



2025 Official Conference Agenda

**updated October 24th, 2025*

Subject to Change- please check the conference website for the most updated agenda.

Sunday, October 26th, 2025

4:00pm to 7:00pm	<u>Registration and Help Desk Open</u>	<i>Registration will be open, be sure to pick up your official 2025 conference tote bag.</i>
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Monday, October 27th, 2025

9:00am to 5:30pm	<u>Registration and Help Desk Open</u>	<i>Registration will be open, be sure to pick up your official 2025 conference tote bag.</i>
11:00am to 12:30pm	<u>Connections Networking and Exhibitor Lunch</u>	<i>Open to all conference attendees, nourishing buffet lunch, time to connect with fellow attendees and visit our 2025 exhibitors. Great time to start getting your passport stamped, be sure to ask for one at registration.</i>
1:00pm to 5:00pm	<u>Conference Intensive A: Taking Care with your Survivor Community and Connections - The Survivor Storyteller Collective Training</u> Every year we feature a very special survivor only session and it is always one of the most popular intensives. This intensive will focus on The Hotline's Storyteller Collective and the power of storytelling. Survivors attending will be trained with 6 training modules to prepare them to share their story publicly. This is a survivor-only workshop and will be limited to 120 attendees. Learnings are shared by the facilitator during the conference.	<i>Doreen Nicholas, Retired Advocate, Trainer, Facilitator</i> <i>Lizette Roeder, Bilingual Domestic Violence Response Coordinator, Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence</i> <i>Ruth Glenn, Consultant</i>



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1:00pm to 5:00pm	<u>Conference Intensive B: Exploring All Housing Options for Survivors of Domestic Violence</u> Facilitated by the Safe Housing Partnerships TA Consortium, this intensive will introduce the spectrum of housing. Advocates will learn about options ranging from temporary housing (such as emergency and hotel shelter) to permanent and rapid rehousing models to housing in Indian Country. Hear the latest on approaches to shelter and housing for survivors, legal protections, and navigating the HUD Continuum of Care Program in your local communities. Share experiences working to address survivors' housing needs. Learn from others about their challenges and community wins. We'll discuss available resources and additional TA opportunities.	<i>Brittany Eltringham, Director of Safe Housing Initiatives, National Resource Center on Domestic Violence</i> <i>Carielle Escalante, CAHS Sr. Specialist, National Network to End Domestic Violence</i> <i>Clarice Charlie-Hubbard, STTARS Safe Housing and Shelter Specialist, National Indigenous Women's Resource Center</i> <i>Elena Hampton-Stover, Director of Housing, National Network to End Domestic Violence</i> <i>Gwendolyn Packard, Director, STTARS Indigenous Safe Housing Center</i>
1:00pm to 5:00pm	<u>Conference Intensive C: Bridging Systems, Centering Survivors: Sharing Lessons Learned & Emerging Best Practices for CCR</u> Drawing on nearly two decades of experience in Kansas City, this session explores how coordinated community responses (CCRs) can impact criminal legal system interventions to better respond to survivor needs. Presenters, representing the coordinating agency, will share lessons learned in implementing and sustaining CCRs, enhancing services and systems, and using national best practices to inform local action. Attendees will gain practical strategies to strengthen collaboration, improve services,	<i>Tanya Draper Douthit, Chief Operating Officer, Rose Brooks Center</i> <i>Annie Struby, Project Director, BWJP</i>



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	and position their work to influence broader policy and practice.	
1:00pm to 5:00pm	<u>Conference Intensive D: Rooted in Care: Deepening Survivor-Centered Hotline Advocacy and Stress Recovery Practices</u> Back by popular demand, the National Domestic Violence Hotline training team will demystify The Hotline. This intensive will offer a practical, trauma-informed approach to survivor-centered hotline advocacy. Participants will learn best practices for crisis response, safety planning, and emotionally responsive communication. The session includes tools from the National Domestic Violence Hotline and ends with a focus on wellness, stress recovery, and sustainable advocacy. Ideal for both new and experienced hotline advocates.	<i>April Jimerson, Director of Training, National Domestic Violence Hotline</i> <i>Wlehdae "Weddy" Moore, Learning Operations Manager, National Domestic Violence Hotline</i>
1:00pm to 5:00pm	<u>Conference Intensive E: A Recipe for Resilience: Strengthening Your Fundraising Strategy</u> This hands-on intensive explores how strong, diversified fundraising strategies can help organizations weather today's shifting funding landscape. With traditional sources, including government grants, becoming less predictable, engaging individual, foundation and corporate donors is more important than ever. This intensive will cover the fundamentals of fundraising and board engagement, and feature insights directly from corporate and foundation donors supporting the domestic violence space.	<i>Brett Barnes, Chief Development Officer, The National Domestic Violence Hotline</i> <i>Yvonne Garrett, CEO, O'Brien Garrett</i> <i>Katie Ray-Jones, CEO, The National Domestic Violence Hotline</i> <i>Kate Nack, Vice President, The Allstate Foundation</i> <i>Heather Henry, MPA, VP of Development, The National Domestic Violence Hotline</i> <i>Sharisse Kimbro, Relationship Abuse Program Officer, The Allstate</i>



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		<i>Foundation</i> <i>Ashley Morgan, Sr. Director of Communications, Guest Experience, & Philanthropy, European Wax Center</i> <i>Dede Bartlett, Philanthropist and Community Volunteer</i> <i>Crystal Justice, CFRE, Chief External Affairs Officer, The National Domestic Violence Hotline</i>
1:00pm to 5:00pm	Conference Intensive F: Educating is Advocating: How to Effectively Communicate with Policymakers We will discuss how to become more active in policy and political advocacy by sharing background information, tools, tips, and resources on how best to educate elected officials and policymakers on issues impacting domestic violence victims and survivors. Attendees will learn how to effectively communicate your message and build your comfort and fluency with speaking with members of your Congressional delegation. This will include an advocacy toolkit on how to request meetings back home and some “do’s and don’ts” for becoming a local resource to policymakers on services, support and prevention strategies to end domestic violence in your community.	<i>Ellen Fern, Policy and Engagement Consultant, National Domestic Violence Hotline</i> <i>Jessica Hill, Chief Public Affairs Officer, Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence</i>
6:30pm to 7:30pm	<u>Welcome Reception (including light hors d'oeuvres and snack boards)</u> Thanks to our generous welcome reception sponsor Vodafone Americas Foundation.	<i>Welcome from the Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence</i>



