

## ***Where Do You Stand? Presentation packet***

### **Activity and introduction**

The purpose of this activity is to engage participants in a discussion at the beginning of the session. Most people will expect long speeches and framework at the beginning of each workshop (and maybe that is why they arrive so late?), so to turn your audience from passive listeners into engaged participants it's highly recommended that you try this activity. Note: integrating personal introductions into the activity will allow you to connect more intentionally with the participants and possibly remember more names (if you are presenting in a different community) instead of giving the perception that you are counting heads. This activity is intended to get people discussing the issues from their own perspective. It offers a fresh way of covering "DV/SA 101" that engages the novice as well as the experts.

It's critical that you solicit responses from the groups on each "true" "false" and "unsure" position to encourage discussion. You will get a general impression of where people are at with depth, understanding and awareness of the issue, but the intent is not to "win" with the correct information. The intent is to encourage dialogue and discussion; we want to hear everyone's thoughts and opinions in order to understand where each person is coming from. This is the most undervalued step in organizing a response to address domestic and sexual violence, as gathering this information will allow you to assess where your community is at in terms of understanding and beliefs about violence against Native women. Additionally, this exercise is also used to educate & raise awareness—where people are at in their understanding is not where they have to stay. The facilitator should be flexible and feel free to stop the exercise at a particular point to discuss a specific response to a question that highlights a myth about violence against women (i.e. men are just as likely to be victims of domestic violence). This is the jumping off place for discussion that the exercise provides.

Multi-disciplinary teams view issues such as violence against women through their respective agency lens, and this lens is shaped by their education and training. Community members will often view the issue from personal experience with a tendency to dwell on a single issue. When these groups are mixed together in this activity, be alert to a "professional" becoming patronizing or condescending, as well as a community member taking their chance to vent a particular grudge about a service provider.

Establishing "Ground Rules" prior to starting the activity will help you redirect people should conflicts arise and you can remind people that the purpose is to have a discussion; reinforce that the activity is not about right or wrong, rather, it offers the opportunity for dialogue and we have to be respectful of one another.

When it's time for you to provide the statistical answer to the question you may also state that national data doesn't always match well with local differences and individual perceptions.

You want to briefly assess areas that you may need to emphasize at workshops/community forums following this exercise, but don't belabor an issue – even if it is a hot topic – during this activity as you don't want to polarize people early on in the training. This activity is a tool to assess where your community is at in terms of understanding the issues surrounding violence against Native women in order to address this with further community education and awareness campaigns. Be relaxed, elicit responses, encourage discussion, and stick to these steps:

1. Present the question
2. Solicit participant responses
3. State the answer
4. Offer a comment (or two)
5. Stop when needed for fuller discussion
6. Move on!

Material Needs:

1. Demonstration video  
SVAP part 2 – PSA <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qEVFZi0RME0>
2. Power Point slides
3. Answer sheet