

LEARNING NETWORK VIRTUAL FORUM 2024 PROGRAM

Survivor-Led in Practice:

Supporting Intersectional Expertise and Leadership in the GBV Sector

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

from 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm Eastern Time

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

from 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm Eastern Time

Optional Movement Workshop

from 3:30 pm to 4:00 pm Eastern Time
offered on both days



This Learning Network Virtual Forum recognizes and honours intersectional survivor expertise and leadership in the gender-based violence (GBV) movement and sector.

We bring together service providers, organizational leaders, and community advocates to reflect on what it means to be survivor-led in practice and share ways to equitably support GBV survivor leadership and advocacy by and for those most impacted by violence.

By attending the Forum, participants will learn about ways to support survivor-led opportunities and collaboration that affirms intersectional principles of safety and healing. Leading examples of survivor-led initiatives across Canada will also be highlighted.

Learning Objectives


By participating in this Virtual Forum, participants will be better able to:


- Share historical and ongoing intersectional survivor participation in the gender-based violence movement and sector
- Identify and promote diverse forms of survivor leadership and advocacy
- Gain further understandings on best ways to support meaningful and intentional survivor engagement in a multitude of roles (e.g., educators, policy advocates, Board members, consultants, programming)
- Learn from leading survivor-led initiatives informed by intersectional and diverse experiences

Connect on Social Media

Connect with us on social media throughout the event!

You can tag us on:

 Facebook: [@LNandKH](#)

 Twitter: [@LNandKH](#)

 LinkedIn: [Learning Network and Knowledge Hub](#)

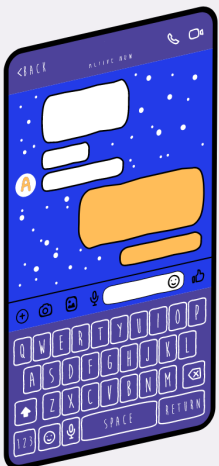
Use the following hashtag: [#survivorledinpractice](#)



Zoom Support

Once you have registered for the Forum, an email from Zoom is automatically sent to you with instructions on how to access the session on each day. The email contains a unique link that should not be shared with others. Please use the link included in the email to join the session. If you can't find the email, please re-register for the session or check your junk mail folder in case the email was filtered as a spam message.

For further support with Zoom, please [click here for helpful tips](#).



Safety and Services

The content of these sessions is focused on gender-based violence and survivor-led practice. It is possible that presenters will share their personal experiences of gender-based violence. We want you to take care of yourself as some of this content may be difficult.

If you would like to debrief during the live sessions, a support person will be available to text with you privately during the Forum (1:00 to 4:00 pm ET). You can access them by texting the toll-free number: **1 (833) 343-0186**. We will share this number in the chat box during the Forum and please feel free to ask the Zoom panelists or email gbvln@uwo.ca for the number.

If you would like further support during or after the Forum, [please click here to find services](#).

Grounding Movement Workshop

We are excited to offer an optional Movement Workshop following the presentations on both days of our Virtual Forum. The Movement Workshop is focused on grounding, restoration, and self-centering through playful movement, tapping exercises, and breath and energy work.

This workshop is facilitated by Jazz Kamal from 3:30- 4:00 pm ET on both days. No additional registration required. Simply stay on the Zoom session after the presentations to join the workshop!

Accessibility

The Learning Network recognizes that participants have different accessibility needs. Accessibility features of the Virtual Forum include:

- Any presentation slides presenters use will be provided by email the morning of the session.
- Live ASL interpretation will be provided by the Toronto Sign Language Interpreter Service on each day of the Forum.
- Participants will have the option to turn on live closed captioning for each session.
- Recordings of the sessions will be emailed to registrants following the event and will contain closed captioning and ASL interpretation.

If you have any specific questions and suggestions, please contact gbvln@uwo.ca.