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7:30pm - onward	Time to Explore Kansas City (On Your Own)	<i>We chose Kansas City for this year's conference for its hospitality, creativity and community. We encourage attendees to take in the city while you are here. Whether it's the local cuisine, seeing the many water fountains that have led to KC being called "the City of Fountains" or simply grabbing coffee offsite. We want to give attendees time to rest, restore and explore!</i>
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Tuesday, October 28th, 2025

7:30am to 9:00am	<u>Breakfast</u>	
9:00am to 10:15am	<u>Opening Plenary: Pathways to Healing, Hope, and Joy for Survivors and Those Who Accompany Them on the Journey</u> Dr. Thema Bryant, renowned psychologist, author, and former president of the American Psychological Association, offers a powerful keynote on healing from intimate partner violence. Blending psychology, and spirituality, she will explore pathways to restoration for survivors and those who walk alongside them on the journey to wholeness.	<i>Katie Ray-Jones, CEO - The National Domestic Violence Hotline – Conference Welcome</i> <i>Dr. Thema Bryant, Keynote</i>
10:45am to 12:00pm	<u>Workshop Breakout Session I</u>	<i>Please preregister for your breakouts in advance of the conference via our official conference app. Space is limited for each session offered. Each</i>



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		<i>attendee must be scanned in/out of session in order to be eligible for CEU credits.</i>
	(1) Understanding The Other Half of Domestic Violence - Humanizing Those Who Cause Harm to Enhance Victim Safety At Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC), we use a trauma informed approach to holding those who cause harm accountable for their abusive behavior. The “River of Cruelty” model helps participants understand the impact of trauma so they can be accountable for harm they have caused. By demonstrating compassion and empathy, it fosters an environment where domestic violence lethality risks and motives for violence research can be used to effectively intervene. Through collaboration between batterer’s intervention program (BIP) facilitators, victim advocates and supervising officers, victim safety is the primary focus. KDOC uses trauma informed accountability to enhance victim safety and participant success.	<i>Danielle Thompson, BIP Coordinator, KDOC- OVS</i> <i>Jennifer Horst, BIP State Assessment Coordinator, KDOC-OVS</i> <i>Kelsey Gill, Batterer Intervention Program Victim Services Liaison, Kansas Department of Corrections, Office of Victim Services</i>
	(2) SAFeR Enhanced: A Systematic Approach to Child Custody Decision-Making and DV Families who experience intimate partner violence (IPV) benefit most from responses and interventions tailored to meet their specific needs. In this workshop, participants will learn the evidence-based and systematic SAFeR Approach to screen for and assess the nature, context, and effects of IPV, as well as reflect on 15 years of SAFeR and how it continues to evolve as the gold standard, meeting survivors where they are in their lives and demanding that the legal system, and those that practice within it, rise to meet the moment.	<i>Tracy Shoberg, Deputy Director - NLCCDV, BWJP</i> <i>Diana Griffin, Attorney Advisor - National Legal Center on Children and Domestic Violence, BWJP</i>



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	(3) Flexible Cash Assistance as a Survivor-Centered Economic Strategy Since its inception, The Network's Survivor Fund program has distributed over \$14 million to survivors in Illinois. The Network's Survivor Fund provides a transformative approach to survivor support by offering unrestricted financial assistance through its Flexible Cash Assistance program alongside other funding streams. This session will explore how centering care, community, and connection can reshape traditional service models. Presenters will offer a deep dive into how the Survivor Fund was designed and scaled, highlighting the values that guide its trauma-informed framework.	<i>Janet Rosas, Survivor Fund Application Coordinator, The Network</i> <i>Carolina Paniagua, Survivor Fund Community Engagement Specialist, The Network</i>
	(4) Real-Time Resiliency: Release Trauma While You Serve Victims Stress, anxiety, and vicarious trauma are common challenges in victim assistance work, making self-care essential to prevent burnout and health issues. This workshop equips you with simple, effective techniques to build resiliency and release trauma at a cellular level in real time. Learn how to stay clear and grounded while providing victim services, helping deescalate trauma responses, co-regulate with survivors, and ensure they feel truly seen and heard—all without carrying the trauma home with you. These practices benefit both your professional and personal life.	<i>Sabrina Fritts, Executive Director, Peaceworks, Inc.</i> <i>Brenda Nelson, Lead Advocate, Peaceworks, Inc.</i>



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	(5) Challenging Assumptions with Intention: Inclusive DV Education and Affirming Advocacy This workshop explores the dynamics of relationship violence within LGBTQ+ communities. Participants will examine disproportionate rates of abuse, how tactics may vary across identities, and the barriers survivors face. Through an intersectional lens, we'll reflect on what inclusive education and advocacy can look like when rooted in community and connection. Designed for advocates, educators, and service providers, this session offers space to build cultural humility and strengthen best practices that center and uplift survivors through reflection and storytelling.	<i>Rachel Nider, Community Educator, Women Against Abuse</i> <i>Caterina Ramirez, Strategic Initiatives Program Manager, Women Against Abuse</i>
	(6) The Overlapping Realities of Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence This session will explore the often-overlooked intersection of human trafficking and domestic violence, examining how both forms of abuse share common tactics such as coercion, control, and isolation. Attendees will gain insight into the complex dynamics victims and survivors face, why they may not self-identify, and how service providers can better recognize and respond to overlapping victimization. Through real-world examples and trauma-informed strategies, participants will leave with practical tools to enhance survivor support, improve collaboration, and strengthen community response efforts.	<i>John Long, Vice President of Abuse Services, Hope Villages of America</i>



