacy
  - poverty and unemployment
  - lack of resources and services
- ❖ To draw attention to the capacity of rural communities to design and implement effective violence-prevention programs and services.



# Building Reflexive Processes

## Enables Programs to:

- ★ Increase our understanding of violence against rural girls and women.
- ★ Reflect on organizational policies and practices.
- ★ Plan, implement, evaluate, and revise violence prevention programs and services to meet the needs of rural girls and women.
- ★ Advocate for programs and services.
- ★ Achieve violence prevention goals.



# A reflexive process involves:

- ★ An awareness of how we come to understand certain things and effect our own and others' actions.
- ★ An awareness of how we express ourselves and give meaning to our understandings and actions.
- ★ Being prepared to adjust our practices to reflect what we learn both from the communities with which we work and from our own reflections.
- ★ A way of collaborating.



# What is in the resource?

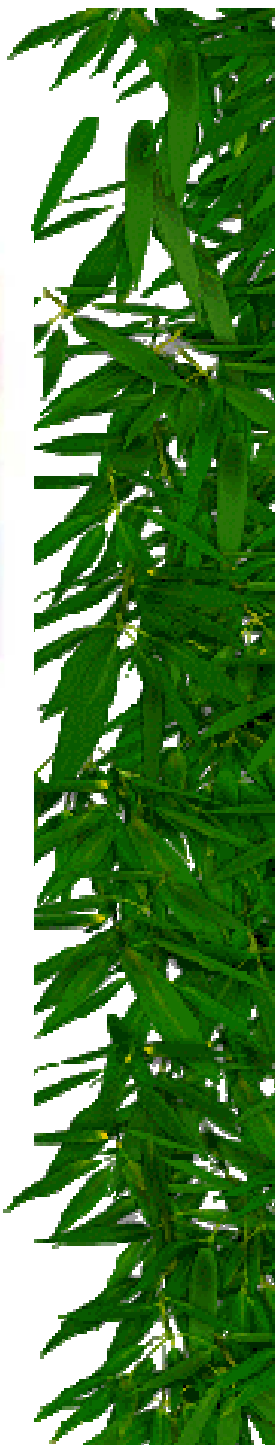
- ❖ Information Sheets/Overheads/PowerPoint
- ❖ Questionnaires to facilitate dialogue
- ❖ Fact Sheets: Interpretation and Checklist
- ❖ Glossary
- ❖ Training Manual for conducting research
- ❖ Template for Thematic Interpretation of Findings
- ❖ Summary/Background *Reflecting on Violence*
- ❖ “Better” practices stories
- ❖ Suggestions for Action
- ❖ Feedback



