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# Building The Table

*Discussing Tensions of 2SLGBTQIA+ Structural Inclusion*

*Within the GBV Sector*

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# Overview

1. Highlight contemporary and historical tensions and how they frame our discussion.
2. Discuss recommendations and advocacy on what is needed to support 2SLGBTQ+ people within existing structures within the GBV sector.
3. Explore how we build the table and engage in relationship building cross-sectorally.



# Framing our Discussion: Non Binary Thinking and Practices



Intersectionality

Harm Reduction

Safer Sex

Rapid Testing

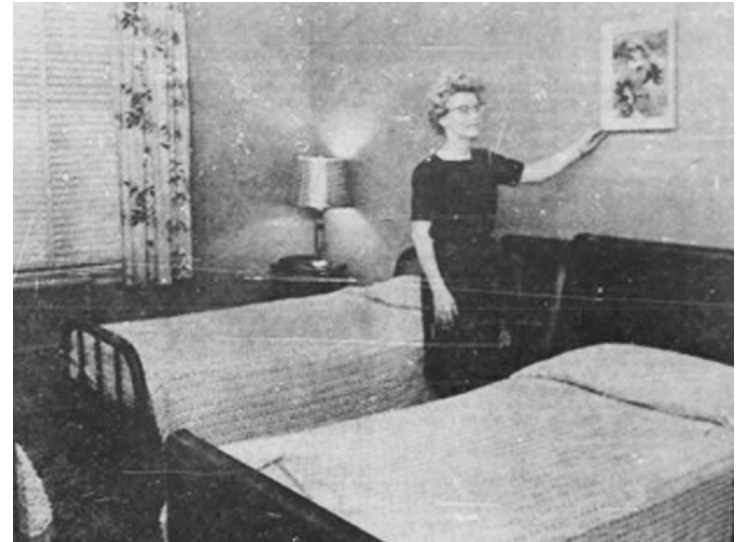
Non Shelter GBV  
Programs

# Framing Our Discussion: Historical Context

## Second Wave Feminism: 1960-1970s

- Feminist activists mainstreamed the concept of the "personal is political"
- Alongside the inception of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women (NAC) in 1972, this marked a critical moment in the federal government's formal engagement on women's issues, including domestic violence.
- The federal Liberal Party, led by Pierre Elliott Trudeau, established two first-of-their-kind programs that enabled activists to create shelters for women fleeing violence – a pinnacle moment in the inception of the modern shelter movement in Canada.
- By the mid-1970s, organizations such as Toronto Interval House opened their doors as some of Canada's first violence against women (VAW) shelters

## Third Wave Feminism: 1980's-1990's



# Framing Our Discussion: Historical Context

Second Wave Feminism: 1960-1970s

Third Wave Feminism: 1980's-1990's

*"Feminism that doesn't challenge the status quo cannot successfully dismantle patriarchy."*

*- Nora Loreto*

- It is because of the work of Indigenous women, Black women, poor women, disabled women, queer and trans women that feminist activists have developed insight into structural forms of violence and systemic barriers to accessing services or addressing violence in their lives. Despite this, the shelter movement still struggles to accommodate 2SLGBTQ+ people and, more specifically, transgender people.



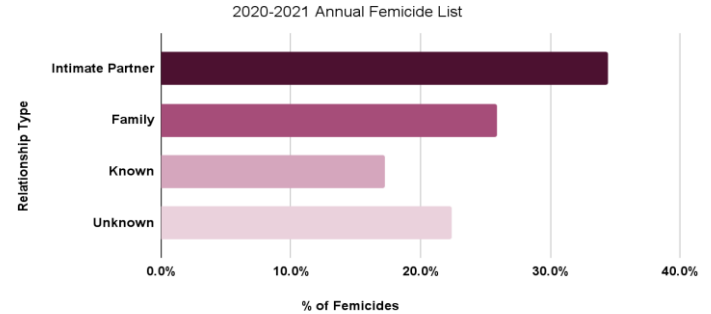
## The Archetype: Cisgender Heteronormative Victim-Perpetrator

- “helpless, battered woman and the abusive man who seeks to control his wife”.
- a consensus that rests on authoritative and officially sanctioned truths always silences alternatives truths, marginalizes diversity and reduces it to abnormality” - Glenda McNaughton
- Perceives Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) solely as a (binary) gendered problem of men abusing their women partners, and ignores other contexts where gender-based violence may show up outside of IPV,
- This also resulted in the othering of different forms of gender based violence, including homophobic and transphobic violence, that manifests in both private and public spaces.
- This archetype and framing of violence does occur disproportionately, it cannot be the lens that directs the method for all GBV prevention especially in inclusion efforts.