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	(7) The Price of Abuse: Financial Harm and Recovery This presentation will focus on how financial abuse and safety can be addressed by the criminal justice system through strategic charging and motions to include evidence of the nature of a relationship beyond the charged crimes. Presenters will also provide strategies of redressing financial harm through family court and with civil protection orders.	<i>Jane Anderson, Senior Attorney Advisor, AEquitas</i> <i>Kim Pentico, Senior Director of Economic Justice, NNEDV</i>
	(8) Nothing About Us Without Us: A Panel on Operating a Survivor Advisory Board with Survivor Participants Members of Center for Survivor Agency and Justice's Survivor Advocate Advisory Board (SAAB) will lead the panel to share how they co-created processes, guided decision-making to support national policy and research priorities, and currently engage in policy and organizing efforts. This survivor-driven approach illuminates the connection between People, Process, and Policy, connecting the realities of survivors to economic systems, barriers, and policy solutions. The SAAB will share best practices, including value setting, nurturing spaces, participatory decision-making, and models and structures to inspire participants to center survivor leadership in programming and advocacy.	<i>Mona Muro, Public Policy Manager, CSAJ</i> <i>Nia Morgan, Policy & Organizing Coordinator, CSAJ</i> <i>Beth Horne, Advocate and Leader in Combating Domestic Violence</i> <i>Eowyn Corral, Grassroots Co-Director, National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC)</i> <i>Stephanie Saji, Artist, Entrepreneur, Consultant, LilyPad Collective Ecosystem</i>



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	(9) From Surviving to Thriving: Transforming Domestic Violence Shelters into Healing Spaces Join us for a comprehensive presentation that explores the transformative journey of our residential shelter as we adopted trauma-informed practices. We will delve into the challenges faced and successes achieved, focusing on our shift to a client-centered approach that prioritizes emotional safety and trauma sensitivity.	<i>Christina Allen, Chief Executive Officer, FamilyTime Crisis & Counseling Center</i> <i>Robin Gandara, Director of Client Services, FamilyTime Crisis & Counseling Center</i> <i>Melissa Suarez, Shelter Manager, FamilyTime Crisis & Counseling Center</i>
12:00pm - 12:15pm	<u>Short Group Meditation</u>	<i>Inner Space Yoga</i>
12:15pm to 1:30pm	<u>Afternoon Lunch Plenary: Collective Safety - Kansas City's Community Led Approach</u> This special plenary session explores Kansas City's Blueprint for Safety, an innovative interagency approach to improving the criminal legal system's response to domestic violence. Grounded in survivor experience and cross-sector collaboration, the Blueprint aligns policies and practices across law enforcement, the courts, and advocacy to close systemic gaps and enhance safety and accountability. Moderated by longtime national advocate Lynn Rosenthal and featuring Rose Brooks, a cornerstone of the KC community, this panel will explore how coordinated systems change is transforming the response to intimate partner violence. Attendees will leave with actionable insights to strengthen interagency collaboration and survivor-centered practices in their own communities.	<i>Doreen Nicholas, Retired Advocate, Trainer, Facilitator - survivor intensive report out</i> <i>Moderator:</i> <i>Lynn Rosenthal, Co-Director MOSAIC Initiative, Battered Women's Justice Center</i> <i>Panelists:</i> <i>Tanya Draper Douthit, COO, Rose Brooks Center, Battered Women's Justice Center</i> <i>Annie Struby, JD, Director of BWJP's National Center on Domestic Violence and Firearms and former coordinator for Kansas City's, Battered Women's Justice Center</i>



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		<i>Alison Schenkelberg, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Special Victims Unit, Jackson County Prosecutor Office, Blueprint for Safety, Kansas City Police Department</i> <i>Brianna Zavadil, Director, Domestic Violence Unit</i> <i>Jessica Hill, Chief Public Affairs Officer, Missouri Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence (MOCADSV)</i>
2:00pm to 3:15pm	<u>Workshop Breakout Session II</u>	<i>Please preregister for your breakouts in advance of the conference via our official conference app. Space is limited for each session offered. Each attendee must be scanned in/out of session in order to be eligible for CEU credits.</i>
	(10) We Take Care of Us: Reclaiming Community as the First Line of Healing This workshop explores how domestic violence organizations can transform into holistic, culturally grounded community care hubs for Black survivors of intimate partner violence and sexual assault. Using The Safe Sisters Circle as a model, we will show how helping survivors can be done best through integrated services and holistic approaches. Participants will learn how to integrate wraparound and integrated services, culturally specific healing practices, and	<i>Nel-Sylvia Guzman, Executive Director, The Safe Sisters Circle</i> <i>Alana Brown, Founder & CEO, A Cultured Business</i>



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	advocacy strategies that empower survivors and strengthen community resilience.	
	(11) Connected Parents, Connected Kids: Building Multi-Sector Partnerships to Support Families Domestic violence programs have a unique and important role in creating partnerships with pediatricians, home visitors, and other child and family serving providers to support child health and wellbeing. This workshop will highlight tools and strategies advocates can integrate into their practice to make sure that the needs of survivors and their children are addressed in health and public health settings.	<i>Kate Vander Tuig, MPH National Health Resource Center on Domestic Violence Health Partners on IPV + Exploitation, Futures Without Violence</i> <i>Leslie Pech, Health Program Assistant National Initiatives of Violence and Abuse, Futures Without Violence</i>
	(12) Behind the Lens: The Power of Ethical Storytelling with Investigation Discovery Shaping how domestic violence stories are portrayed in the media is powerful: it has the ability to change perceptions and increase awareness, and it can even break long-held stigmas around abuse. Join an intimate conversation with Dr. Mildred Muhammad, the featured survivor in ID's upcoming documentary <i>Hunted By My Husband: The Untold Story of the DC Sniper</i>, and ID's Senior Vice President of Production, Kathryn Vaughan, as they examine how survivor-centric approaches can reshape narratives. Learn how they navigate the complexities of trauma representation with a discussion led by Crystal Justice, CFRE.	<i>Panelists: Dr. Mildred Muhammad, Survivor and Global Advocate for Domestic Violence Awareness</i> <i>Kathryn Vaughan, ID's Senior Vice President of Production</i> <i>Moderator: Crystal Justice, Independent Consultant and former Chief External Affairs Officer for The Hotline</i>
	(13) A Love Like "You": The Glamorization of Violence in Pop Culture A compelling workshop that blends pop culture with prevention by examining	<i>Q. Olivia Rivers, CEO, The Bridge Over Troubled Waters, Inc.</i>