Code of Conduct

The Learning Network is dedicated to providing a safe, respectful, and inclusive Virtual Forum. This Code of Conduct applies to Forum organizers, speakers, and participants within the Forum sessions, in addition to communications pertaining to the Forum (e.g. on social media). There is no place at this Forum for harassment or intimidation based on race, religion, ethnicity, language, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, age, appearance, or other group status.

Harassment includes, but is not limited to:

- Deliberate misgendering or use of dead names
- Use of slurs and other dehumanizing language
- Doxing (posting or threatening to post personally identifying information like addresses and phone numbers)
- Discriminatory “jokes” and language
- Intentionally disruptive behaviours (e.g. interrupting speakers, spamming, trolling)
- Sexually objectifying or harassing comments
- Bullying
- Threats or acts of violence

The Learning Network reserves the right to remove anyone who engages in harassing behaviour from the Forum. If you notice this behaviour, please report it by either sending a Zoom chat to all panelists if you are comfortable or privately reaching out to the Learning Network team by emailing gbvln@uwo.ca

Forum At-a-Glance

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2024 | 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM ET

FIRST PART

Moderator: Marie-Pascale Lafrenière

THE COLOUR OF VIOLENCE: RACE, GENDER AND ANTI-VIOLENCE SERVICES

Presenter: Angela Marie MacDougall

RECLAIMING POWER AND PLACE – THE PATH FORWARD

Presenter: Hilda Anderson-Pyrz

SECOND PART

Moderator: Laura Hartley

REIMAGINING AND SUPPORTING INTERSECTIONAL SURVIVORSHIP IN GBV WORK

Panelists: Esther Fagbola, Jess Fisher, Kendra J. McLaughlin

OPTIONAL GROUNDING MOVEMENT WORKSHOP

Facilitator: Jazz Kamal

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2024 | 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM ET

FIRST PART

Moderator: Esther Enyolu

SURVIVORS AT THE CENTRE: MOVING FROM OLD WAYS OF 'DOING' SOCIAL JUSTICE WORK TO NEW WAYS OF 'BEING' IN COMMUNITY WITH SURVIVORS

Presenter: Nneka MacGregor

PATHWAYS TO THRIVE: A COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO HEALING FROM GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Presenter: Pam Atkinson

SECOND PART

Moderator: Amber Wardell

WE LIVED TO TELL: PERFORMANCE WORKSHOPS FOR NON-STATUS, REFUGEE AND IMMIGRANT (NSRI) WOMEN & GENDER DIVERSE PEOPLES

Presenters: Doris Rajan and Berivan Sarikaya

PROJECT IRISE: A STRENGTH-BASED MODEL FOR SURVIVOR LEADERSHIP AND EMPOWERMENT

Presenter: Rhonelle Bruder

OPTIONAL GROUNDING MOVEMENT WORKSHOP

Facilitator: Jazz Kamal

Session Descriptions

Tuesday, February 6, 2024 | 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm ET

THE COLOUR OF VIOLENCE: RACE, GENDER AND ANTI-VIOLENCE SERVICES

Presenter: Angela Marie MacDougall, Battered Women's Support Services (BWSS)

This presentation retraces the historical and ongoing importance of intersectional feminist survivor-centered work. In addition, it draws from Battered Women's Support Service's (BWSS) Colour of Violence: Race, Gender and Anti-Violence Services report that places racialized survivors at the center of anti-violence work and offers concrete anti-racist and intersectional best practices in developing anti-violence interventions. In particular, this presentation raises awareness on the experiences of Indigenous, Black, newcomer immigrant/refugee and racialized survivors with GBV services and what this reveal for those in our sector developing and doing GBV work.