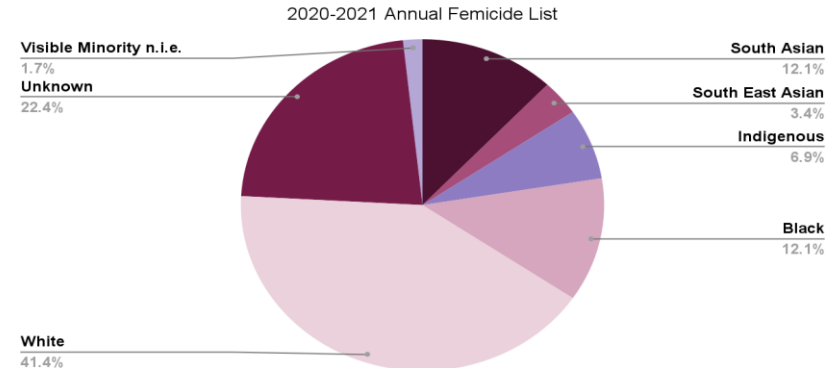
# Experiences of Violence: Outside of the Archetype

- Types of Violence
  - Internal
  - Interpersonal
  - Cultural
  - Institutional
  - Systemic
- Disproportionality of violence for Indigenous, Black, racialized, those living with DisAbilities, poor women and older women
- Colonization, white supremacy and patriarchy remain as structural forces

## Femicides Were Most Commonly Perpetrated by An Intimate Partner Or A Family Member

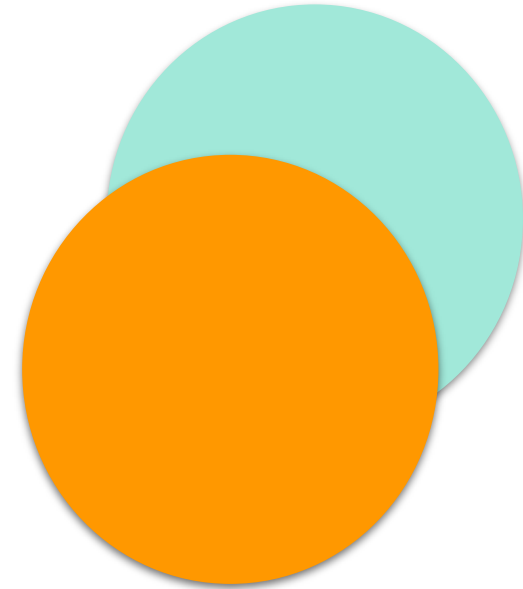


## 36% of all Femicide Victims are from Visible Minority Populations



# Experiences of Violence: Outside of the Archetype

- “Sexual minority Canadians were also more likely than heterosexual Canadians to report experiencing inappropriate behaviours in public (57% versus 22%), online (37% versus 15%) and at work (44% versus 22%) in the 12 months preceding the survey.
- Excluding violence committed by an intimate partner, sexual minority Canadians were more likely to have experienced physical or sexual assault both since age 15 and in the past 12 months than heterosexual Canadians.
- Transgender Canadians were more likely to have experienced violence since age 15, and also more likely to experience inappropriate behaviours in public, online and at work than cisgender Canadians.
- Violence targeting sexual minority Canadians was also more likely to result in injuries than violence committed against heterosexual Canadians. In addition, sexual minority Canadians were less likely to report their physical assaults to the police.”

