

Culture and Language in DV Advocacy



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We strive to honor culture and language. Our individual and organizational attitudes and policies come together in a system.

We must work on attitudes and policies to create space for cross-cultural advocacy.

What Is Culture?

Culture refers to integrated patterns of human behavior that include the language, thoughts, communications, actions, customs, beliefs, values, and institutions of racial, ethnic, religious, or social groups.

What is Culture?

“Language is the bridge to establish communication. Cultural competency goes deeper, it enables us to develop relevant services.” –Washington State Advocate

Culturally Responsive Organizations and Advocates:

1. Connect and collaborate with people of many cultures.
2. Ask LEP communities and survivors to help create policies, procedures and advocacy programs.
3. Learn from survivors about their cultural experiences.
4. Don't just invite multiple cultures into the program, but create space for different ways of doing things.
5. Create and nurture diverse leadership that represents the people they serve.

**We will never know EVERYTHING
about ALL cultures . . .**

but... we can build our capacity to learn
and listen to survivors about their
cultures.

Culturally Responsive...

Implies having the capacity to function effectively as an individual and an organization within the context of cultural beliefs, behaviors, and needs of survivors and their communities.



Responsive Advocacy

Builds collaborative communities that help us create excellent advocacy programs that are informed by survivors and LEP people.