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	technology-facilitated intimate partner violence through the lens of Netflix's hit series "You". Using scenes from the show as case studies, this session explores how digital tools, like tracking apps, social media, & surveillance, are weaponized to control, isolate, and manipulate partners, especially in teen relationships. Grounded in real-life behaviors and psychological research, the workshop challenges the glamorization of obsession as love and equips participants with tools to recognize red flags, foster media literacy, & support healthy relationships.	
	(14) Loneliness Hurts: Supporting Survivor Leadership to Reduce Social Isolation and Loneliness Research in the domestic violence field reports survivors experience high rates of social isolation and loneliness with many losing connections among friends and family because of their abusive partners' efforts to control and isolate them. With that understanding, the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV) convened a cohort of member programs to listen to survivors about their experiences of loneliness, and to develop strategies for increasing social connections and peer support among survivors. This session will report on ICADV's listening process, project findings, and next steps to center survivors' leadership in our work.	<i>Colleen Yeakle, Evaluation Director, Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence</i> <i>Zachary Anderson, Coordinator of Evaluation and Program Planning, Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence</i>
	(15) Building Integrated Systems of Support: Transforming our Approach at the Intersection of Domestic Violence and Homelessness Domestic violence is one of the leading contributors to homelessness for women and children, yet survivors experiencing housing instability continue to encounter substantial	<i>Jetzel Chavez, Domestic Violence Regional Coordinator, Rainbow Services</i> <i>Laura-Elena Garza, Domestic Violence Coordinator, The Whole Child</i>



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	barriers when accessing vital services – all of which exacerbate housing instability This session will explore the dynamics of abuse and how they contribute to survivors' housing instability, an overview of the Domestic Violence Regional Coordinator role created in Los Angeles County, California and best practices in engaging in your local Continuum of Care.	
	(16) Acquired Brain Injury and Intimate Partner Violence: Our Voices This workshop will address the widespread occurrence of gender-based violence that results in Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) either through blunt force trauma or Near-fatal Strangulation (NFS). Identification of symptoms post-injury is crucial for providing care. How women view this injury and the search for appropriate care is vital. The results of partner-inflicted ABI from our current study (utilizing neuropsychological measures and PET/MRI scans) will be presented. Included in this workshop is how to educate and motivate the community to recognize the ongoing trauma of this injury and how to connect women to recovery resources.	<i>Kathleen Monahan, Associate Professor, Stony Brook University</i>
	(17) Just the Facts We know that there are challenges within the legal system to understand the complexity of domestic violence, the broader tactics of abuse and the pattern of this behavior to gain power and control. Expert witnesses play a crucial role in helping the justice system understand abuse, and support the prosecution of domestic and sexual violence cases. Learn how YOU, as an expert witness, can help juries comprehend the complexities of DV/SV, including the actions of both	<i>Jessica Woolbright, Executive Director, Saint Martha's</i>



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	victim-survivors and alleged offenders.	
	(18) Legislative Reform for Survivor Safety and Justice: Focus on Reproductive Coercion and Discovery Abuse Laws to Inspire Advocacy Survivors experience complex barriers to safety and justice, some of which can be remedied through legislative reform centering care, community, and connection. The UC Irvine School of Law Domestic Violence Clinic recently sponsored multiple bills on behalf of clients including (1) first-in-the-world legislation defining “reproductive coercion” as domestic abuse and (2) a statute curbing the misuse of discovery in civil protection order cases. Working from these case studies, session participants will identify legislative reforms needed in their own jurisdictions and will be guided through a rubric to develop tailored strategy.	<i>Jane Stoeve, Law Professor, Director, Domestic Violence Law Clinic, University of California Irvine School of Law</i>
3:45pm to 5:00pm	<u>Workshop Breakout Session III</u>	<i>Please preregister for your breakouts in advance of the conference via our official conference app. Space is limited for each session offered. Each attendee must be scanned in/out of session in order to be eligible for CEU credits.</i>
	(19) Survivor Experiences Within the Workplace: Results of a New Survivor-Focused Survey In Winter 2025, the National Domestic Violence Hotline and Futures Without Violence conducted a focus survey to better understand the impact of domestic violence,	<i>Ellen Fern, Policy and Engagement Consultant, National Domestic Violence Hotline</i> <i>Nina Kanakarajavelu, FUTURES Without</i>



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	sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking on survivors' workplace experiences. This session will present key findings from the survey and explore how the data can inform workplace policies, training and education initiatives, and the implementation of state employment laws.	<i>Violence</i>
	(20) Exploring Two Global Innovations in Combating Domestic Violence & the Power of AI Playing the Part Step into a powerful exploration of how technology is transforming the global fight against domestic violence. In this session, we'll spotlight two groundbreaking solutions: one that has successfully scaled across 13 countries, and another making waves with its recent launch in Mexico. Discover how each solution evolved, launched and adapts to cultural and regional needs while maintaining its impact. Then, we'll dive into the future—examining how artificial intelligence is reshaping prevention, detection, and data-driven intervention strategies. From predictive analytics to real-time support tools, this session will reveal how AI can become a vital force in ending the cycle of abuse.	<i>Moderator:</i> <i>June Sugiyama, Director</i> <i>Vodafone Americas</i> <i>Foundation</i> <i>Panelists:</i> <i>Jemima Gawn, Manager,</i> <i>Apps & Platform,</i> <i>Vodafone Group</i> <i>Foundation</i> <i>Emily Fitzgerald,</i> <i>Marketing</i> <i>Communications</i> <i>Manager, Women's</i> <i>Center &</i> <i>Shelter of Greater</i> <i>Pittsburgh</i> <i>Floretta Mayerson,</i> <i>Co-Founder & CEO</i> <i>Violetta</i> <i>Rebecca Medellin,</i> <i>Fundación Origen</i> <i>John Nehme, President</i> <i>& CEO Allies Against</i> <i>Slavery</i>
	(21) Safe Banking: A Survivor Informed Systemic Change to Creating Supportive Financial Products and Services	<i>Sabrina Hamm, Director</i> <i>of Systems Change</i> <i>Initiatives, FreeFrom</i>