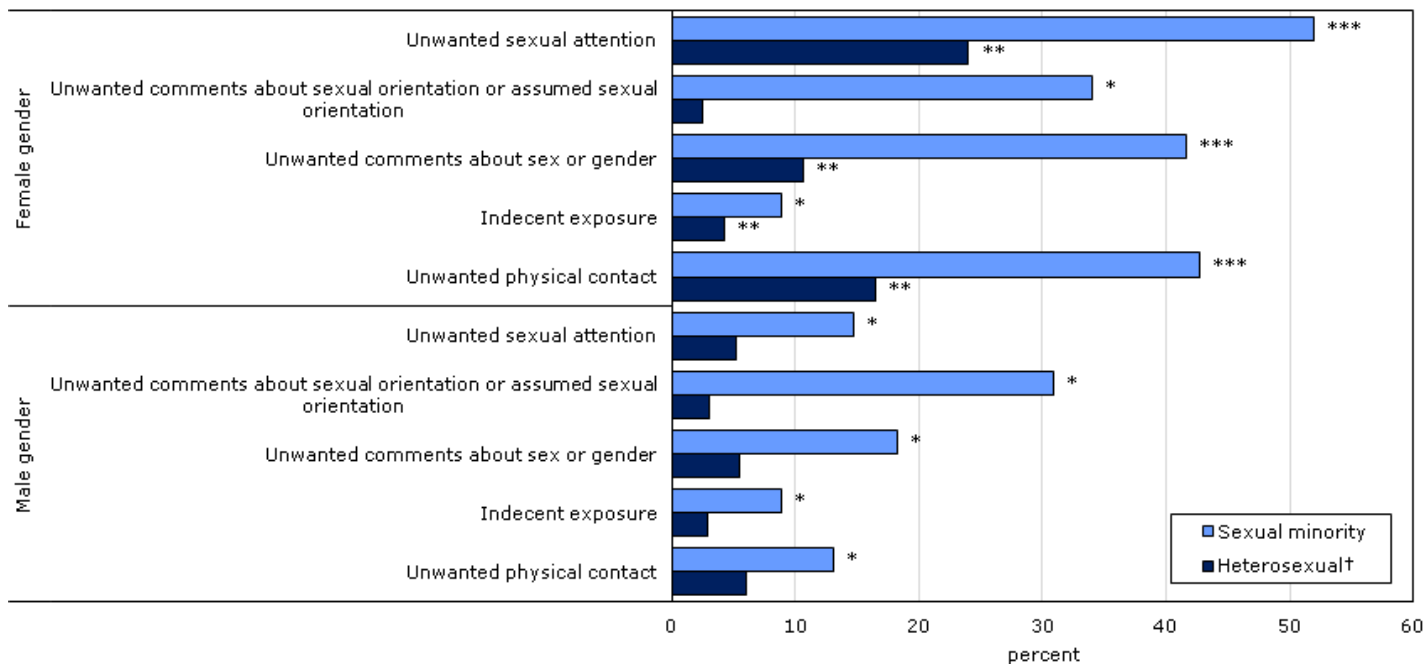


*-Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces, 2018*



**Chart 1**  
**Types of inappropriate behaviours experienced in public, by sexual orientation and gender, Canada, 2018**

Gender and type of behaviour



\* significantly different from reference category ( $p < 0.05$ )

\*\* significantly different from estimate for male gender only ( $p < 0.05$ )

\*\*\* significantly different from reference category ( $p < 0.05$ ) and estimate for male gender ( $p < 0.05$ )

† reference category

**Note:** Sexual minority includes those who reported that they were gay or lesbian, bisexual or another sexual orientation that is not heterosexual.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces.

Accessed via statscan:  
<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2020001/article/00009-eng.htm>

# Contemporary Tensions & Gaps

Legislation



Research

Funding



Service Delivery

# Contemporary Tensions & Gaps

## Legislative

Biggest Changes to anti-discrimination laws regarding Gender Identity:

2002, 2012-2017

- (Ontario)Bill 33 (Toby's Act, 2012),
- Bill C-16 (Gender Identity and Expression Rights, 2017),
- Bill C-4 (Amendment to Criminal Code to End Conversion Therapy

*·Digging deeper into the challenges of sexual and gender diverse inclusion in domestic violence shelters; they have differences in assessing gender between requiring autonomous self-identification (MCCSS VAW Shelter Standards, 2016) as a woman to gain access, to more invasive and harmful practices that assess gender based on medical procedures, legal names and sex assigned at birth as a means to legitimize identities"-Jade, Debbie and Marlene*

*"These examples of situating 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals into a service delivery model that is predicated on the gender binary, sex segregation, and heteronormative family structures fails to recognize the larger continuum of marginalized gender identities—it is the difference between inclusion into our model or transforming our model" -Jade, Debbie and Marlene*

# Contemporary Tensions & Gaps

## Structural Implications in Research

- Statistical standards
- Definitions of sex and gender as the same
- Mental health framing



Leads to....