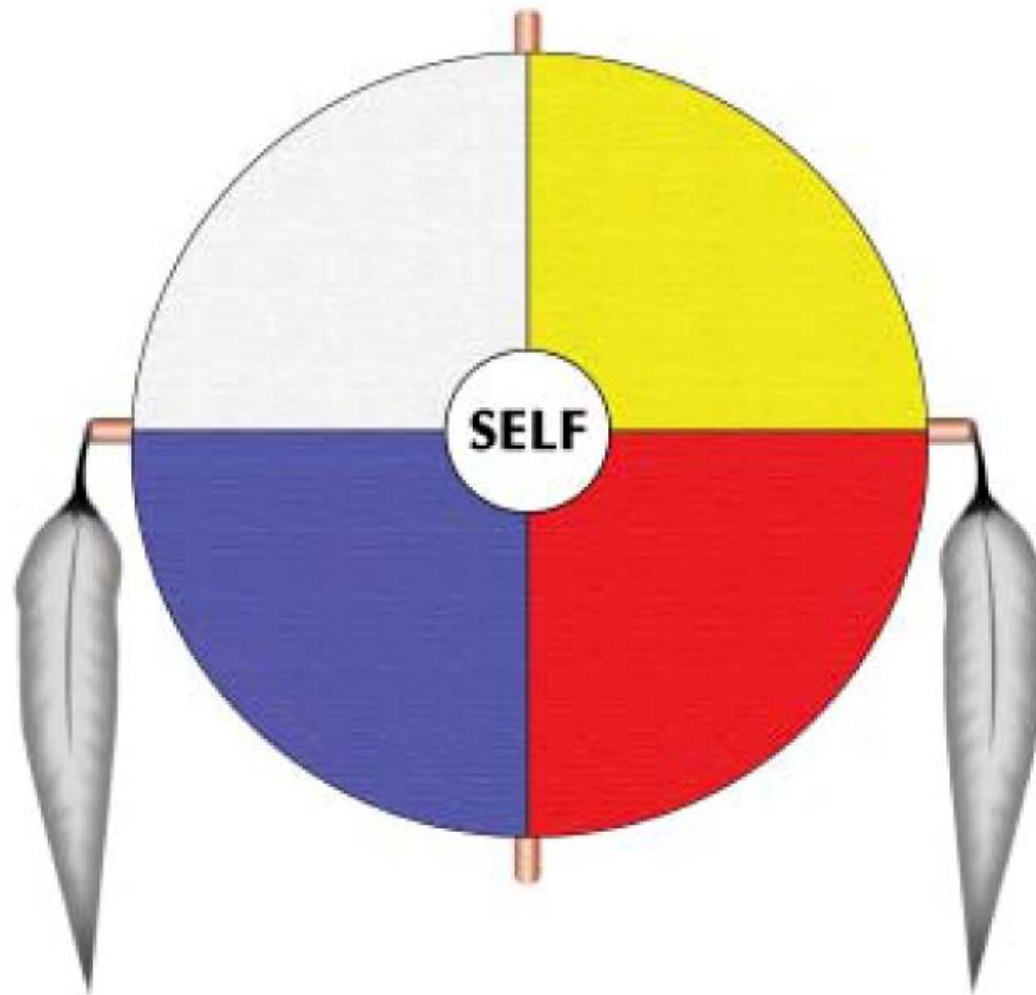


# PRISM

Julie Devon Dodd



# The Medicine Wheel



**En réponse à la violence  
faite aux femmes**

**Nommer la Violence  
Sexe et Diversité  
Contexte Rurale  
Sécurité  
Intervention  
Action Sociale Féministe**

**PRISM**



**Naming Violence/  
Abuse Involves  
Looking At Its  
Many Forms**

- Physical
- Emotional
- Financial
- Sexual
- Spiritual
- Ritual
- Institutional
- Sibling
- Senior



# Naming and Defining Abuse

- ❖ Validates girls' and women's experiences.
- ❖ Challenges communities to recognize abusive and violent behaviour and to act.
- ❖ Gets the message across.



# Questions for Naming

- ★ How does our definition of violence resonate with girls'/women's experiences?
- ★ Does it consider what makes it difficult to talk about violence against women/girls?
- ★ Does the definition consider how violence is minimized? Normalized? Mutualized?



## Contexte rural

**Les femmes vivant des communautés rurales, éloignées, et isolées sur le plan social ont des besoins précis reliés à la géographie.**

- **Géographique**
- **Social/culturel**



# Contexte rural

- ★ Les femmes des régions rurales ont des besoins précis.
- ★ Une perspective politico-économique associe la situation géographique aux obstacles et aux problèmes.
- ★ Les programmes de ces régions répondent à des problèmes sociaux propres au milieu rural.
- ★ La vie professionnelle des femmes influence leur capacité à apporter des changements à leur vie.



# Questions pour rural

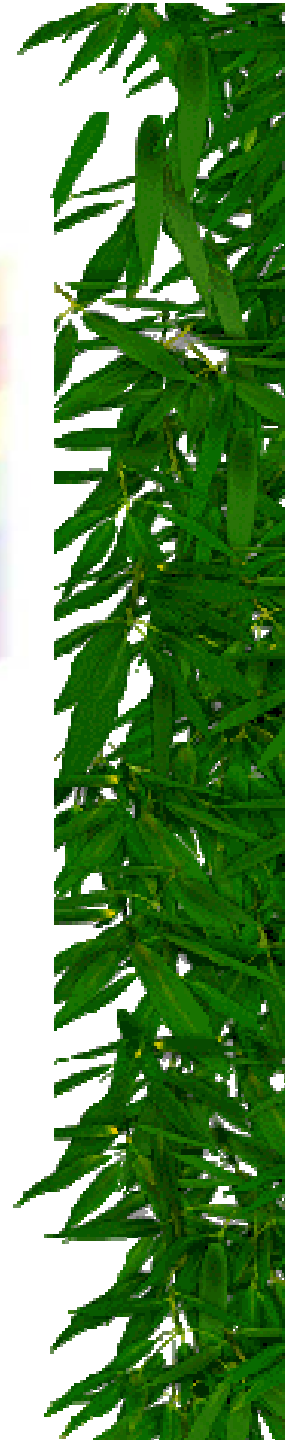
- ★ Comment les politiques tiennent-elles compte des valeurs, attitudes, relations et pratiques?
- ★ Comment les politiques rendent-elles plus difficile la démarche des femmes pour obtenir de l'aide?
- ★ Comment les politiques tiennent-elles compte de la vie professionnelle des femmes? (p. ex. la pêche, l'exploitation agricole)