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	Banks and financial institutions must play a role in ending gender-based violence. This session will explore survivor supportive solutions for making banking safer and more accessible, highlighting the top financial needs survivors identified and explore strategies for systemic change.	
	(22) Current Legal Issues Facing Survivors, Advocates, and Non-profits This session will provide an overview of the laws on confidentiality, privacy, and privilege in the current climate for survivors. We will also focus on immigrant survivors, warrants and subpoenas. Participants will get an update on the legal landscape and learn tools that help inform decision making. Through interactive discussions, and practical frameworks, this workshop provides participants with up-to-date information, perspectives and concrete skills to enhance survivor safety and provide trauma informed services.	<i>Carmen McDonald, Executive Director, Survivor Justice Center</i> <i>Jennafer Wagner, Director of Programs, Family Violence Appellate Project</i>
	(23) Sacred Duty, Collective Power: Addressing Domestic Violence through Faith and Community This powerful presentation calls faith and community leaders to recognize the effort to end domestic violence as both a moral responsibility and a sacred duty. Rev. Raushanah N. Butler weaves together lived experience, theology, and practical tools to challenge silence and empower action. Attendees will gain insight, language, and strategies to create survivor-centered, spiritually grounded spaces of safety, healing, and justice.	<i>Raushanah Butler, Domestic Violence Clergy Advocate</i>
	(24) Bearing Witness, Building Resilience: A Storytelling Needs Assessment of Domestic Violence Advocates Post-COVID	<i>Funmi Ayeni, Director of Research and Evaluation, National</i>



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	This interactive session presents findings from a two-year national needs assessment that used storytelling and mixed methods to explore the post-pandemic experiences of 885 domestic violence advocates across 24 states and territories. Participants will engage in reflective activities to explore collective care, community resilience, and sustainable support for advocates. The session centers the voices of service providers and highlights key themes of grief, innovation, healing, and connection. The workshop uplifts the lived realities of those working alongside survivors and explores how to build more sustainable, equitable systems of support.	<i>Resource Center on Domestic Violence</i> <i>Vanessa Timmons, Vanessa Timmons Coaching and Consulting (VTCC)</i>
	(25) Safety Planning with Latin@ Survivors This session will discuss strategies for safety planning with latin@ survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV). Grounded in an understanding of barriers and strengths within the latin@ communities, this presentation will highlight values such as Familismo, Colectivismo and Spiritualidad that can shape survivor decision making and engagement with services. Participants will learn to co-develop safety plans with survivors that honor their experiences, language preferences and community ties.	<i>Alexander Delgado, Director of Policy at Esperanza United</i>
	(26) History Lessons: Successes, Challenges, and Strategies from a 20-year Pediatric Hospital Intimate Partner Violence Program This session will highlight successes, challenges, and lessons learned from over 20 years of an intimate partner violence (IPV) program at a free-standing, tertiary care children's hospital. Since its inception in the late 1990s, the program has expanded from	<i>Tanya Draper Douthit, Chief Operating Officer, Rose Brooks Center</i> <i>Kimberly Randell, Professor of Pediatrics, Children's Mercy Kansas City</i>



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	the emergency departments and urgent care centers to all patient care settings, as well as transitioned from universal IPV screening to universal IPV education. Attendees will identify strategies to address common barriers to implementation and sustainability of pediatric hospital IPV programs. The presentation team will provide advocate and physician perspectives.	
	(27) Increasing Resilience of Survivor-Centered Domestic Violence Services in Disasters and Emergencies Domestic violence service providers support victims by designing and delivering a wide range of empowerment-based services. These services improve outcomes by building victims' knowledge, skills, and self-efficacy through goal setting and linkages with community resources. Although prior research has clearly documented the effectiveness of empowerment-based programs, disasters and emergencies introduce challenges to empowerment and engagement. We have engaged with coalition leaders and service providers to identify these challenges and seek input from attendees on research translation, dissemination, and training needed to increase resilience.	<i>Jennifer Horney, Professor, University of Delaware</i> <i>Dr. Ruth Fleury-Steiner, Ph.D., Associate Professor, University of Delaware</i>
6:30pm to 8:30pm	Awards Ceremony and Dance Party (featuring heavy hors d'oeuvres and drinks) This year's Dance Party is new and improved with a special live performance by Courtney Santana— Courtney is a survivor, founder of Sanctuary PBC and a world class vocalist. She will perform an inspiring set that will be sure to have you on your feet. Then we transition to a DJ to dance the night away. Two awards will be presented, the Ruth M.	<i>Open to all conference attendees, please be sure to preregister via the conference app.</i> <i>Heavy Hors d'oeuvres will be served along with one complimentary wine/beer ticket.</i>



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	Glenn Lifetime Achievement Award and the Emerging Youth Leader Award sponsored by The Allstate Foundation. Thanks to our generous reception sponsor Blue Élan Records.	
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Wednesday, October 29th, 2025

7:30am to 9:00am	<u>Breakfast</u>	<i>Open to all conference attendees.</i>
9:00am to 10:15am	<u>Workshop Breakout Session IV</u>	<i>Please preregister for your breakouts in advance of the conference via our official conference app. Space is limited for each session offered. Each attendee must be scanned in/out of session in order to be eligible for CEU credits.</i>
	(28) Centering Latina Immigrant Survivors in the Fight for Asylum, Dignity, and Justice Latina immigrant survivors of domestic and gender-based violence face uniquely complex legal, cultural, and systemic challenges when seeking safety through the U.S. immigration system. This session will examine key forms of immigration relief available to survivors—including asylum, VAWA, and U/T visas—and explore how advocates can integrate trauma-informed, culturally responsive strategies that honor lived experiences. Grounded in the values of care, community, and connection, this interactive session will also highlight how lawyers and	<i>Sonia Parras Konrad, Attorney, Law Office of Sonia Parras PLLC</i>