Structurally designed Legislation, Funding, and Service Delivery informed through cisgender and heteronormative framing of violence.

“A consensus that rests on authoritative and officially sanctioned truths always silences alternative truths, marginalizes diversity and reduces it to abnormality” Glenda McNaughton

# Contemporary Tensions & Gaps

## Funding

### Funding Gaps

- Lack of alignment and clarity between 2SLGBTQIA+ survivors of GBV service provision.
- Expansion of mandates are favored for GBV organizations however limitations are structurally embedded for 2SLGBTQ organizations to serve GBV survivors

## Recent Funding Opportunities:

### Structural Dilemma

“Essentially the standard for women’s organizations to meet requirements for non-binary inclusion and experience is considerably lower than the standard which is set for 2SLGBTQ+ organizations to meet the requirements regarding experience with women-focused programming”

-Enchanté Network (2021)

**What if we considered:** Creating inclusive eligibility criteria that doesn’t entrench the gender binary or colonial notions of gender?

**-Recommendation 6, “Driving Transformational Change: A Funder’s Guide to Supporting 2SLGBTQ Organizations”, September 2021**

# Contemporary Tensions & Gaps

## Service Delivery

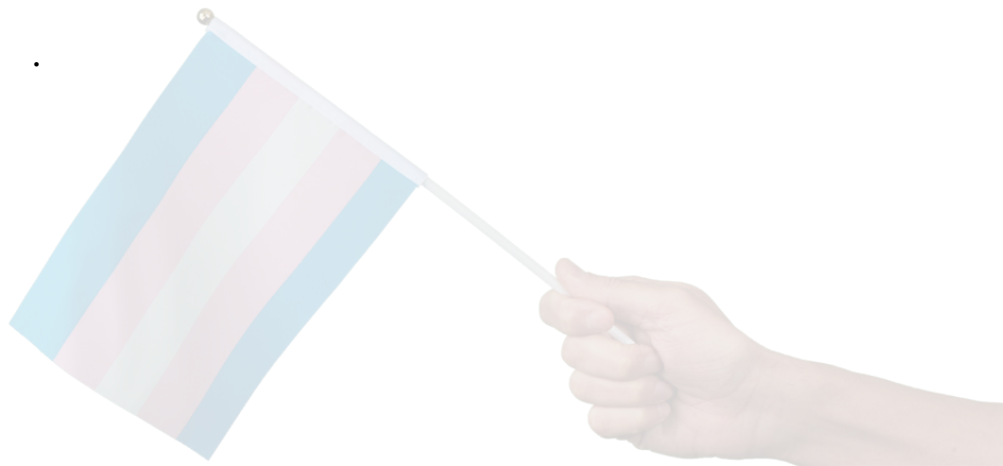
- Trans Women inclusion within historically VAW shelters range from:
  - *self-identification* as a woman to gain access
  - invasive and harmful practices that question individuals about
    - Medical procedures,
    - Legal names
    - Sex assigned at birth
- Over 600 shelters in Canada that provide an escape route for survivors.
- However, National Survey of Violence Against Women Shelters found that 47% of participating organizations were serving Trans Women as of 2019 (Women's Shelters Canada, 2019)

## Contemporary Tensions: Structural & Cultural

“Intimate partner violence (IPV) was underscored by many participants as an issue receiving insufficient attention. Participants emphasized that LGBTQ2+ communities are often left out of mainstream discussions of intimate partner violence, and therefore the realities of LGBTQ2+ youth experiencing IPV are not acknowledged, and the particular needs of LGBTQ2+ youth impacted by IPV are not addressed.”

*-LGBTQ2+ Youth Priorities for Addressing Gender-Based Violence: Report of a Youth Engagement project led by Wisdom2Action for the Public Health Agency of Canada, 2019*

“Participants consistently identified the broader public perception of LGBTQ2+ identities, and LGBTQ2+ youth in particular, as a negative component of GBV. Participants identified negative media portrayal as a key issue, particularly the prevalence of news coverage focused on violence directed at LGBTQ2+ communities, and coverage debating the validity of LGBTQ2+ identities.”

