

Centering Survivor Leadership at the Intersections of Oppression: A Comprehensive Approach to Ending Intimate Partner Violence

Presenter:

Amita Swadhin, Founder & Director, Mirror Memoirs

Moderator:

Mie Fukuda, Program Specialist, Children & Youth Program, Futures Without Violence

Welcome to the Webinar

We will begin at 11:00am (PT) / 2:00pm (ET).

A recording will be available after the webinar.

Please introduce yourself.

Your line will be muted to cut down on background interference so please use the chat box to share your name, your organization, your location and any questions you have for our speaker or moderator.



How to use this technology

- You can choose to connect via computer OR via telephone.
 - Should you choose computer, please mute your computer microphone to avoid feedback.
 - Should you choose to dial in, please follow the audio instructions on the screen or in the audio pop up:
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 - Enter the Conference Room Number: **7404927**
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- There will be time for Q & A at the end of the presentation.
- Please enter any questions you have in the Public Text Chat box.
- A recording and PDF slides will be available after the webinar.



Promising Futures: National Capacity Building Center to Expand Services for Children, Youth, and Abused Parents Impacted by Domestic Violence

Website includes information on:

- Resources for DV programs/Advocates to enhance children's programming
- Capacity building resources
- Bridging research with practice
- Interventions for children and youth
- Trauma-informed strategies
- Practical tools and resources

FUTURES Provides Free Training and Technical Assistance



- ❖ Promising Futures: www.promisingfutureswithoutviolence.org
- ❖ DVRN: <http://www.nrcdv.org/dvrn/>
- ❖ Upcoming and past webinars: www.futureswithoutviolence.org



Presenter:

Amita Swadhin

Founder & Director

Mirror Memoirs

www.mirrormemoirs.com



Objectives

After the webinar, participants will be able to:

- Recognize the importance of centering children's welfare in the movement to end intimate partner violence
- Examine child sexual abuse as both a root cause and a tool of other forms of trauma, illness, and oppression
- Explain why the work to end intimate partner violence needs to be intersectional
- Use Mirror Memoirs as a case study to explore what an intersectional praxis to end intimate partner violence and violence against children looks like

Terminology

Intimate Violence:

- In this webinar, "intimate violence" will be used as an umbrella term that encompasses intimate partner violence, non-stranger adult sexual violence, and forms of child abuse perpetrated by people known and trusted by the victim.

Intimate Partner Violence (a.k.a. domestic violence or partner abuse):

- Intimate partner violence is a pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviors that may include inflicted physical injury, psychological abuse, sexual assault, progressive isolation, stalking, deprivation, intimidation, and threats. These behaviors are perpetrated by someone who is, was, or wishes to be involved in an intimate or dating relationship with an adult or adolescent, and are aimed at establishing control by one partner over the other.

- *National Center for Injury Prevention and Control,
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*

Historic Siloes in Our Work

**Intimate
Partner
Violence**

**Sexual
Assault**

Child Welfare

Who Is Centered in Anti-Violence Work?

- Mothers
- Cisgender women
- Heterosexual women
- White women
- Able-bodied women
- Women who are US citizens or greencard holders
- Adult women

Which Victims Count in Public Policy?

SOME STORIES THAT LED TO LEGISLATION

- Megan's Law: Megan Kanka (sex offender registry)
- Sexual Assault Survivors Rights Act: Amanda Nguyen (rape kit testing)

Who decides which issues are the biggest legislative priorities?

“The single story creates stereotypes, and the problem with stereotypes is not that they are untrue, but that they are incomplete. They make one story become the only story.”

— [Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie](#)

Which Victims are Erased?