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	advocates can partner with survivors and grassroots organizations to build power and foster resilience.	
	(29) Centering Survivors, Strengthening Systems: A Rural Model for Trauma-Informed Collaboration This session presents a rural health equity initiative addressing gender-based violence in western Kansas. Grounded in survivor input and built through strong civic partnerships, the project produced actionable tools to identify service gaps, enhance cross-sector coordination, and elevate community perspectives. Insights from this pilot are now guiding the development of a scalable model featuring trauma-informed training, narrative-based engagement, youth involvement, and a centralized resource hub. Attendees will explore key lessons from the pilot and leave with adaptable strategies for implementing community-driven solutions.	<i>Ziwei Qi, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice, Fort Hays State University</i> <i>Daniel Bechle, Student Researcher, Fort Hays State University</i>
	(30) Protecting People and Pets: Animals and Interpersonal Violence People should not have to choose between personal safety and their pets. This session will address the relationship between animal cruelty and interpersonal violence, with particular attention to implications for practice. The PAWS Act, pet protection laws, and cross-reporting policies will be discussed. Guidelines for assessing and addressing signs of interconnected abuse will be included, and participants will receive practical tools for use in the field. By recognizing signs of animal maltreatment and asking well-informed questions, human services professionals can identify people and pets at risk and implement appropriate interventions.	<i>Claire Coughlin, Director of Companion Animal Programs, Animal Welfare Institute</i>



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	(31) When Your Abuser Is an Avatar: A Deep Dive Onto The Social Media and Gaming Apps Creating a New Wave of Sexual Violence We're in the middle of an AI explosion and can't keep up. While there are positive uses for A.I. tech, and social media, we're seeing an exponential increase in the exploitation, malicious, and sometimes deadly use of these technologies. This session will take you on a deep dive into the actual platforms of various A.I., social media, and gaming apps that are being used to exploit, stalk, threaten, harass, and create a new wave of domestic and sexual violence for both youth and adults.	<i>Jill Ostrove, VP of Sexual Misconduct Risk Management, ePlace Solutions</i>
	(32) Breathe, Move, Connect: A Holistic Approach to Survivor Healing and Resilience In today's fast-paced world, stress and disconnection have become the norm, impacting our well-being. This session invites participants to explore how mindful movement, breath work, and meditation can help us find balance, build resilience, and connect with ourselves and our communities. Participants will engage in a survivor-led, trauma-informed chair yoga practice aimed at promoting healing and fostering a sense of safety in our bodies. No prior yoga experience is necessary, just an open mind and a willingness to connect. With a focus on real-life experiences, this session combines education, mindful movement, and group reflection.	<i>Jonalyn Lavarias, Certified Yoga Teacher & Founder - Yoga With Jonalyn; Survivor</i>
	(33) Preventing Domestic Violence Homicides by Investigating Attempted Gun Purchases The 2022 VAWA Reauthorization Act included a new requirement that the FBI notify local law enforcement when a prohibited domestic abuser attempts to buy a gun and fails a background check. These attempted purchases are a serious	<i>Chelsea Parsons, Senior Director, Implementation, Everytown for Gun Safety</i> <i>Jennifer Becker, Director, National Center</i>



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	warning sign, however there is often no policy in place to notify survivors or investigate whether a survivor is in imminent danger. This session will offer a deep dive into this issue, including an overview of data on attempted gun purchases by prohibited abusers, recommendations for how law enforcement can effectively investigate, options for survivor notification, and practical strategies for advocates.	<i>on Gun Violence on Relationships, BWJP</i>
	(34) Myth Busters Edition – Using of AI in Victim Services to Meet Survivors Where They Are Many survivors research abuse patterns and safety resources online for months before feeling ready to contact a hotline or local provider like a shelter. Some may never be in a safe enough place to seek live support before leaving. This critical population often relies on unsafe, non-trauma-informed sources or remains isolated. Explore how trauma-informed AI creates safer digital pathways that complement human advocacy, and how myths about AI can hinder support. We'll share insights, quality assurance practices, and outcomes from integrating AI into crisis response through our experience implementing Ruth to meet survivors where they are.	<i>Megs Shah, CEO, Parasol Cooperative</i> <i>Rosemary Estrada-Rade, Director of Quality and Innovation, The National Domestic Violence Hotline</i>
	(35) Tools, Tips & Tricks for Integrating Wellness into the Workplace on a Budget Establishing compassionate connections with survivors is a core component of victim-centered practice. This approach places domestic violence advocates, counselors, and support staff at heightened risk for secondary traumatic stress, vicarious traumatization, and burnout due to the emotional intensity of their work. Accordingly, domestic violence organizations have a critical responsibility to include organizational wellness	<i>Diane Williams, CEO, JBWS; Safety, Support & Solutions for Abuse</i> <i>Karen Johnson, Vice President, People and Culture, JBWS</i>



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	education, dedicated spaces for restorative practices, integrated wellness activities, and benefits that support work-life balance. Attendees will leave with steps to starting a wellness initiative at their organization.	
10:30am to 11:45am	<u>Workshop Breakout Session V</u>	<i>Please preregister for your breakouts in advance of the conference via our official conference app. Space is limited for each session offered. Each attendee must be scanned in/out of session in order to be eligible for CEU credits.</i>
	(36) Advocating for Criminalized Survivors Every day, victims of intimate partner violence are arrested and incarcerated, often because their survival strategies are criminalized. When the legal system labels them as “perpetrators,” their experiences of abuse are often overlooked, minimized, or wholly disbelieved. Criminalized survivors often struggle to find services and support as they navigate the simultaneous risks posed by their abusive partners and by the legal system itself. In this workshop, participants will examine some ways that victims’ survival strategies are criminalized, explore advocacy strategies, and discuss ways to reduce barriers victim-defendants face.	<i>Cindene Pezzell, Director - National Defense Center for Criminalized Survivors, BWJP</i> <i>Sophie Davis, Advocate and Administrative Specialist, National Defense Center for Criminalized Survivors, BWJP</i>
	(37) Advocating for the Employment Rights of Domestic Violence Survivors - Leave from Work In this interactive session, participants will learn how advocates can leverage pre-existing employment protections for employees who	<i>Bella Book, Senior Program Specialist & Staff Attorney, Futures without Violence</i> <i>Millicent Shaw Phillips, Director of Legal</i>



