

# Why are you here?

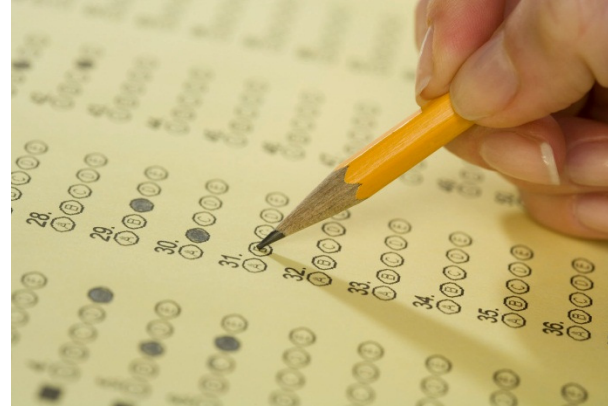
Think for a moment about why you are here.

Not why you are here, taking this training, but:

**why you have chosen to do this kind of work?**



- **personal reasons?**
- **work reasons?**



- **historical & evolutionary reasons?...**

- There are all kinds of reasons why we are here. It may not be immediately evident that there are historical and evolutionary reasons why we're here, but there are. The work we are doing at this training, and the work you do at your programs, are built on a strong foundation that has taken many years and thousands of people to build.



- This work is the result of tremendous courage on the part of survivors. It is the result of struggle and determination by women all over the country and all over the world to demand an end to the violence that has compromised our quality of life and the quality of life for our families and communities. It is the result of endless talking, listening, believing, working, and hoping.



# Welcome to the Movement!



Did you know you were part of a movement?



# Historical Roots

- In this country, we have a long history of disenfranchised groups organizing to achieve political and economic freedoms. The anti-slavery and suffrage movements are 2 examples of organizing that were considered extremely radical in their time.
- The mid-1900's was quite a volatile time, and there was a great deal of political activism occurring on many fronts. In fact, the women's movement, or women's liberation movement, was informed heavily by anti-war and civil rights efforts.
- It's important to understand that the work we do today is rooted in the women's movement of the 1960's and 70's.
- Can you describe the goals and activities of the women's movement back then?

## Goals

- equal pay for equal work
- control over our own bodies
- sexual freedom
- reproductive choice

## Activities

- marches
- bra burning
- consciousness raising groups
- writing/documenting: our bodies ourselves, the feminine mystique, my mother myself, against our will. . .







- Women talked with each other about rape, and we began to understand violence and violation as a condition of being female. A radical feminist analysis of male violence against women emerged, and women came together to offer support and to give public voice to their experiences.
- As anti-rape organizing grew, women also began to talk about the violence in their marriages. What had previously been viewed as the private domain of husbands and wives was now spoken publicly as “wife beating” and “spousal assault” and “battering.” Women offered each other rooms in their houses – this was the earliest form of shelter.
- Our work then was voluntary, extremely marginalized, and often led by women who were, themselves, survivors of violence.





Tradition of .  
Social Justice  
Movements –  
Anti-Slavery &  
Women's Right  
to Vote

Women's  
Liberation  
Movement

Anti-Rape &  
Battered  
Women's  
Movement



## Guiding goals

- Protect victims
- Hold abusers accountable
- End violence against women

## Key Strategies

- Consciousness raising
- Help for victims
- Legal options & protections
- Consequences for abusers

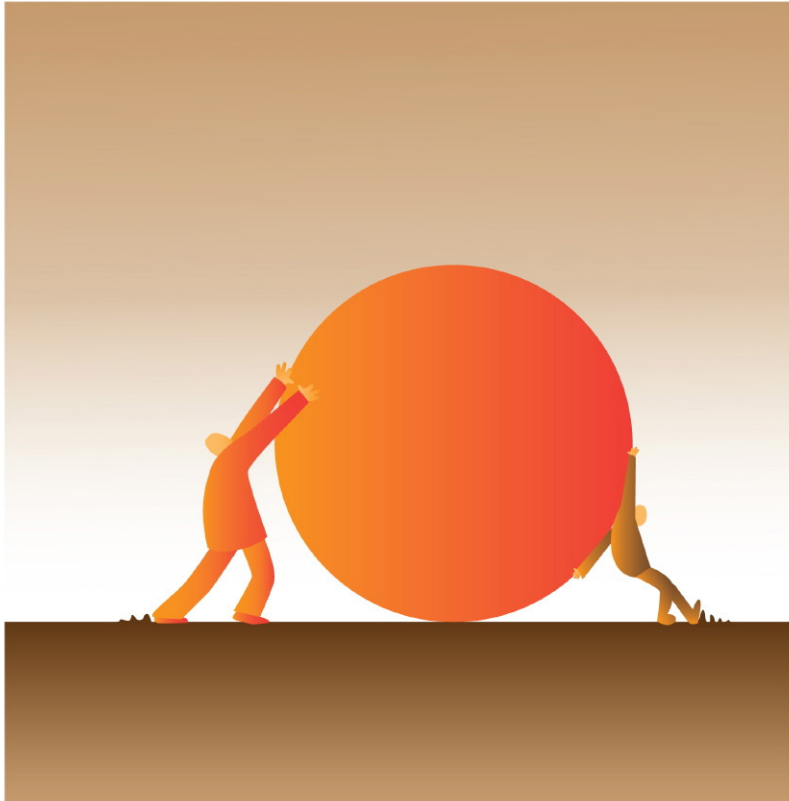


# A very successful 4 decades!

- Shelters
- Hotlines
- Advocacy programs
- VAWA, FVPSA, other funding streams
- Batterer's Treatment
- Mandatory Arrest
- Protection Orders
- Immigration, housing, employment protections
- Public Awareness



# ...with some unintended consequences



- Professionalization: battered women become clients, not activists
- Demands of maintaining shelters overwhelm us
- Funding streams define the work
- Over-reliance on legal system to solve the problem of battering
- Victim-defendants
- Backlash
- Moms charged with “Failure to protect”
- Problematic pop culture references

# Where are we now?

- Victim advocacy services are just one part of the overall response
  - When do people seek help from our programs?
  - Who are we expected to help, and how?



# Acknowledgment

- These slides represent the work of many people at WSCADV, including and especially Nan Stoops.