Through her community-based organizing, frontline work, curricula development, training, and activism over three decades, **Angela Marie MacDougall** (she/her) has been deeply involved in movements for gender, racial, and social justice. Angela's impact includes the development of empowerment and advocacy-based program and service delivery models that address gender-based violence and violence against women that are grounded in strong theoretical frameworks that include intersectional feminist trauma and violence-informed analysis. She has organized around law reform and community-based research toward building lasting social change. She is co-writer of *Freedom from Violence: Tools for Working with Trauma, Mental Health and Substance Use; Empowering Non-Status, Refugee, and Immigrant Women*

Who Experience Violence; Implementation of a National Action Plan on GBV and VAW: Supports for Survivors and their Families; Colour of Violence: Gender, Race and Anti-Violence Services and blogs at bwss.org/endingviolence

Angela is an expert panelist at Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability, a founding member of Feminists Deliver, a long-standing member of Vancouver's February 14th Women's Memorial March and is a founding member of Intersectional Feminist Justice Research and Organizing Collaborative. Angela was named a Remarkable Woman by the City of Vancouver and Vancouver Magazine named her one of Vancouver's most powerful people. Angela is currently the executive director of Battered Women's Support Services.

RECLAIMING POWER AND PLACE – THE PATH FORWARD

Presenter: Hilda Anderson-Pyrz, National Family and Survivors Circle

The National Family and Survivors Circle Inc (NFSC Inc) is an independent, non-profit organization comprised of impacted family members of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people and/or survivors of gender-based violence from across Canada which advocates that all governments, agencies, institutions, organizations, and all Canadians who have a responsibility in ending the genocide against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, including the implementation of the 231 Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry on MMIWG Final Report, center families of MMIWG2S+ and survivors of gender-based violence.

Hilda Anderson-Pyrz, Chair/President, NFSC Inc, will present on the need to center the lived experience and expertise of families of MMIWG2S+, survivors of gender-based violence, and Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, as self-determined Rights Holders in collaborative action to implement the 231 Calls for Justice and to end the genocide against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. This includes how to be a champion for transformative change envisioned in the 231 Calls for Justice as frontline workers, organization and community leaders, allies, and as Canadians, through influencing policy, legislation, research, and funding. We are all part of the solution to ending gender-based violence and creating a transformed Canada where Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people are safe, protected, and empowered as matriarchs and Indigenous and Human Rights holders as Original Peoples of this land.



Originating from South Indian Lake, Manitoba, and proudly associated with the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation, **Hilda Anderson-Pyrz** stands as a symbol of resilience and relentless advocacy. As the current Chair/President of the National Family and Survivors Circle in Canada, Hilda has dedicated over two decades to the vital cause of eradicating gender- and race-based violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals.

Her journey is marked by an unwavering commitment to uplifting Indigenous communities through strength-based and community-oriented approaches. Hilda's leadership transcends conventional boundaries, seamlessly integrating Indigenous knowledge and practices into effective strategies for awareness, service delivery, and solution formulation.

A testament to her impactful leadership, Hilda held the esteemed positions of President at the Families First Foundation and Co-Chair of the Manitoba MMIWG Coalition. Her efforts in these roles further solidified her status as a leading figure in the fight against gender-based violence.

Hilda's exceptional work has not gone unnoticed. She is a recipient of several prestigious awards, including the 2019 RESOLVE Manitoba Community Award, the Manitoba Honour 150 Award in February 2021, and the 2022 Empower Women Award. These accolades stand as a testament to her tireless dedication and significant contributions to social justice and advocacy.

At the heart of her mission lies a deep-seated commitment to advocating for Indigenous-led solutions on regional, national, and international platforms. Hilda's approach is unique in its blend of decolonizing strategies, Indigenous wisdom, human rights principles, and self-determination. Her vision and actions continue to inspire and pave the way for a world where equality and justice are not just ideals, but realities.



REIMAGINING AND SUPPORTING INTERSECTIONAL SURVIVORSHIP IN GBV WORK

Panelists: Esther Fagbola, Project Agape; Jess Fisher, OUTSaskatoon; and Kendra J. McLaughlin, DAWN Canada

In this roundtable discussion, we invite speakers to reflect on what it means to ground survivor-led organizing and leadership opportunities in ways that reflect survivor's experiences, what they need to heal, and how they imagine their relationship to the work of eradicating GBV. Speakers also discuss the approaches and practices that allow them to lead and engage with survivors in ways that reflect an intentional understanding and integration of intersectionality in an effort to build inclusive and meaningful survivor-led initiatives.