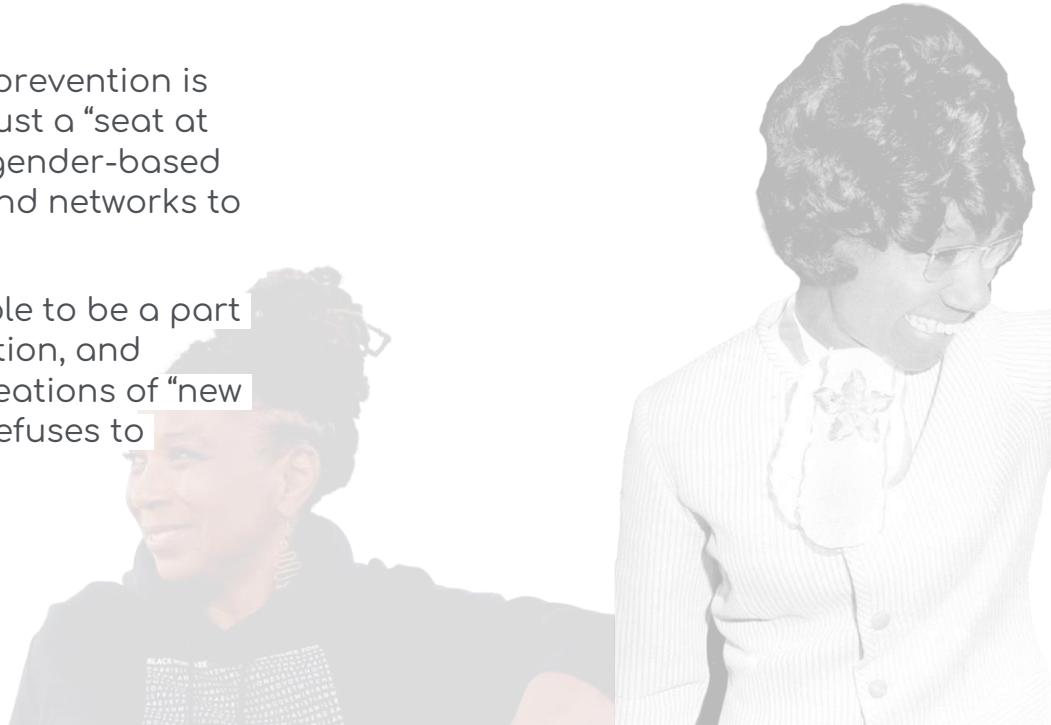


# Building the Table

## Seat at the table

If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair." -Shirley Chisholm

- Building the table in our context of GBV prevention is about ensuring that there is more than just a “seat at the table”, but an equal stake in ending gender-based violence and having the infrastructure and networks to deal with challenges.
- Including trans and gender diverse people to be a part of the process and future of GBV prevention, and supporting self determination the the creations of “new tables” when old ones cannot adjust or refuses to include



