

Gender-based violence:

A problem or a symptom?

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Introductions

- Locating ourselves on Mi'kma'ki
- Agenda
- Creating “brave space” requires all of us



Defining GBV

Umbrella term for:
DV, IPV, FV, SV, SH +

United Nations:

- "...harmful acts directed at an individual based on their gender.
 - "... rooted in gender inequality, the abuse of power and harmful norms.
 - VAW is "...violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, mental, spiritual, economic harm or
- suffering to women, including threats of violence, coercion, manipulation, exploitation or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life."
- "GBV is a serious violation of human rights and a life-threatening health and protection issue."

- It may be a single act or a series of acts forming a pattern of abuse.
- Domestic violence can occur in any relationship; however, women are primarily the victims and men are primarily the perpetrators.
- Children and young people experience harm by being exposed to violence in adult relationships, being the direct victims of violence, or a combination of the two.



Stats, Costs, & Consequences

- Life-long repercussions
- Health, mental health, addictions
 - Can be lethal

In Canada:

- Half of all women experience at least one incident.
- \$ 7.4 billion per year economic costs.
- Almost 1/3 of all violent crimes.
- Every 6 days a woman is killed.
- Risks up to 12x higher if Indigenous or African descent, or living with disability, queer/trans...

BEYOND THE BINARY

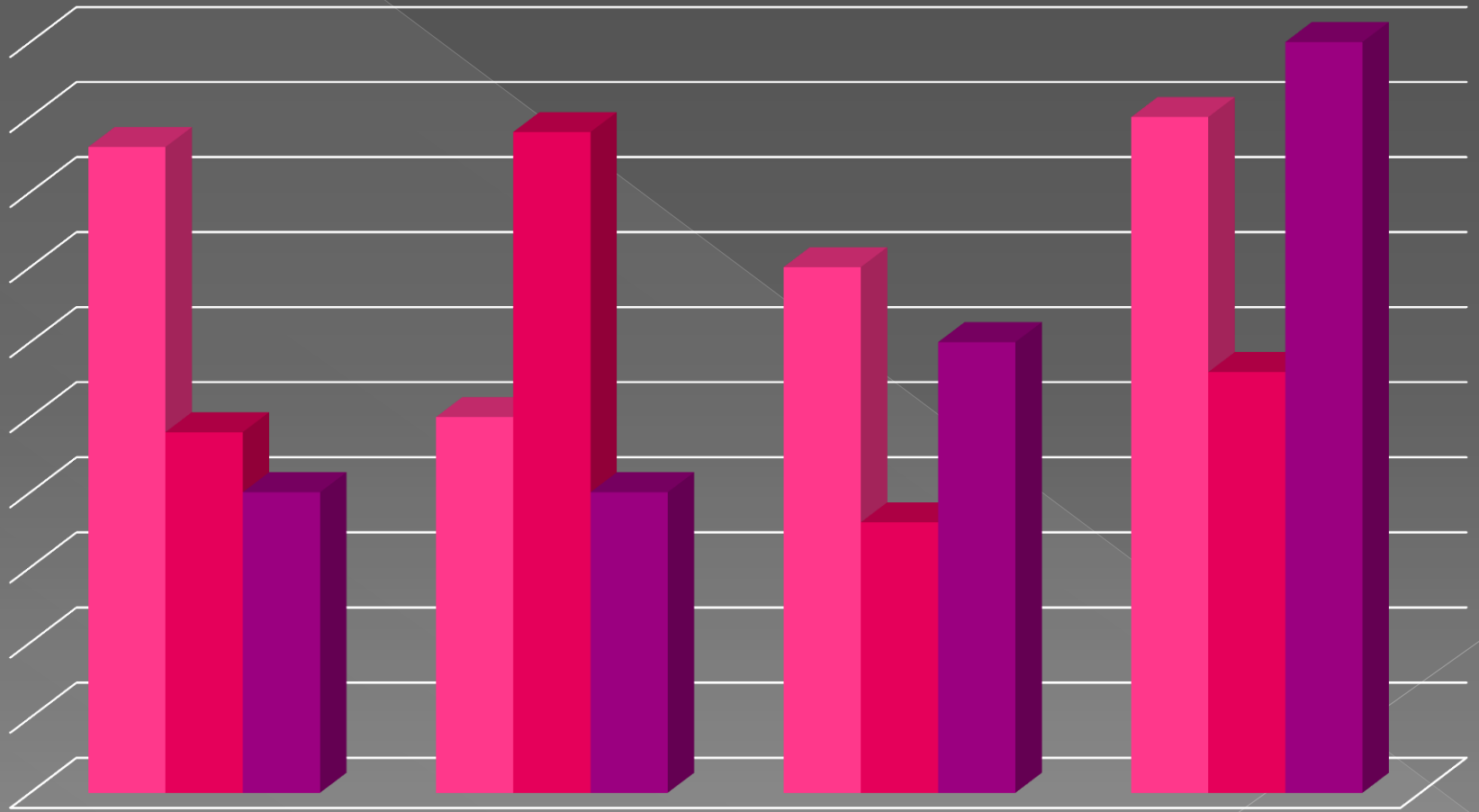
It's much more complex than bad men and women as victims...