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	experience domestic violence. This session's materials will foreground the lived experience of survivors while also addressing how stable employment reduces economic insecurity, facilitates financial resilience, and supports survivor dignity.	<i>Programs, Ujima</i>
	(38) Hidden Frontlines: Expanding DV Prevention Through Unlikely Allies and Trusted Community Touchpoints When we talk about prevention, we often focus on courts, schools, and shelters. But what about the hidden frontlines? Tattoo shops, gyms, libraries, salons, even real estate offices—these trusted spaces often hear disclosures of abuse first, precisely because they're "outside the system". This session challenges participants to reimagine prevention strategies by engaging with these everyday and often overlooked community touchpoints. It offers a shift in perspective—and the tools to build bold, lasting partnerships in the places survivors already turn for connection and care.	<i>Stacy Karabetsos, Director of Prevention Education, The Second Step, Inc.</i> <i>Kaitlyn Matthews, Chief Operating Officer, The Second Step, Inc.</i>
	(39) Survivor Perspectives and Outcomes Following Engagement with a Domestic Violence Court Domestic Violence Courts enhance survivor safety through partnerships with advocates, who assist with system navigation, safety planning, and resource connection. DV courts also promote trauma-informed, survivor-centered practices. This presentation describes an evaluation of survivors' experiences within the Winnebago County DV Coordinated Court in Illinois, an OVW DV Mentor Court. This multi-disciplinary presentation highlights the work of the DVCC and outlines how all disciplines working within a court system, from advocates to the judge, can implement	<i>Nikki Ticknor, Deputy Court Administrator, 17th Judicial Circuit Court of Illinois</i> <i>Julie Crouch, Director of the Center for the Study of Family Violence and Sexual Assault, Northern Illinois University</i>



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	trauma-informed practices. This session reviews initial findings from current research.	
	(40) Out of the Man Box and Across the Manosphere: Strategies for Promoting Healthy Manhood to Prevent Domestic Violence While elements and characteristics of the Man Box and Manosphere have long existed before we named them, our social connectedness through platforms and online spaces has created new challenges for us to address in preventing violence against women. How do we continue to engage boys and men in the presence of a growing radicalization that promotes misogyny, outdated gender norms, and the blaming of women for challenges facing men? The practice and promotion of healthy manhood continues to be a solution and guiding light forward. A Call to Men will share 7 considerations for engaging boys and men in prevention.	<i>RaKim Lash, Vice President of Healthy Manhood Initiatives, A Call to Men</i> <i>Kimya Motley, Chief Communications Officer, A Call to Men</i>
	(41) Survivor Gathering - Creating Community, Enhancing Connections, Examining Facets of Care This is a survivor only workshop. We will discuss the importance of each of the Conference themes, CARE. COMMUNITY. CONNECTION.	<i>Doreen Nicholas, Retired Advocate, Trainer, Facilitator</i> <i>Lizette Roeder, Bilingual Domestic Violence Response Coordinator, Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence</i> <i>Ruth Glenn, Consultant</i>
	(42) Reimagining Employee Motivation and Self-Care in Trauma-Exposed Workplaces This interactive session challenges outdated self-care models and introduces innovative, equity-centered strategies to boost motivation and well-being in domestic violence agencies. Participants will explore tools like the Burnout	<i>Tracey Dreighton, Director Learning and Development, The Family Place</i>



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	Barometer, Post-Trauma Motivation Mapping, and gamified engagement to build trauma-informed, sustainable workplaces. Learn how to shift from individual self-care to collective organizational care that fosters resilience, retention, and purpose.	
	(43) Addressing Violence in American Indian and Alaska Native Communities: Insights from StrongHearts Native Helpline Violence in American Indian and Alaska Native communities is a critical and deeply rooted issue, shaped by a complex history of colonization, systemic oppression, jurisdictional challenges, and intergenerational trauma. Here's an overview of what violence in these communities looks like, how StrongHearts Native Helpline was developed, and what we've learned over the past eight years.	<i>Rachel Carr-Shunk, Deputy Executive Officer, Project Coordinator, StrongHearts Native Helpline</i>
11:45am to 12:30pm	<u>Networking Lunch</u>	
12:30pm to 1:45pm	<u>Workshop Breakout Session VI</u>	
	(44) Centering the Power of Survivors through Research What does it sound like and look like to center the power of survivors through research? This session will explore trauma-informed best practices for engaging survivors of violence in research. Presenters will share practical strategies to collaborate, support safety, provide a caring environment for participants and researchers, promote trust, and emphasize choice during every stage of a research project. Explore lessons learned from researchers and advocates working with survivors in the fields of gender-based violence and gun violence prevention. Come away with actions you can incorporate into your next	<i>Abigail Hurst, Director of Trauma-Informed Programs, Everytown for Gun Safety</i> <i>Tannuja Rozario, Associate Director of Research, Everytown for Gun Safety</i>



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	project that illustrates the experience.	
	(45) How Shared Safety is Revolutionizing Philadelphia's Response to Relational Violence Shared Safety is a groundbreaking, citywide initiative transforming Philadelphia's approach to domestic and sexual violence, human trafficking, and reproductive coercion through a coordinated, cross-sector collaboration. This session will introduce participants to Shared Safety's unique model that unites government agencies and community-based organizations to drive system-level, survivor-centered change. Participants will be introduced to the model's structure, lessons learned, and impact; offering practical insight into how cross-sector collaboration can be a catalyst for survivor-centered collective impact in any community.	<i>Joanna Otero-Cruz, Executive Director and President, Women Against Abuse</i> <i>Azucena Ugarte, PhD, MA, MEd, Director, Office of Domestic Violence Strategies, City of Philadelphia</i>
	(46) The Use of Expressive Arts in Offender & Survivor Groups While there is a wealth of research on the use of group counseling for Batterer's Intervention Programs (BIP), there isn't a consensus on the best theoretical orientation to utilize. Similarly, research exists about the use of expressive arts therapy in group settings. However, this research is primarily focused on alternative populations. Using expressive arts can also be effective with survivor support groups. Through this presentation, we will explore the use of creative expressions with offenders and survivors of domestic violence in a group setting. The	<i>Cassandra Whitney, Clinical Manager: Batterer's Intervention, Synergy Services</i> <i>Lisa Fasig, Art Therapist/ BIP Therapist, Synergy Services</i>