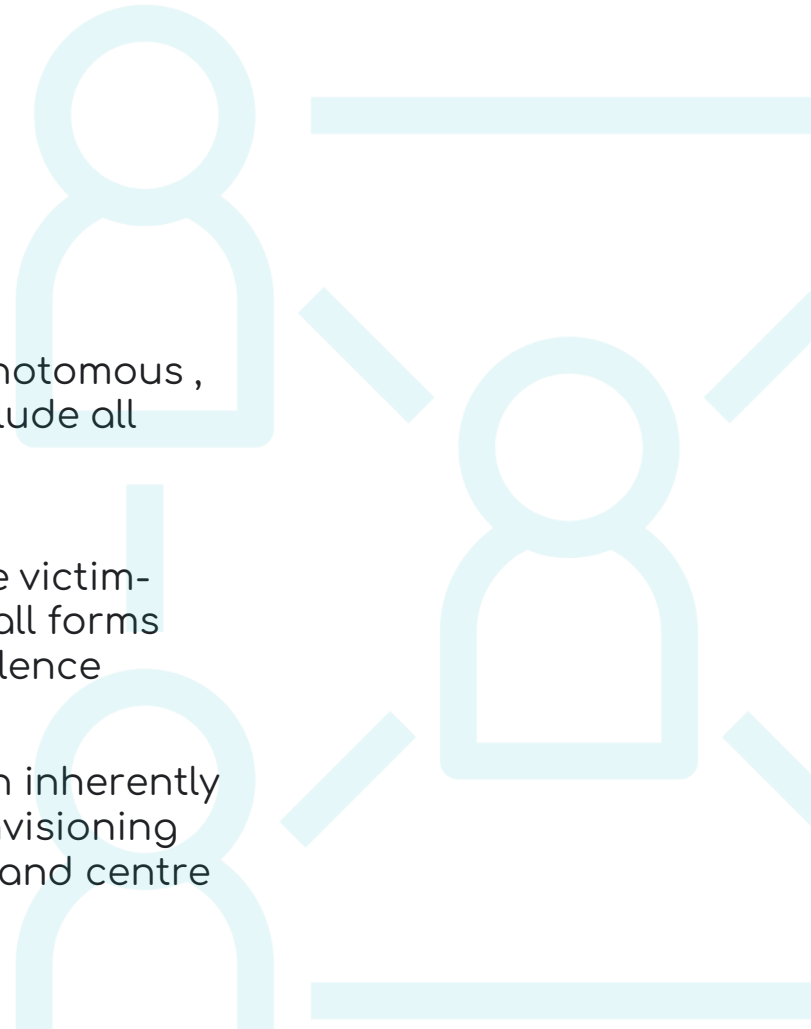


# Building the Table

## Relationship Building

Building the table within the GBV sector is about:

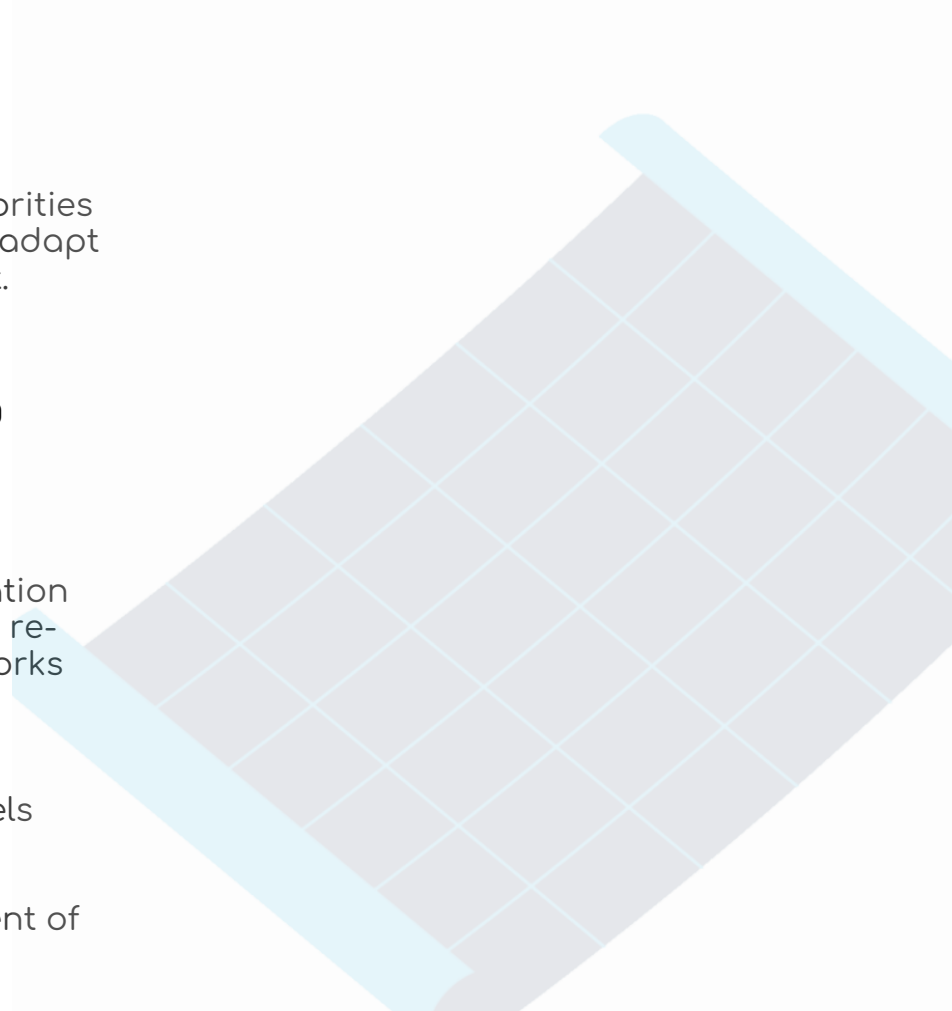
- Inclusion in existing structures from a non-dichotomous , that is able to accommodate, support, and include all survivors of gender-based violence.
- Moving beyond the cisgender heteronormative victim-pepretrator archetype to one that is aware of all forms gender-based violence and the nuances of violence prevention.
- Directly addressing the narrative that inclusion inherently leads to scarcity and competing needs; and envisioning and systems or models that increase capacity and centre of care for survivors of gender-based violence.