Esther Fagbola (she/her) has been a community builder in Ottawa since she had experiences with intimate partner violence at the age of 19. She has had a growing passion for social justice and survivor advocacy particularly for racialized communities. Esther has extensive experience facilitating community conversations surrounding gender-based violence, sexual health, drug education, harm reduction, and survivor advocacy. Esther is the founder and current Executive Director at Project Agape, a Black survivor-led organization that supports Black women and gender-diverse people who have experienced violence and oppression.

Esther believes in education that is built on an intersectional lens, is trauma-informed, meets community members where they are, and encourages collective growth and learning. She believes that we are all producers of knowledge as much as we are receivers, particularly in situations where we have lived experiences, our voices matter in the work being done and stories being told.



Jess Fisher (she/they) is a queer, Two Spirit, Métis and French/Irish/Scottish/German settler woman who was born and raised on Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis Nation. As the Gender Based Violence Education Coordinator at OUTSaskatoon, they provide education, training, and consultation to service providers about ways to provide safer, more affirming care to 2SLGBTQ people. She is dedicated to helping build safer spaces so that everyone in the circle is celebrated and supported in being who they are.



Kendra J. McLaughlin, Ph.D., is a researcher, project manager, and advocate dedicated to disability justice and equitable access to care. With a Ph.D. in Legal Psychology from Carleton University, her academic journey explores the intersections of law, psychology, and social equity.

As a white disabled woman who grew up in rural New Brunswick, Kendra works to bring an inclusive perspective to her work, spanning sociomedical sciences, healthcare attitudes, and social determinants of health. Her expertise is grounded in disability justice and feminist critical criminology frameworks.

Beyond her scholarly achievements, Kendra is a devoted advocate, drawing inspiration from personal experiences with mental health disabilities. She actively works to destigmatize mental health issues and improve access to care, demonstrating a commitment to inclusivity.

In addition to her academic role, Kendra teaches a seminar course titled “Criminology of Mental Illness” at Carleton University and has published articles on disability justice in Briarpatch Magazine and her Instagram blog, @criminalizedmentallyill. She enjoys painting, indoor cycling, reading, and trying new coffees.

At DAWN Canada, Kendra guides research initiatives to understand and foster resilient peer support networks for disabled women, girls, and gender-diverse survivors/victims of gender-based violence across Canada.

GROUNDING MOVEMENT WORKSHOP

Facilitator: Jazz Kamal, Inferno Movement

This workshop introduces simple and effective techniques to manage tension in the body and allow energy to ground and flow. Participants will practice grounding, restoration and self-centering through playful movement, tapping exercises, and breath and energy work.



Jazz Kamal is a Holistic movement coach based in Toronto and is the owner of Inferno Movement. The practice integrates her education in breath work and restoration, manual soft tissue techniques, anatomy, combat sports and athletic training, energy work, and trauma informed coaching through the lens of exploration. She works outside the parameters and structures of the status quo built into the fitness industry. Jazz's training style looks at the person as a whole human, not just a body to be trained. This is her commitment to the body's evolution through holistic movement.

Inferno Movement embodies the primal, sophisticated and creative expressions of human physical ability. It is the celebration of our uniqueness and the unification of mind, body and spirit. It ignites the fire that propels personal evolution and helps lift perceived boundaries. It is an honest commitment to being a better version of oneself daily. It aims to return "birthright" able bodied movements such as running, jumping and throwing, while enjoying more physical literacy and movement options. The Inferno Movement Tribe is an ever-growing community of all ages, bodies and life experiences, and each one of them are Warriors in their own right. Together, we are becoming stronger, smarter, and better than yesterday.