Sometimes violence is mutual and normalized.



Michael Johnson's Typologies of GBV

A Poll

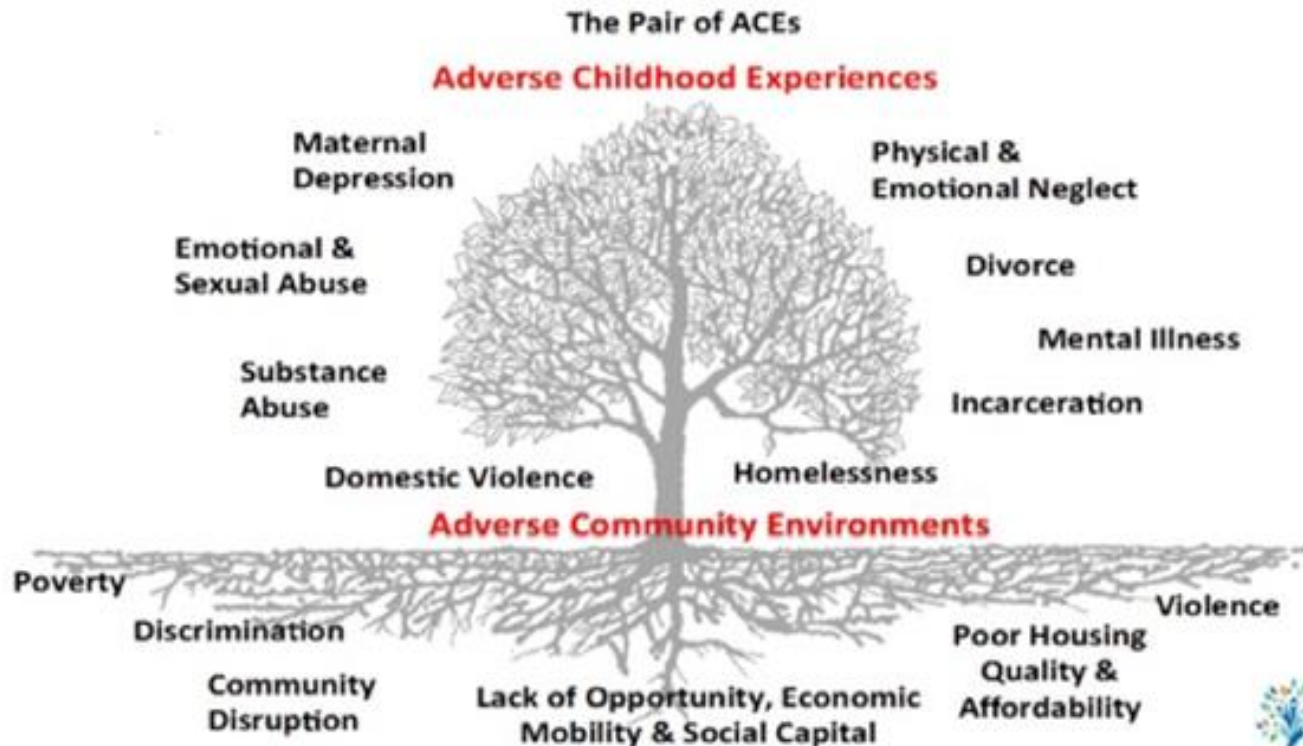


On Our Minds...