# **Gender & Diversity**

Ending Violence  
Against Girls and  
Women is Key to  
Achieving Equality

- First Nations
- New Immigrant/  
Refugee
- African-Canadian
- Differently Abled
- Lesbian/Bisexual/  
Transgendered



# Gender and Diversity

- ❖ Social inequality shapes women's and girls' experiences of abuse and violence.
- ❖ Rural communities are not homogenous; they comprise girls and women from many different cultural and economic backgrounds.
- ❖ Building relationships across communities of difference builds strength.



# Questions on Gender and Diversity

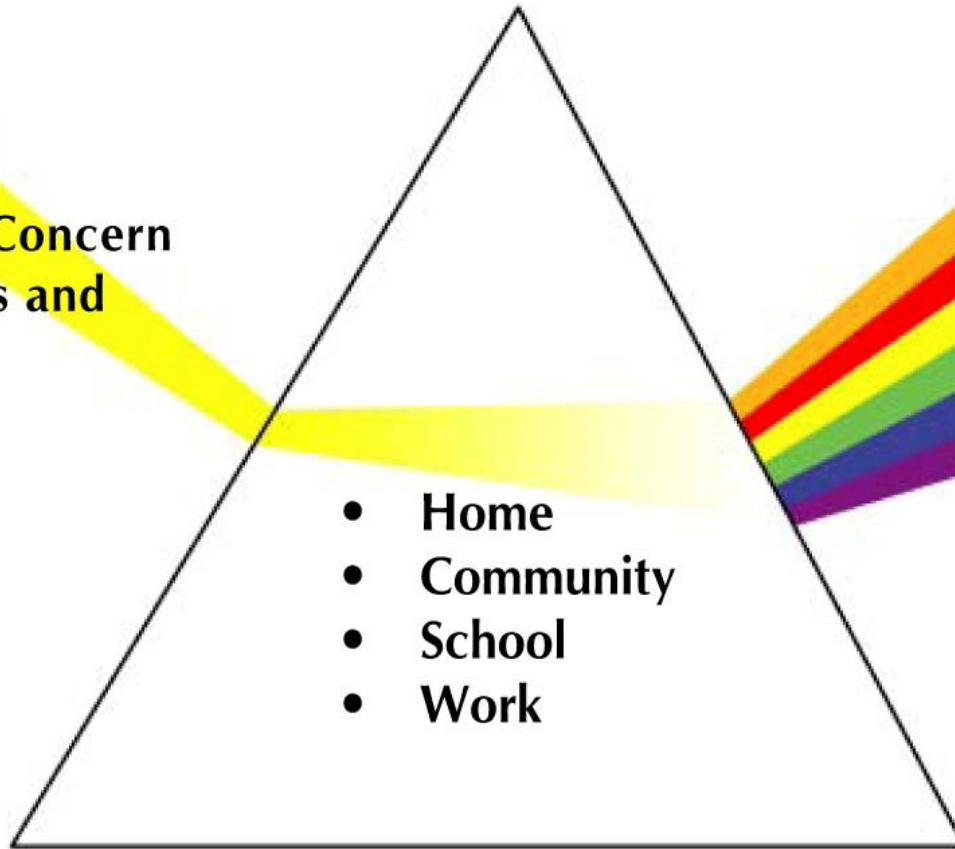
- ★ How does our policy define inclusion? How is it practiced?
- ★ How does our policy reflect and address the diverse needs of women and girls?
- ★ What things are done to address accessibility?
- ★ How are women and girls involved in development and evaluation?



# **Safety**

Safety is a Concern  
for All Girls and  
Women

- Home
- Community
- School
- Work



# Personal and Community Safety

- ❖ Safety at home and increased vulnerability.
- ❖ Safety in community and social and institutional scrutiny.
- ❖ Safety at school, normalization of violence, and fears of labeling.
- ❖ Safety at work and disclosure.



# Questions on Safety

- ★ How does our policy:
  - address the safety needs of women and girls at home/ work/ school/community?
  - address marginalized girls' and women's safety in the program or service?
  - address privacy and confidentiality?



## L'intervention

**Les options considérées  
et les choix effectués  
au niveau local  
assurent un  
changement  
positif à  
long terme**

- **Prévention**
- **Crises**
- **Suivi**



# Intervention

- ★ Faire passer le message.
- ★ Appuyer les femmes tout au cours de leur vie.
- ★ La prévention grâce à l'éducation et au renforcement des capacités communautaires.