"I eat, live, breathe my practice and every interaction with my clients is sacred. I am deeply committed to helping remove limiting beliefs around their physical abilities, and educating, so my clients can truly step into their most capable, aware selves." - Jazz Kamal



Wednesday, February 7, 2024 | 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm ET

SURVIVORSATTHECENTRE: MOVING FROM OLD WAYS OF 'DOING' SOCIAL JUSTICE WORK TO NEW WAYS OF 'BEING' IN COMMUNITY WITH SURVIVORS

Presenter: Nneka MacGregor, WomenatthecentrE

Survivors of gender-based violence have talked about the many ways in which the sector has helped them move along on their healing journey. For many, such positive experiences have propelled them into finding positions in the sector in some capacity, whether as a volunteer in a shelter or a frontline worker, to give back. However, for other survivors, their experiences engaging the sector, whether as service recipient, or as colleague, was not always positive, but fraught with tensions around their identity. These tensions play out in a number of ways, including by creating a divide within the sector, separating those who deem themselves 'the professionals', from the survivors, ignoring the fact that many of us straddle both.

The general reluctance to bring those who openly identify as survivors into the work of transforming lives and eradicating gender-based violence is a conversation not often engaged in by the GBV sector. Survivors talk about knowing the doors are closed to them. Some are told that they need to be 'out' or free from their past trauma for a certain arbitrary period before even volunteering, while others are actively discouraged from disclosing their experiences of violence. These gatekeeping 'old ways of doing' social justice work accounts for the high levels of lateral violence within the GBV sector, as some folks replicate the patriarchal power and control-over dynamics that is at the heart of gendered violence. The session will unpack some of these 'old ways of doing' and discuss 'new ways of being' in the social justice movement, by centering survivors as the experts, not just of their own lives, but of solutions-focused, innovative, practical, and impactful prevention and accountability programs and processes that lead to personal and community-wide healing and safety.



Nneka MacGregor is a co-founder and Executive Director of the Women's Centre for Social Justice, better known as WomenatthecentrE, a unique non-profit organisation created by/for women, trans, and gender-diverse survivors of gender-based violence (GBV). A Black Intersectional abolitionist feminist, international speaker, and Transformative Justice practitioner, Nneka is an expert advisory panel member of the Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability and sits on several Boards and committees, including the Federal Advisory Council on the Federal Strategy Against GBV. She co-founded the Black Femicide Canada Council, and her research focuses on sexual violence and the intersection of strangulation, Traumatic Brain Injury, and GBV. She received the 2019 PINK Concussions Award and the 2020 YWCA Women of Distinction Social Justice Award. She was recently appointed the Activist in Residence (AiR) at the University of Guelph, in Ontario, Canada.

PATHWAYS TO THRIVE: A COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO HEALING FROM GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Presenter: Pam Atkinson, STRIDE

Survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) can often feel alone and isolated for a number of reasons, particularly when they come across barriers in accessing intersectional supports and services for healing.

In this presentation, we talk about a community response to healing from GBV that aims to empower and educate 'Community Champions' to be able to create safe(r) and intentional spaces for survivors so they can help each other navigate justice/health/government/therapeutic systems & services, advocate for themselves and each other, and heal together.

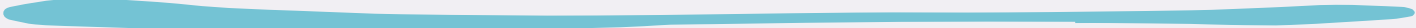
A community response requires diverse "community champions" that act as a catalyst to connect survivors of GBV who share similar lived experiences, identities, or cultural backgrounds and who can empathize with the emotional journey the survivor is on. Community champions engage survivors to come together, but also build relationships with service providers, create a safe space for vulnerability and open communication, facilitate activities and plan events with survivors' feedback and input, participate in training and education that allows them to work in trauma-informed ways, and ultimately, work with survivors to take on leadership roles amongst their peers.

Interested in implementing a community response to GBV? This presentation discusses a valuable framework used in the Pathways to Thrive project and the steps that go into creating a robust, sustainable community response to healing from GBV.