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	presentation will give hands-on demonstrations and interventions to use in groups!	
	(47) Reimagining Advocacy: The Evolution of the Moving Ahead Workbook Join us for a discussion on The Allstate Foundation's survivor-informed approach to reimagining its curriculum into the Moving Ahead Workbook. This panel will explore how advocates and survivors shaped the revision process, ensuring it remains trauma-informed, culturally responsive, and actionable. Panelists will share insights on key updates, the shift from "curriculum" to "Workbook," and how these changes enhance accessibility and real-world application. Don't miss this conversation on the power of collaboration in creating meaningful advocacy tools.	<i>Moderator:</i> <i>Sharisse Kimbro, The Allstate Foundation</i> <i>Panelist:</i> <i>Monique Tinglin, The Allstate Foundation</i> <i>Tonya Lovelace, Lovelace Consulting Services, Inc.</i> <i>Sarahi Mateo, Esperanza United</i> <i>Nicole Blackburn, Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence</i>
	(48) Youth Connection- "Why It Matters, What's at Stake?" This session explores how meaningful communication with youth supports healing, especially for those impacted by trauma and barriers. Participants will explore how different lived experiences impact trust and connection and learn practical strategies for utilizing empathy, active listening, and validation to foster safer relationships. Learn what's at stake when youth feel disconnected, often causing isolation and increased vulnerability. We will learn about the transformative power of creating safe spaces. Participants will gain tools to foster emotional safety and resilience, particularly for young people from underserved populations.	<i>Angela Lee, love is respect Director, National Domestic Violence Hotline</i> <i>Shnayjaah Jenty, Member, Love is Respect Advisory Council</i>
	(49) Order in the Court: Understanding the Role of Trauma in the Legal System	<i>Amanda Elkanick Oder, Chief Advocacy & Education Officer, Texas</i>



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	In this enlightening workshop, we delve into the critical topic of trauma and its significant impact within the legal system. Our focus is on empowering advocacy and its role in aiding survivors of power-based violence, such as intimate partner violence, sexual assault, trafficking, stalking, and abuse. We will explore how trauma reshapes a survivor's response and recovery process, emphasizing the need for a trauma-informed approach in legal practices.	<i>Advocacy Project</i> <i>Bronwyn Blake, Chief Legal Officers, Texas Advocacy Project</i>
2:00pm to 3:15pm	<u>Workshop Breakout Session VII</u>	<i>Please preregister for your breakouts in advance of the conference via our official conference app. Space is limited for each session offered. Each attendee must be scanned in/out of session in order to be eligible for CEU credits.</i>
	(50) Finding Forgiveness: How My Body Taught Me The Power of Curiosity, Empathy, and Forgiveness Survivor and activist Leah Zeiger will share her personal story of forgiveness – how it came into her life, how it changed her body, and how it became a central tenet of her healing and activism. Through a multimedia and interactive presentation, Leah will invite participants to consider: your own relationship to forgiveness, how your body may or may not be affected by that relationship, and what might happen if forgiveness should enter your life. Leah will share tools for the practice of forgiveness in personal, relational, and professional settings.	<i>Leah Zeiger, Founder/Director of The Sunflower Project; Choreographer; Survivor</i>
	(51) Sustaining Prevention: Lessons on Creative Funding and Partnerships from a	<i>Casey Keene, Director of Prevention, National</i>



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	National Scan Prevention is possible, but only through an investment of both resources and collective power. In order to sustain prevention work through uncertain times, we must rely on creative funding strategies and innovative collaborations. Drawing on data from the National IPV Prevention Council's National Prevention Scan representing 264 programs across the United States, we'll highlight promising strategies organizations are using to navigate funding gaps while keeping prevention efforts alive and community-rooted. The Council invites you to share in this conversation about resilience, adaptation, and strategic communication in prevention.	<i>Resource Center on Domestic Violence</i> <i>Justin Carter, Program Manager, Futures Without Violence</i>
	(52) Beyond the Basics: Trauma-Informed Care in Action In this interactive session, participants will explore the impact of trauma and how domestic violence services may unintentionally retraumatize survivors. Rooted in care, community, and connection, the session fosters a supportive space for shared learning. Through group discussions, scenarios, and self-reflection, participants will apply trauma-informed care principles—emphasizing self-awareness, compassionate communication, and collective accountability—to promote healing and strengthen supportive relationships.	<i>Alexandra Milkent, Director of Training, Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence</i>
	(53) Leading with Love: Two Survivors' Path to Authentic and Accountable Leadership As survivors in positions of leadership, our lived experiences bring powerful insights into our work—but how do we balance care with accountability to ourselves and the communities we serve? How do we ensure we're aware of the	<i>Hasnaa Mokhtar, Executive Director, Wafa House</i> <i>Michele Boronkas, Chief Executive Officer, Safe & Sound</i>



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	necessary healing we need to continue doing individually, institutionally, and communally to prevent harm perpetration? This session explores what it means to lead with integrity, love, care, and clarity while staying connected to core values. Participants will engage in interactive self-reflection exercises to identify their own leadership values and develop practical tools for survivor-centered, accountable leadership	
	(54) Going “ALL IN”: How a Community-Wide Approach is Transforming Housing Access for Survivors How can a community align its homeless response system to better serve survivors of domestic violence? This session spotlights how San Antonio and Bexar County’s Continuum of Care, Close to Home, and the Alliance to House Everyone are leveraging structured problem-solving, cross-sector governance, and data-driven collaboration to improve housing outcomes for individuals and families fleeing domestic violence. Attendees will learn how shared decision-making, real-time data use, and continuous system learning are helping to develop connections, strengthen survivor-centered practices, and create a more coordinated path to safe and stable housing.	<i>Judith Andrade, Domestic Violence System and Training Coordinator, Close to Home</i> <i>Patricia Guzman, Coordinated Entry Manager, Close to Home</i>
3:30pm to 4:00pm	Closing Ceremony and 2026 Conference City Join us for our final shared time together, where we will honor the last three days, share our learnings and announce where the 2026 conference will be held. We will also award our annual passport winner.	

Questions? Email conference@thehotline.org