

# Adopting an Intersectional Approach to DVSAAS Programs and Services



2024 Summer TTI

National Organization for Victim Advocacy (NOVA)



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# Presenter

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(she/her)  
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# My Background

- B.A. & M.A. in Psychology
- Worked in Student Affairs for 18 years
- Foci: equity, sexual violence, domestic violence, anti-oppression, empowerment
- Research background is on DV/SAS at HBCU's
- Have volunteered as a victim advocate, hot-line, hospital response in local agencies since 1998



# Learning Objectives

- To equip you to better advocate with your campus and community for a victim-centered, trauma-informed approach to survivors that takes into account the intersections between domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking (DVSAS) and oppression
- Explore historical and cultural influences on survivors of DVSAS who are part of marginalized populations and the communities in which they live
- Provide specific recommendations for your work



# Identity Storytelling

Think back... what is the first time you noticed race or gender (yours or someone else)?



# Identity Storytelling

- What thoughts or feelings came up?
- How do you think recognizing first constructs of identity helps us in our work?



# Defining Terms

- Intersectionality
  - Legal scholar Kimberlé Crenshaw (1989)
  - Discussed Black feminism, which argues that the experience of being a black woman cannot be understood in terms of being black and of being a woman considered independently, but must include the interactions, which frequently reinforce each other
  - Multiple identities create unique experiences of oppression



Source:

<https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/stories/revolutionary-practice-black-feminisms>



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# Identities

Socioeconomic status

Race

Gender

Sexual orientation

Ability status

Age

Gender Expression

Faith/Religion

Nationality

Size

Ethnicity



# Activity- Discussion

In what ways do your **identities** show up when working with the folks on campus and in the community?



# Defining Terms

## Oppression

- **Power + Prejudice = Oppression**

Oppression (the “ism’s”) happens at all levels, reinforced by societal norms, institutional biases, interpersonal interactions, and individual beliefs.

- Individual — feelings, beliefs, values.
- Interpersonal — actions, behaviors and language.
- Institutional — legal system, education system, public policy, hiring practices, media images.
- Societal/Cultural — collective ideas about what is “right.”

# US Societal & Systemic Power

- White
- Male
- Heterosexual
- Christian
- Able-bodied
- Cisgender
- Born in the US
- More than enough material wealth
- Documented\*

# Defining Terms

## Privilege

- An unearned right, immunity, or benefit enjoyed by a person beyond the advantages of most
- Gives “entrée” and “benefit of the doubt”
- Privilege is often invisible to people who have it and **painfully obvious** to those who don't

# How Privilege Might Show Up in Our Work?

- Sharing your experiences first/not listening to others
- Getting defensive/avoiding hard conversations
- Assuming leadership

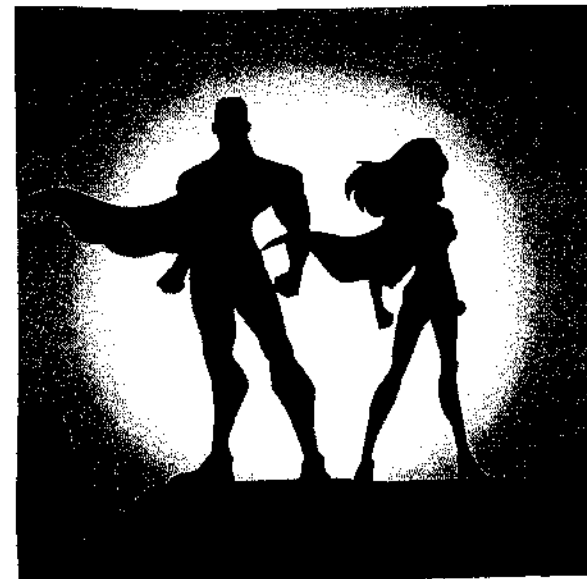
# Activity- DISCUSSION

In what ways have you benefited from **privilege** in the past week?

In what ways does **privilege** show up when working with the folks you serve on campus and in the community?



# What Having Privilege Isn't About





# Defining Terms

## Microaggressions

“...brief and commonplace daily verbal, behavioral, or environmental indignities, whether intentional or unintentional, that communicate hostile, derogatory, or negative... slights and insults toward marginalized people.”

Sue et al. Racial Microaggressions in Everyday Life. Implications for Clinical Practice. Am Pschol. 2007

# Unpacking

What thoughts, feelings and questions that came up for you after watching the video?



# Moving Forward



The people best equipped to serve members of your community that are a part of historically marginalized groups may be outside of your organization.



# Anti-Racist/Anti-Oppression Approaches...

- De-center dominant culture
- Begin with self-work and examination
- Operate from a place of mutuality and collaboration
- Make space for truth-telling, hurt and anger... as well as joy
- Encourage the members of marginalized communities to drive the approach or intervention
- Are constantly being re-evaluated/re-worked to make sure it is on track
- Are accountable to the campus and community they serve

Please share other engagement strategies you've found useful.



# Discussion - Creating Change

Talk about 2 things you can do that is within your power (positional, identity) to help your organization create community with historically marginalized groups.

Silent write, then share out





**N**  **VA**





# Contact Information

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