Pam Atkinson (she/her) lives on the unceded Mi'kmaq territory of Epekwitk (Prince Edward Island) with her wonderful partner, Keith, and two hilarious and kind-hearted young children, Jasper and Elliott. Her educational background is in Community Studies and Social Work and she has been a Project Coordinator at Women's Network PEI (WNPEI) for the past decade. During this time she has led several important projects that have helped to build protective factors in girls and gender diverse youth, helped boys and men explore the meaning of healthy masculinities, strengthened resilience in Indigenous youth through connecting with community, and has also empowered youth across the province to think critically about healthy relationships and messaging in the media. In those 10 years at WNPEI, Pam has additionally helped to lead local employers to create more supportive

workplaces through an intersectional feminist lens and has advocated for the government to increase wages for childcare workers and make quality, affordable childcare more accessible. More recently, she has facilitated "Trade HERizons" which encourages women to explore male dominated trades as a way towards economic sustainability and is currently the coordinator for "Pathways To Thrive", a project that exists to explore healing modalities and provide trauma-informed, strength-based, intersectional feminist, anti-oppressive, and decolonial healing opportunities for BIPOC, 2SLGBTQ+ and rural survivors of gender-based violence.



WE LIVED TO TELL: PERFORMANCE WORKSHOPS FOR NON-STATUS, REFUGEE AND IMMIGRANT (NSRI) WOMEN & GENDER DIVERSE PEOPLES

Presenters: Doris Rajan, Institute for Research and Development on Inclusion and Society, and Berivan Sarikaya, OCASI - Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants

This session shares information on OCASI's Initiative to End Gender-Based Violence, which used performance art to explore and nurture the creative expression of NSRI women and gender diverse people. The workshops series was implemented for 12 weeks, culminating with the development of a play entitled *The Warriors* inspired by the experiences and key issues participants wanted to share. A performance of *The Warriors* took place at OCASI's annual GBV conference in November 2023.



Doris Rajan (she/her/elle) has worked for over 20 years as a senior consultant in the non-profit sector, with a focus on gender-based violence, access to justice, the experience of racialization, refugee, immigrant and Indigenous issues and disability justice. Doris is the Director of Operations & Social Development at IRIS, the Institute for Research and Development on Inclusion and Society.

In her work, Doris has designed numerous international, national, and regional community-based social development and applied research projects and has authored several research reports and community-designed training resources. Doris has a master's degree in social work with a specialization in Social Policy and Research, and holds a PhD in Adult Education and

Community Development from the University of Toronto, where her research involved the development of a curriculum framework for a critical feminist/anti-oppression pedagogy of solidarity with racialized, Indigenous, and women-identified people with disabilities to challenge structural violence.

Doris is also a theatre and film artist and was commissioned to write a play for the Truth, Reconciliation & Engagement symposium, entitled *A Tender Path*, where excerpts were performed and filmed at the Canadian Museum of Human Rights in November 2021. She has served as the producer for a collaborative multi-disciplinary performance arts show entitled: *Dialogues on the Edge* performed by Indigenous, Black, racialized, Black Deaf, refugee, and disability artists at the Canadian Museum of Human Rights (2023) and the Imperial Theatre in Saint John New Brunswick (2023).



Dr. Berivan Kutlay Sarikaya is a Kurdish anti-abolition feminist scholar/activist. She earned her doctoral degree from the Adult Education and Community Development Program at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) of the University of Toronto. She works as a Project Coordinator in the Initiative to End Gender-Based Violence Program at OCASI - Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants. She has diverse professional and scholarly work in the human rights field related to survivors of state violence and refugee women who are gender-based violence survivors in Turkey, Europe and Canada.



PROJECT IRISE: A STRENGTH-BASED MODEL FOR SURVIVOR LEADERSHIP AND EMPOWERMENT

Presenter: Rhonelle Bruder, University of Toronto

This presentation will provide an in-depth overview of Project iRISE's Survivor Leadership program and current survivor engagement within the anti-trafficking movement. It will shed light on the benefits and challenges confronted by the survivor-led team and lessons learned. The discussion will also include program evaluation findings, earlier successes, the ultimate impact on the community, and key considerations for future survivor-led initiatives.