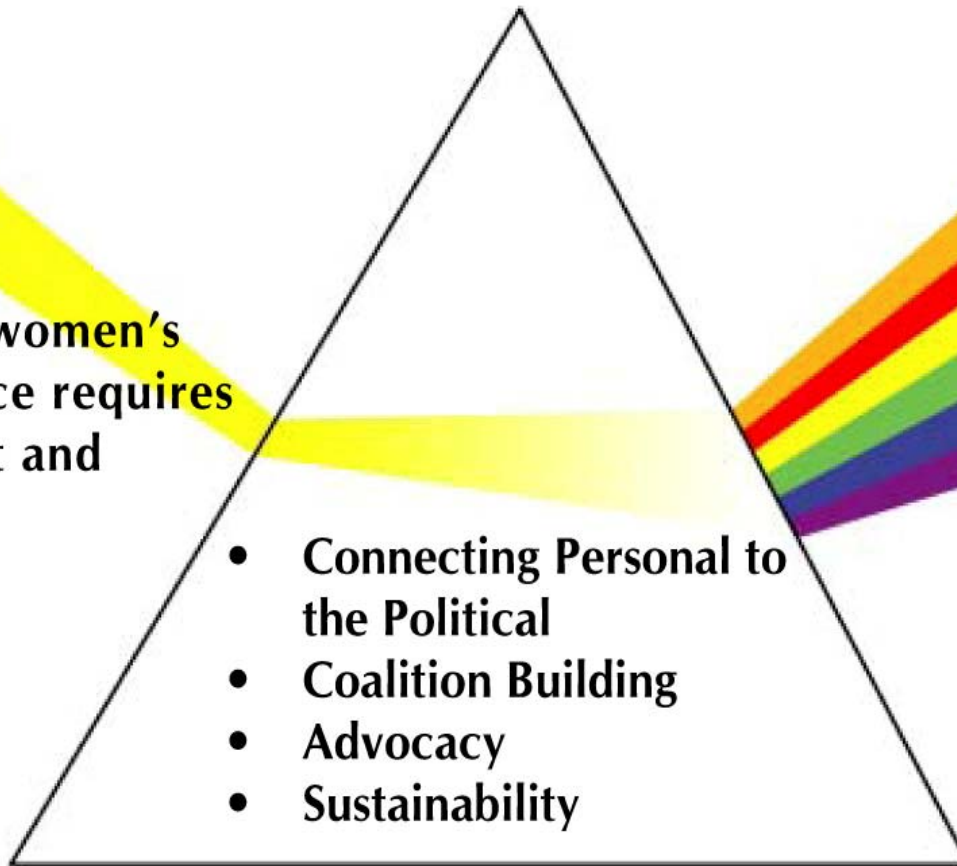
# Questions pour L' intervention

- ★ Comment les femmes apprennent-elles l'existence des programmes et des services?
- ★ Comment les politiques déterminent-elles les méthodes de sensibilisation appropriées?
- ★ Comment incorporons-nous les commentaires des participantes à nos programmes et comment ces commentaires permettent-elles d'apporter des changements?



# **Feminist Social Action**

Supporting women's  
independence requires  
commitment and  
resources



# Feminist Social Action: Supporting Individual and Social Change

- ❖ Entails education, changing attitudes about gender and the family, and providing options.
- ❖ Involves exploring issues of equality, privilege, and resistance.
- ❖ Recognizes that change takes time, sustainability requires sufficient resources.



# Questions on Feminist Social Action

- ★ How does our policy
  - address social constraints facing girls and women?
  - address constraints that make the work difficult?
  - promote both individual and social change?
  - address social action, coalition building, and sustainability issues?



# Using the Resource

- ★ Writing a History of the Present
- ★ What Key Players in Our Agencies Can Tell Us
- ★ Voices of Recipients



# Interpreting Our Findings: Template for Reflection and Action

- ★ Evaluation Theme
- ★ Program Policy/Objective
- ★ Anticipated Outcomes
- ★ Source of Information
- ★ Method(s)
- ★ Change Indicators



# Suggestions for Using the Resource

- ❖ Program Development: For framing community programs.
- ❖ Program Evaluation: For reflection on program effectiveness.
- ❖ Organizational functioning and structure: For critically examining working relations.
- ❖ Advocacy: To contribute to the uptake of new practices.
- ❖ Collaboration: For increasing individual and community sensitivity.



# Feedback



Merci/Thank you