VICTIMS WHOSE STORIES ARE BURIED

- Freedom Overground: Ky Peterson
- Center on Youth Registration Reform: Nicole Pittman
- TGI Justice Project: Janetta Johnson
- TransLatin@ Coalition: Bamby Salcedo
- Who Speaks for Me? Project: Taylar Nuevelle

Sexual Violence and Women's Prisons

- 86% of people incarcerated in women's prisons (including cisgender women, transgender women, and transgender men as a composite population) report having experienced sexual violence in their lifetimes prior to incarceration [Vera Institute of Justice, 2016]
- Taylar Nuevelle, Founder of Who Speaks for Me? Project, calls this phenomenon the Trauma-to-Prison Pipeline
- Women make up the majority of victims of staff-on-inmate sexual victimization [Vera Institute of Justice, 2016]

Sexual Violence and Transgender People

- One in two transgender individuals are sexually abused or assaulted at some point in their lives. 72% of transgender survivors experienced child sexual abuse. [FORGE, 2005, Sexual Violence in the Transgender Community Survey]
- 15% of transgender individuals report being sexually assaulted while in police custody or jail, which more than doubles (32 percent) for African-American transgender people. [FORGE, Sexual Violence in the Transgender Community Survey; National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, 2009]
- 5-9% of transgender survivors were sexually assaulted by police officers. [FORGE, Sexual Violence in the Transgender Community Survey; National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, 2009]

What About Children? Who Is Vulnerable?

- Children with an intellectual disability are 4 times likelier to be sexually abused. [Sullivan & Knutson, 2000]
- Gender non-conforming children are up to 6 times likelier to be sexually abused. [American Academy of Pediatrics, 2012]
- 40% of homeless youth are LGBTQ. 68% of these youth indicated family rejection was a major factor contributing to homelessness. 54% indicated abuse in their family was another important factor contributing to their homelessness. [Williams Institute, 2012]
- Undocumented children are less likely to report in this political climate [New York Times, April 30, 2017]

What About Institutionalized Youth?

- 8% of youth in juvenile detention reported being sexually victimized by a staff member at least once in the previous 12 months [US Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2012]
- 90% of those who reported being victimized were boys reporting incidents with female staff [US Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2012]
- In 2010, The Chicago Tribune broke a story about youth wards in local psychiatric hospitals being raped while institutionalized. The story suggested the problem is severely underreported.