- ❖ Adverse Childhood Experiences - ACE's
 - The impacts of early trauma
 - Substance use as a coping mechanism
- ❖ Portapique- Mass Casualty Commission
 - Trans-generational trauma
 - Victim blaming and responsabilization
- ❖ A peace-building lens- Jean Paul Lederach
 - Safety, belonging and voice



Adverse Childhood Experiences

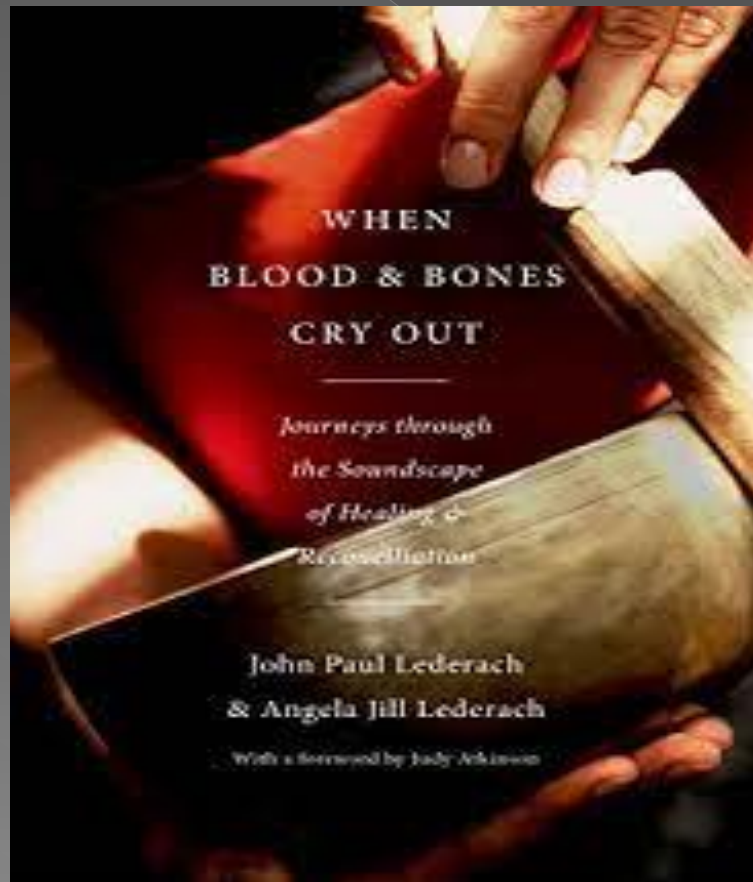


Mass Casualty Victims



A Peace Building Lens

John Paul Lederach



Safety

Belonging

Voice

Consider this scenario:

- “He literally sat down across from me one morning with his coffee and said if I didn't leave, he would kill me. It would just be a matter of time. I did not believe him, but I did leave, and went crying to my friends ...
... And then I went back.”
- “What I didn't understand is that that shame would follow me for years, not always so prominently, but it would kind of always be there.”
- “I would look at that 23-year-old in the picture of us having eloped, and I would think how naive I was. And I would be embarrassed for her, for myself. And I just felt that somehow I had played a role in it.”

- *“I went out of my way to hide my bruises. I went out of my way to appear like a loving couple in public. My family lived in Ontario, and I was on the east coast, so it was easy to hide it from my parents.”*
- *“ I couldn't talk about it for many years- the shame and self-blame. It was just this thing I didn't talk about it.”*
- *“But I carried shame and self-blame, and I finally identified it, and worked through it. Then I could picture it... as a braid. A braid of shame and self-blame wrapped together with pain.”*

Small group reflection

- How common do you think this scenario is?

- If the 4th Mark of Mission is:

“To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation,”

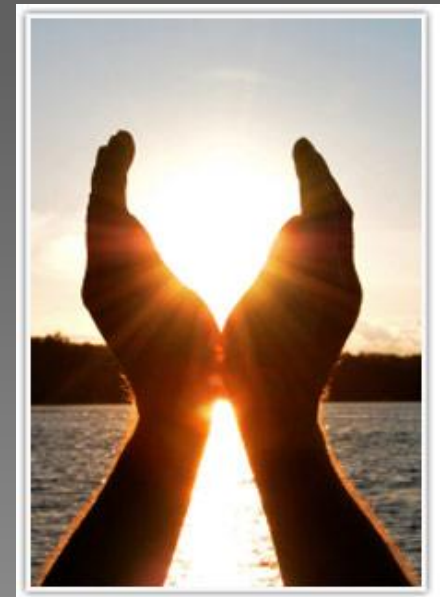
how does it inform
your actions or
contribution to the big
picture?