# Building the Table

## Blueprints

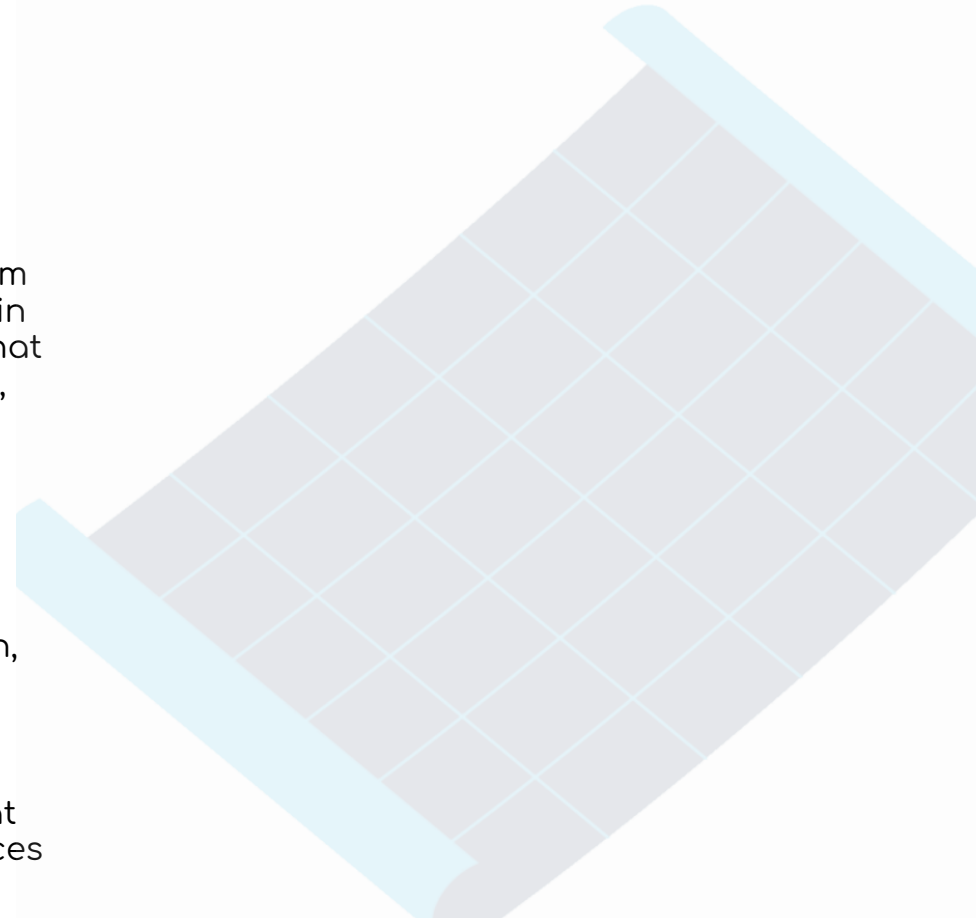
- Evaluate existing capacity limits; set realistic priorities and commitments; don't hesitate to engage and adapt changes that are logistically easier to implement.
  - This includes implementation recommendations or consideration from relevant reports including (E.g Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final **Report** of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls)
- Conduct need assessments, community consultation and other methods for direct feedback in how to re-design or adjust GBV services, policies and networks to engage gaps.
  - Meet people where they are at
- Analyze, consult and pull from frameworks, models and policies that exist in similar services and institutions; including those from outside the immediate sector for reference in the development of your blueprints.



