



# STARTING THE CONVERSATION WITH HIV ADVOCATES ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

This document is intended to be used as an introduction to domestic violence for HIV advocates. Tools found at [nnedv.org/dvhivtoolkit](https://nnedv.org/dvhivtoolkit) are a great addition to the conversation and serve as additional resources.

## INTRO TO THE INTERSECTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & HIV

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### THE CONNECTION BETWEEN HIV AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (1:29 MIN)

This is a quick video that can introduce the importance of addressing HIV when working with survivors and victims of domestic violence.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gn8YMiShbg4>

### MICHELLE'S STORY, LET'S STOP HIV TOGETHER (2:38 MIN)

In the video Michelle and her daughter discuss their experiences with domestic violence and HIV. They work to empower and give hope to those living with HIV.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NZ9vg-RXZUM&index=11&list=PL87B964CE4CF0A98C>

### EMPOWERED: GINA'S STORY (1:09 MIN)

In this video, Gina tells her story of living with HIV and domestic violence. She discusses the way in which her HIV status further disempowered her within her relationship.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MQfAYDmxVMQ>

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- ★ Have you witnessed this connection in your work? Have you felt equipped to handle it?
- ★ How are Michelle's and Gina's stories similar to those you have heard before?
- ★ Do you know what services in your community are available to assist survivors that disclose?
- ★ What questions do you have moving forward about HIV and its connection to domestic violence?
- ★ What issues do you foresee in integrating this into your work? (i.e. asking about domestic violence; not knowing community resources; etc.)
- ★ What has your organization done to build and sustain a relationship with the local domestic violence community-based organization?



## GETTING COMFORTABLE TALKING ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH PSA (1:30 MIN)

In this PSA produced by Mary Kay, female survivors of domestic violence tell their stories.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AlucGXKy\\_p0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AlucGXKy_p0)

### SUPER BOWL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PSA (1:00 MIN)

This popular Super Bowl PSA recreates the 911 call between an operator and domestic violence survivor.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Z\\_zWIVRIWk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Z_zWIVRIWk)

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### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- ★ The women in the Mary Kay PSA discuss how they never thought that domestic violence would happen to them. They vowed that they would never let someone lay their hands on them. Then they felt ashamed, embarrassed and hopeless when it did happen to them. In what ways is this similar to the stories you hear from those living with HIV? What challenges do these kinds of beliefs create in your work? How can you help survivors know that they can safely talk about domestic violence with you?
- ★ The women in the video differentiate between the term 'victim' and 'survivor'. What images, ideas, and connotations do those words have for you? What language does your agency use?
- ★ In the Super Bowl PSA the woman is not able to tell the 911 operator what is happening. Talking about domestic violence can be difficult for many survivors. What are reasons that a survivor of domestic violence may not disclose to you?
- ★ Do you have the skills to do basic safety planning with survivors if they disclose? What other knowledge or skills would you like to feel confident in supporting survivors' safety?

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## THE BASICS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: SUPPORTING & EMPOWERING SURVIVORS

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### NO MORE PSA-SPEECHLESS (0:30 MIN)

In this short PSA by the NO MORE campaign, actors struggle to discuss domestic violence and sexual assault issues.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Xz44ZnLaow>

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TED TALK (16:00 MIN)

In this TED talk, Leslie Morgan Steiner tells her story of experiencing domestic violence. She works to break down stereotypes and myths about domestic violence. Trigger Warning: detailed descriptions of assaults.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V1yW5IsnSjo>



# Positively Safe:

## THE INTERSECTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & HIV/AIDS

### HOW SERVICE PROVIDERS CAN RESPOND TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (4:44 MIN)

This great video by the AVA Project empowers service providers to address domestic violence. The film discusses practical ways that service providers can help a survivor.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= uEwNgOpFAI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uEwNgOpFAI)

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#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- ★ In the NO MORE PSA- Speechless, actors struggle to discuss domestic and sexual violence. Why are these topics difficult to talk about? Why are they difficult for you to talk about?
- ★ In the TED talk, Leslie discusses how her relationship seemed “magical” at first. This is often an early warning of domestic violence. What are other warning signs that you have seen?
- ★ After the “Romeo and Juliet” phase of her relationship, Leslie describes the way in which Connor isolated her. What are signs of isolation you can look out for among your clients? How can a positive HIV status increase this isolation?
- ★ Both videos explore why survivors “don’t just leave” an abuser. What are other reasons that a survivor might not leave? What barriers do survivors face? How can you help break down those barriers?
- ★ In the video by the AVA Project, Dr. Agnes-Davies says that service providers do not need to be experts in domestic violence. They just need to know where to refer survivors. Where can you refer clients that may be experiencing domestic violence? (Remember that the specific resources listed in this video are for the UK.) What services are missing in your community?
- ★ What you say to a survivor can be very important. What are non-verbal ways that you can support a survivor or let them know you believe them?

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#### EXERCISE I

For service providers that aren’t “experts” in domestic violence it may feel overwhelming or intimidating to have these conversations. Have staff remain in their groups and practice supportive statements that would follow an abuse disclosure.

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### DIGGING DEEPER INTO HIV AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

#### CONVERSATIONS WITH FEMALE SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE THAT ARE HIV POSITIVE (22:45 MIN)

This is a discussion with five women who are HIV positive and are survivors of domestic violence. The women discuss their histories of trauma, the difficulties of managing HIV in domestic violence relationship, breaking down the stigma around HIV, and having a relationship when HIV positive.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uKlIfJS\\_CWWM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uKlIfJS_CWWM)



# Positively Safe:

## THE INTERSECTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & HIV/AIDS

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### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- ★ In what ways do these women's stories reflect the clients you work with?
- ★ The women discuss the different ways that being in a domestic violence relationship affected their HIV and overall health. They discuss not eating, not taking medications, and stress causing their immune systems to go down. Knowing this dynamic, how might you change the way you create health plans and support individuals living with HIV that are also experiencing domestic violence?
- ★ The film discusses the way past violence or abuse greatly affects the women now. It affects their relationships and how they make decisions. How can you use this information in your work with clients? What can you do to better support survivors living with HIV who have experienced trauma around domestic violence and their HIV status? What may stop conversations about trauma, domestic violence, or HIV in your agency?
- ★ There is similar stigma around domestic violence and HIV. How can your agency work to break down that stigma? One on one with clients? And in the greater community?

### FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE CONNECTION BETWEEN HIV AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VISIT:

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- ★ <http://nnedv.org/projects/otherprojects/dv-hiv-aids.html>
- ★ <http://nnedv.org/resources/dv-hiv-aids-toolkit.html>