

Outreach & Collaboration with Muslim Communities

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WHY?

- ❑ Gain trust of the Muslim community
 - ❑ Increased credibility by partnering with imams
 - ❑ Increased use of services
 - ❑ Increased compliance with decreased anxiety & resistance
- ❑ Gain trust of Muslim leaders
 - ❑ Increased cooperation
 - ❑ Larger pool of resources
 - ❑ Opportunities for consultation & collaboration

Why?

- ❑ Imams can hold abusers accountable
- ❑ Imams can validate and support victim-survivors' journey towards safety
- ❑ Imams can address spiritual issues triggered by abuse
- ❑ Imams can be partners in contributing to attitudinal change
- ❑ Imams need you!

CHALLENGES

- ❑ Many Muslim leaders not familiar with DV concepts
- ❑ Many leaders suffer from denial that DV is in their community
 - ❑ May believe it is a Western construct & problem
- ❑ Some leaders fear working with mainstream agencies
 - ❑ May fear advocates will impose un-Islamic values or will push for divorce
 - ❑ May fear being reported to ICE or Homeland Security and being detained and/or deported

CHALLENGES

- ❑ Advocates may have biases/stereotypes that interfere with reaching out
- ❑ Advocates have limited time & resources
- ❑ Advocates may be unfamiliar with protocol in mosque or ethnic community center
- ❑ Muslim leaders may not be responsive to advocate efforts initially

HOW?

- ❑ Identify obstacles
- ❑ Become aware of personal biases & systemic biases
- ❑ Identify “bridge people” in the Muslim community
- ❑ Identify leaders who are already allies
 - ❑ Imams, Board members of mosques, Educators
 - ❑ Doctors, Lawyers, Therapists, etc.
 - ❑ Friends of friends or colleagues in your network
- ❑ Use allies to introduce you to other leaders

HOW?

- ❑ Develop a personal relationship
 - ❑ Plan a visit to the mosque or community center
 - ❑ Introduce your program and services
 - ❑ Invite the leaders to visit your facility (open house, private tour, lunch...)
 - ❑ Plan interfaith events
- ❑ Educate the community
 - ❑ Conduct a workshop in the mosque
 - ❑ Use *Garments for One Another* DVD (www.faithtrustinstitute.org)
 - ❑ Post flyers/brochures in women's bathroom in mosque

Challenges Faced by Muslim Community⁸

- ❑ Leadership has little or no DV training
 - ❑ Don't recognize signs of DV or minimize
 - ❑ May send women into unsafe situations
 - ❑ May blame the victim & further traumatize
 - ❑ May attempt couples counseling
- ❑ Limited Resources
 - ❑ Handful of DV organizations in US (see projectsakinah.org for directory)
 - ❑ Handful of Muslim shelters
 - ❑ Limited educational materials (see peacefulfamilies.org)
- ❑ Muslims often mistrustful of mainstream services

An Outreach Tool: *Garments for One Another*

- ❑ 90 minute DVD or livestream from FaithTrust Institute
 - ❑ Can be shown in short, self-contained modules within main topics of Understanding Domestic Violence, Islamic Perspective, & Seeking Shelter & Safety
- ❑ Includes survivor stories, education from clergy & advocates
- ❑ Includes Facilitator Guide with suggestions for conducting training in Muslim communities, as well as questions for discussion for
 - ❑ Advocates, Community members, Clergy
- ❑ Includes CD with reproducible handouts

Presenter Contact

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