# Building the Table

## Blueprints

- Engage and build your policy, service or network to within an intersectional lens and non-dichotomous lens
  - Examine organizational history and harm and examine the nuances of complicity in other forms of gender-based violence that uphold the patriarchy (e.g. Transphobia, homophobia, misogynoir).
  - Do not be ignorant of domestic geo-cultural tensions or framing that contribute to the continuation
  - Include Individuals, organisations, partners that can reinforce your mission, and support capacity building either through direct inclusion or **relationship building**.
- Scan for any dichotomous or binary traps that may play out while crafting policies and services (e.g. “



# Building the Table:

## Assemble

Establish or maintain regional and local GBV networks;

- Include missing individuals, partners or organizations that intersect with the network(s) mandates, goals and represent demographics.

Update infrastructure, design, and outreach efforts with expanded missions or mandates to accommodate victims of diverse forms gender-based violence.

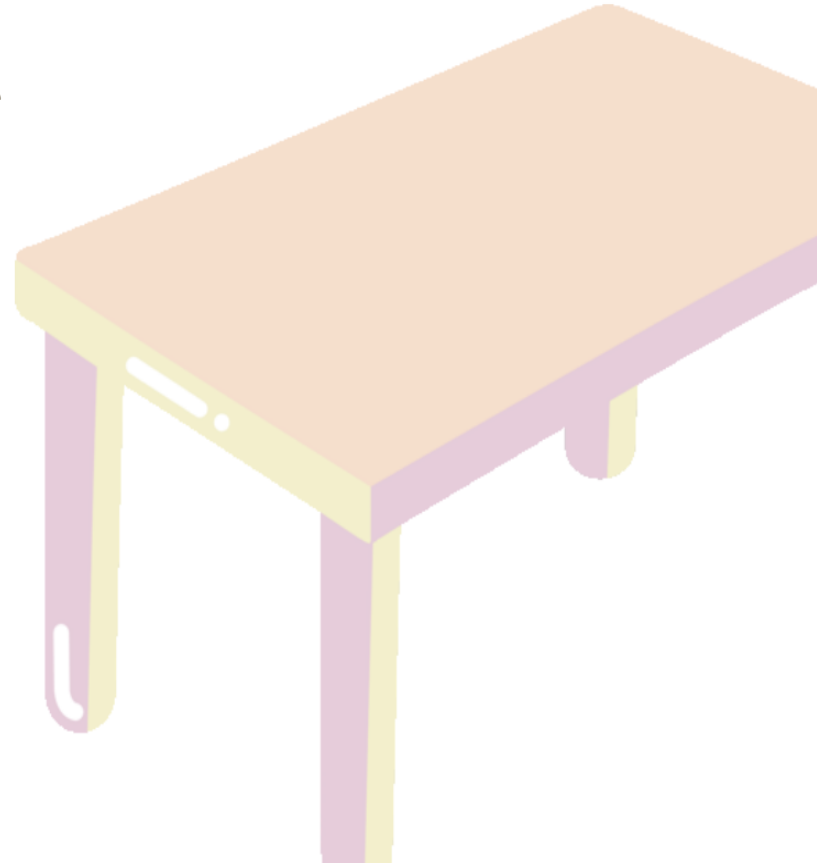
- When in lieu of operational capacity, partner or collaborate with other equity seeking organizations to address critical gaps and co-develop services or programs.
- Joint advocacy for addressing key gaps in service delivery, research and funding should be based



# Building the Table

## Assemble

- Collaborate or Partner with local or regional 2SLGBTQIA+ or other equity seeking organizations in the development of additional and supplementary:
  - Services
  - Networks
  - Advocacy
  - Infrastructure
- Advocate or participate in a development of a national standard or set of recommendations, or adopt one internally to evaluate your table, and changes
- Funders should provide clarity for eligibility of existing gbv prevention funding streams, and encourage, consider and increase funding for exploratory and collaborative partnerships.



# Questions & Conversations