- *Share back*



Reasons for Hope

- **Recent federal and funding announcements**
 - National Action Plan to End GBV with \$539 million over 5 years
 - \$700k for crisis hot lines in NS
 - Over \$1 million for Guyz Work in Atlantic Canada
- **Restorative/Transformative approaches**
 - Are gaining ground
 - Most couples want to stay together
 - Jail is not the best option
- **We can each do our part.**
What's yours?



Final thoughts??



Resources below...

RESOURCES

Articles

Hughes K, Bellis MA, Hardcastle KA, Sethi D, Butchart A, Mikton C, et al. (2017) **The effect of multiple adverse childhood experiences on health: a systematic review and meta-analysis.** *Lancet Public Health*, 2(8): e356–66. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2468-2667\(17\)30118-4](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2468-2667(17)30118-4)
[4PMID:29253477](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29253477/).

Ross, N., Gilbert, R., Torres, S., Dugas, K., Jefferies, P., McDonald, S., Savage, S. & Ungar, M. (2020) **Adverse Childhood Experiences: Assessing the Impact on Physical and Psychosocial Health in Adulthood and the Mitigating Role of Resilience.** *Child Abuse and Neglect Journal*, 103(2020) 104440.

Ross, N., Bookchin, S. (2020). **Perils of Conversation: #MeToo and Opportunities for Peacebuilding.** *Gender and Management*, 35(4): 391-404. <https://doi.org/10.1108/GM-12-2019-0237>.

Johnson, & Leone, J. M. (2005). **The Differential Effects of Intimate Terrorism and Situational Couple Violence: Findings From the National Violence Against Women Survey.** *Journal of Family Issues*, 26(3), 322–349. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0192513X04270345>

RESOURCES

Websites

Neighbours, Friends and Families material: <https://women.novascotia.ca/womens-safety/offering-support/neighbours-friends-and-families>

World Health Org: https://www.who.int/health-topics/violence-against-women#tab=tab_1

Canadian Women's Foundation Facts: <https://canadianwomen.org/the-facts/>

Very Well Mind: <https://www.verywellmind.com/violence-and-abuse-4157188>

Short Films

TEDTalks: Nadine Burke Harris—How childhood trauma affects health across a lifetime. (n.d.). TED Conferences LLC..

https://www.ted.com/talks/nadine_burke_harris_how_childhood_trauma_affects_health_across_a_lifetime?language=en

Ross, N. & Bagg, L. (2022) (Producers) They Didn't Listen to My Story: Experiences of Women in the Domestic Violence Court. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eSg3m2FRJ0Q>

Be the Peace Institute and NS Association of Black Social Workers documentary
“**Pathways to Justice**” https://youtu.be/80hi9_LViXw

Podcasts

Anna Maria Tremonti. Welcome to Paradise. <https://www.cbc.ca/listen/cbc-podcasts/1057-welcome-to-paradise>

13 Hours Inside the Nova Scotia Massacre. <https://podcasts.apple.com/ca/podcast/13-hours-inside-the-nova-scotia-massacre/id1535831360>

RESOURCES

NS Mass Casualty Commission

The Commissioned Reports + Roundtable Discussions specific to gender-based violence are like a master class on the complexities of gender-based violence.

The list of all speakers, content and links to the recordings can be found here:

<https://masscasualtycommission.ca/proceedings/roundtables/>

Relevant Commissioned Reports:

<https://masscasualtycommission.ca/documents/commissioned-reports/>

- Mass Shootings and Masculinities
- Understanding the Links Between GBV and Mass Casualty Attacks
- Understanding Violence in Relationships
- When We Know Something is Wrong- Prevention and Abuse Perpetration
- Conceptions of Masculinity and Violence

Relevant Testimony by the above authors are on: July 11th and July 13th

- Testimony by **Be the Peace Institute and Women's Advocates**: August 31st

Relevant Expert Roundtable Recordings: July 14th, July 18th, July 20th, July 21st

RESOURCES

Books

Johnson. (2008). ***A typology of domestic violence : intimate terrorism, violent resistance, and situational couple violence***. Northeastern University Press.

Lederach, J. P. & Lederach, A. (2010) **When Bones & Blood Cry Out: Journeys Through the Soundscape of Healing and Reconciliation**. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press. download:
<https://www.scribd.com/document/492601612/John-Paul-Lederach-Angela-Jill-Lederach-When-BI-BookFi>

Menakem, Resmaa. (2017) **My Grandmother's Hands**

Saad, Layla. (2020) **Me and White Supremacy**

DiAngelo, Robin. (2018) **White Fragility**