

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVOCACY TOOLKIT



Domestic Violence Advocacy Toolkit

Personal Note from Yanni

This toolkit was created from lived experience and built with bold intention. As a survivor and advocate, I know what it means to navigate broken systems. This guide exists to help you do better-for survivors, for communities, for yourself. Use it boldly, compassionately, and without shame.

1. Trauma-Informed DV Response

Recognize signs of abuse including emotional manipulation, isolation, financial control, and physical harm. Respond with empathy, not interrogation. Avoid pressuring survivors for details, and always prioritize their safety and readiness to act.

2. Safety Planning Framework

Create a clear, customizable safety plan: emergency contacts, code words, transportation options, legal documents, children's needs, and shelter info. This section should be used with survivors privately and reviewed often.

3. Survivor Communication Do's & Don'ts

Do: Listen without judgment. Ask open questions. Believe survivors. Speak plainly.

Don't: Shame their choices. Push them to leave before they're ready. Share information without consent.

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4. Cultural Sensitivity & Faith-Based Considerations

Understand that Black and Brown survivors may face unique systemic and community pressures. Faith can be a source of both harm and healing-meet people where they are. Avoid spiritual bypassing, and honor survivors' beliefs without imposing your own.

5. Community Resources Template

Insert or attach your local DV hotlines, shelters, legal aid clinics, and culturally relevant providers here. Keep a printed and digital version updated at all times.