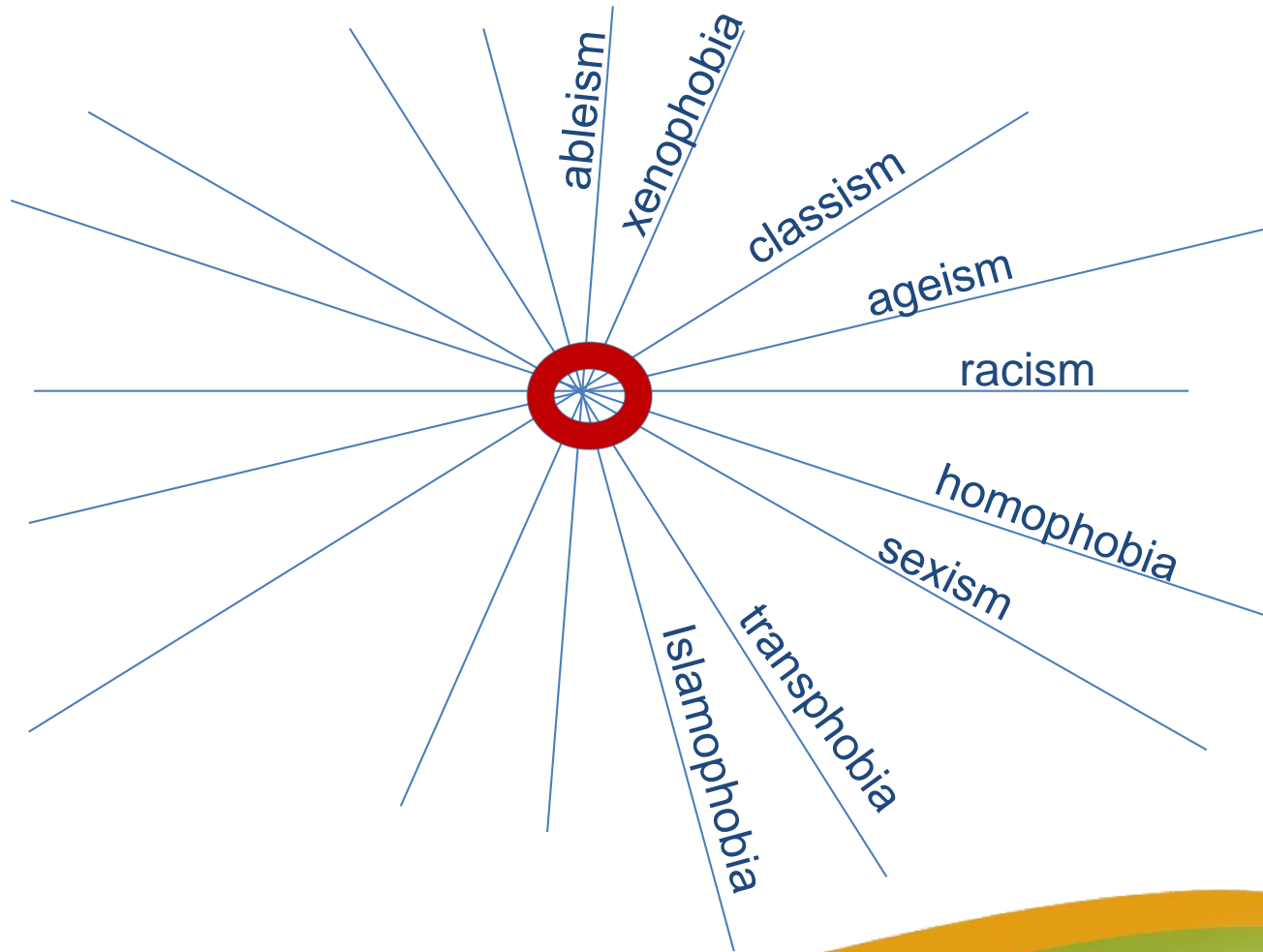
Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study

- Did you grow up in a home where you:
 - Were regularly verbally abused, humiliated or afraid of being hurt?
 - Were regularly physically abused? Were ever hurt so bad it left marks
 - Felt no one loved you and/or your family didn't love each other?
 - Didn't have enough to eat, had to wear dirty clothes, and had no one to protect you? or Your parents were too drunk or high to take care of you or take you to the doctor if you needed it?
 - Watched your (step)mother regularly assaulted?
 - Lived with a problem drinker/alcoholic, or someone who used street drugs?
 - Lived with someone depressed or mentally ill, or someone who attempted suicide?
 - Lived with someone who went to prison?
- Were you sexually assaulted by someone 5 years+ older than you?
- Were your parents ever separated or divorced?