Rhonelle Bruder is a dedicated activist and scholar with a profound commitment to addressing the complex issues of human trafficking and gender-based violence. Currently serving as a Teaching Fellow at Harvard University's Department of Sociology and pursuing a Ph.D. in Social and Behavioral Health Sciences at the University of Toronto's Dalla Lana School of Public Health, Rhonelle's research focuses on the health and well-being of formally sex-trafficked women. With over a decade of experience in healthcare and social services, Rhonelle's work has consistently been community-centered and survivor-driven. Notably, she founded and served as the Executive Director of Project iRISE. This community-based anti-trafficking organization provided vital support to women affected by sex trafficking, including branding tattoo removal, vocational skills building, and mutual support. Rhonelle also actively

contributes to the field through her role on the Board of Directors at HEAL Trafficking. In addition to her research and advocacy, she is a sought-after speaker, trainer, consultant, and lecturer on a range of critical topics, including human trafficking, gender-based violence, intersectionality, and social justice strategies.

GROUNDING MOVEMENT WORKSHOP

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of oneself daily. It aims to return "birthright" able bodied movements such as running, jumping and throwing, while enjoying more physical literacy and movement options. The Inferno Movement Tribe is an ever-growing community of all ages, bodies and life experiences, and each one of them are Warriors in their own right. Together, we are becoming stronger, smarter, and better than yesterday.

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Moderator Biographies



Esther Enyolu has been working in the human service field for over 30 years. She is a great advocate and leader on issues of gender-based violence and economic empowerment of women for financial sustainability and security. As the Executive Director of Women's Multicultural Resource and Counselling Centre (WMRCC) of Durham, she continues to develop numerous innovative programs and services to support the population the organization serves. She has been an advisory member of the Learning Network since its' inception in 2009. She is a member of the ROSCA Network and a Co-Author of a book: *Speak Out and Help Her Recover: Stories of Hope and Healing for Survivors of Gender Based Violence*. Also Co-Author of a training manual: *Creating Inclusive Spaces for Women: Implementing an Integrated, Anti-Racist, Feminist Service Delivery System*, a training manual for OAITH member agencies.



Laura Hartley is a queer, feminist, facilitator, ceremonialist, community builder, and mom based in Tkaronto. Laura is the Program Director at METRAC: Action on Violence.

She is also a feminist self-defence instructor and has been actively working within organizations and through grassroots community building to challenge gender-based violence and make positive social change for over 15 years.



Marie-Pascale Lafrenière (she/her) is a francophone feminist activist based on the traditional unceded territory of the Anishinaabe Algonquin People. Since 2022, she has been working for *Action ontarienne contre la violence faite aux femmes*, a provincial organization working to end gender-based violence, where she currently serves as community development manager. Marie-Pascale holds a certificate in project management from the University of British Columbia and an MFA from Emily Carr University, where she focused her research on the representation of feminine bodies.



Amber Wardell is the Learning & Development Coordinator for the Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses (OAITH). Amber is a member of the Learning Network Provincial Advisory representing OAITH. OAITH is a coalition of first stage emergency women's shelters, 2nd stage housing organizations and community-based women organizations who work towards ending violence against all women. Amber has worked for over 15 years as a community educator, coordinator, social justice advocate and counsellor for survivors of gender-based violence and youth in rural communities.

Learning Network

The Learning Network is committed to ending gender-based violence through knowledge mobilization that identifies gaps and emerging issues, establishes meaningful collaborations, and values diverse ways of knowing. We develop evidence-informed resources, facilitate forums, present Webinars and Resource Spotlights, and promote Ontario-based resources for the gender-based violence sector and its allies.

The Learning Network works with a Provincial Advisory Group (PAG) made up of dynamic leaders from organizations across Ontario with mandates to end gender-based violence. PAG members provide expertise to the Learning Network on research, practice, and prevention across the continuum of gender-based violence. They also offer unique knowledge on principles of diversity, equity, and accessibility.

[Click here to learn more about the Provincial Advisory Group.](#)



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