



Tools to Build African Australian & CaLD Men as Leaders in the Prevention of Domestic Violence Project

WORKSHOP: CROSSING THE GENDER DIVIDE. ENHANCING EMPATHY & UNDERSTANDING

60 minutes

This activity works best with a mixed-gender group of participants.

Step 1. Divide the participants into a male group and a female group.

Ask the women to sit in a circle in the middle of the room, and the men to sit around the outside of the circle facing in. Begin a discussion with the women by asking the questions listed below. The men's job is to observe and listen to what the women are saying without interruption. Once the women have spoken for a maximum of 30 minutes, close the discussion.

Questions for Women

- What were some of the positive male influences in your life? Why were they positive?
- What were some of the positive female influences in your life? Why were they positive?
- What do you think was the most difficult thing about being a woman when you were in your country/culture in Africa?
- What rights were the hardest for women to achieve?
- What has changed for you since arriving in Australia?
- How can men in your culture better support women?
- What needs to happen/change for men to improve their understanding of the needs of women in your culture after migration and settlement in Australia?

Step 2. Now ask the men to switch places with the women and lead a discussion with the men while the women listen without interruption. The questions for the men are listed below. The men also get a maximum 30 minutes to discuss the questions.

Questions for Men

- What were some of the positive male influences in your life? Why were they positive?
- What were some of the positive female influences in your life? Why were they positive?
- What do you think was the most difficult thing about being a man when you were in your country/culture in Africa?
- What rights were the hardest for men to achieve?
- What has changed for you since arriving in Australia?
- How can women in your culture better support men?
- What needs to happen/change for women to improve their understanding of the needs of men in your culture after migration and settlement in Australia?

Step 3. Discuss the learning in the large group after both groups have completed their small group discussions.