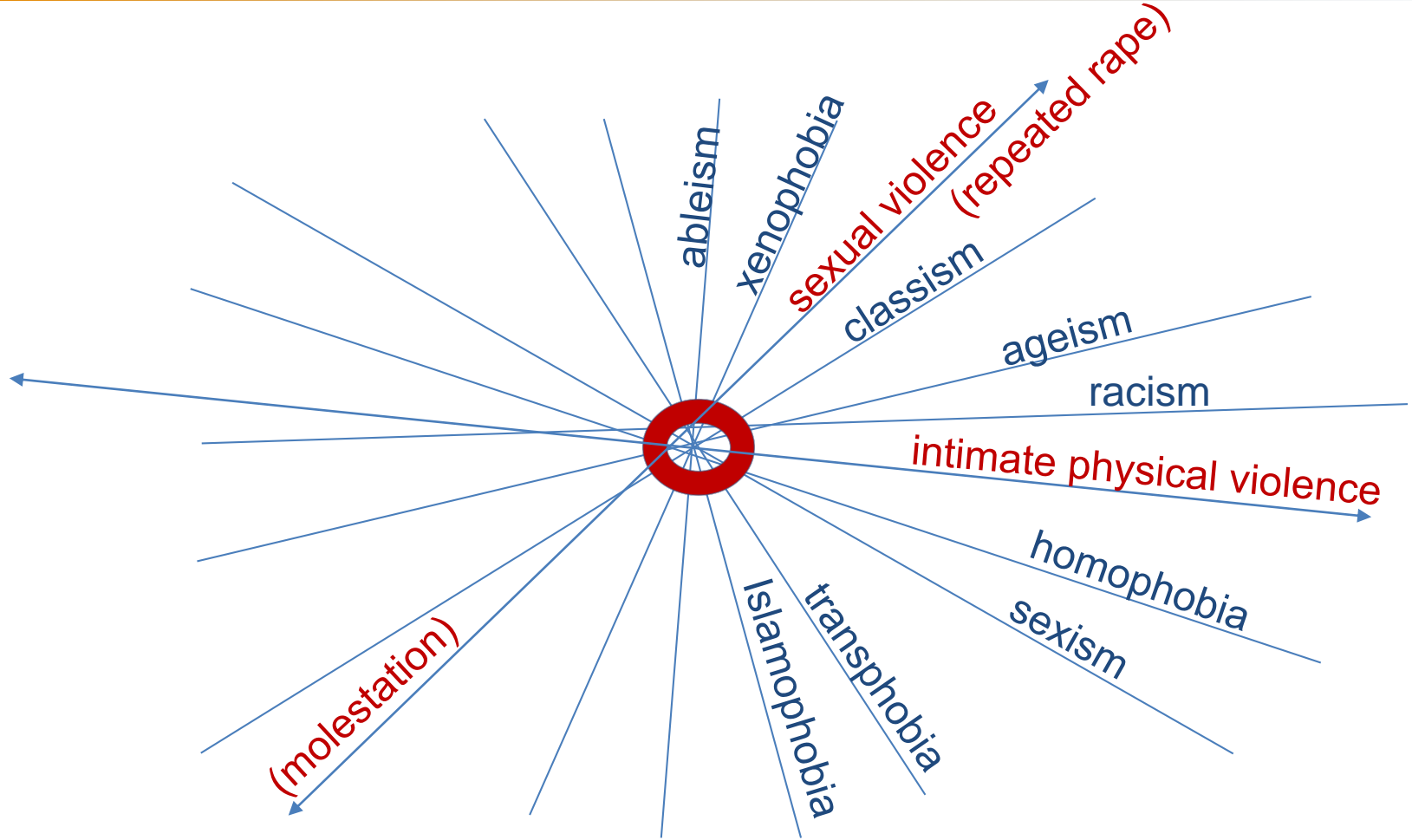
ACE Study Details

- The longitudinal study began in 1997 as a collaboration between the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention and Kaiser Permanente
- The survey pool includes 17,700 Kaiser patients
- Findings on child sexual abuse: 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys are victims
- People with high ACE scores (4 or higher) are at greater risk of:
 - Improper brain development
 - Impaired cognitive (learning ability) and socio-emotional (social and emotional) skills
 - Blindness, cerebral palsy from head trauma
 - Higher risk for heart, lung and liver diseases, obesity, cancer, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol
 - Anxiety and other mental health disorders, including suicidal ideation
 - Smoking, alcoholism and drug abuse
 - Propensity to be in abusive relationships

Intersectionality and Intimate Violence

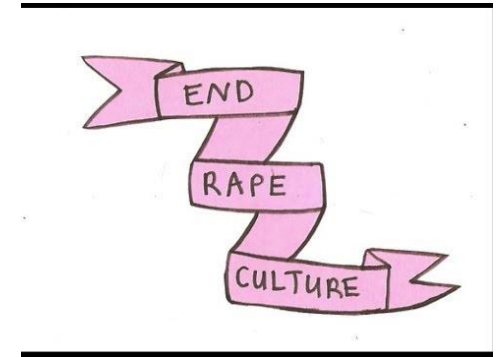


Intersectionality and Intimate Violence



Obstacles to Survivor Leadership

- Stigmatization of Survivors
- Ableism
- Nonprofit Professionalization
- Survivors are Seen as Clients
- Survivors are Pathologized



What Survivor Leadership Offers

- More space for the full truth to emerge
- Blind spots are decreased
- Strategies are based on reality, not theory
- Examples from other movements



Just Being A Survivor Is Not Enough

- We need to elevate leaders with lived experience AND intersectional praxis



MIRROR MEMOIRS

- **Mirror Memoirs** is an oral history project centering the narratives, healing and leadership of LGBTQ survivors of color in the movement to end child sexual abuse.
- Founded by survivor-activist Amita Swadhin, **Mirror Memoirs** has been made possible by a fellowship from the [Just Beginnings Collaborative](#).
- In the startup phase of this project (January 2016 to December 2017), Amita will:
 - collect at least 50 audio recordings from fellow LGBTQ child sexual abuse survivors of color and create an online audio archive;
 - host a convening for LGBTQ survivors of color to grieve, heal and strategize in community (with a separate track for allies); and
 - release a report educating philanthropists, direct service providers and policymakers on the needs of survivors at the intersections of oppression.

QUESTIONS?

Contact:

Amita Swadhin

mirrormemoirs@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/amitaswadhin

www.mirrormemoirs.com

Additional Projects Founded by JBC-Funded Survivor Leaders of Color:

- Ahimsa Collective (Sonya Shah)
- Children of Combahee (Ahmad Greene-Hayes)
- Firecracker Foundation (Tashmica Torok)
- Heal2End (Ignacio Rivera)
- Living Bridges Project (Mia Mingus)
- #LoveWithAccountability (Aishah Shahidah Simmons)
- Multicultural Efforts to End Sexual Assault (Kimber Nicoletti-Martinez)
- Reverence Project (Aqeela Sherrills)
- Supporting Survivors to Come Out (Sujatha Baliga)
- Vida Afro-Latina (Luz Marquez Benbow)
- Visioning B.E.A.R. Circle Intertribal Coalition (Strong Oak Lefebvre)

More Info: www.justbeginnings.org

Getting Help with Domestic Violence

- National Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-799-7233
- National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline
1-866-331-9474
- National Sexual Assault Hotline (RAINN)
1-800-656-4673

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb/resource/help-fv>

**Free and confidential
help is available for
victims of domestic
violence 24 hours a day**



FVPSA's National and Special Issue Resource Centers

- National Health Resource Center on Domestic Violence (HRCDV) – www.futureswithoutviolence.org
- Resource Center on Domestic Violence, Child Protection and Custody (RCDVCC) – www.ncjfcj.org/dept/fvd
- National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRCDV) – www.nrcdv.org and www.vawnet.org
- Battered Women's Justice Project: Criminal and Civil Justice Center (BWJP) – www.bwjp.org
- National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma, and Mental Health (NCDVTMH) – www.nationalcenterdvtraumamh.org

FVPSA's Culturally Specific Special Issue Resource Centers

- National Indigenous Women's Resource Center – www.niwrc.org
- Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence (API-GBV) www.api-gbv.org
- Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community (IDVAAC) – www.idvaac.org
- National Latina Network for Healthy Families and Communities
 - Casa de Esperanza www.casadeesperanza.org
- Ujima, Inc. – www.ujimacommunity.org

FVPSA's Institutes and Capacity-Building Centers

- National LGBTQ Institute on Intimate Partner Violence
 - Northwest Network of Bi, Trans, Lesbian, and Gay Survivors of Abuse – www.lgbtqipv.org
- Capacity Center to Expand Services to Children, Youth, and Abused Parents (ESCYAP) –
www.promisingfutureswithoutviolence.org
- Capacity Technical Assistance Project
 - National Network to End Domestic Violence – www.nnedv.org



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<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9SR7ZD6>

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Futures Without Violence
contact (Mie):
mfukuda@futureswithoutviolence.org