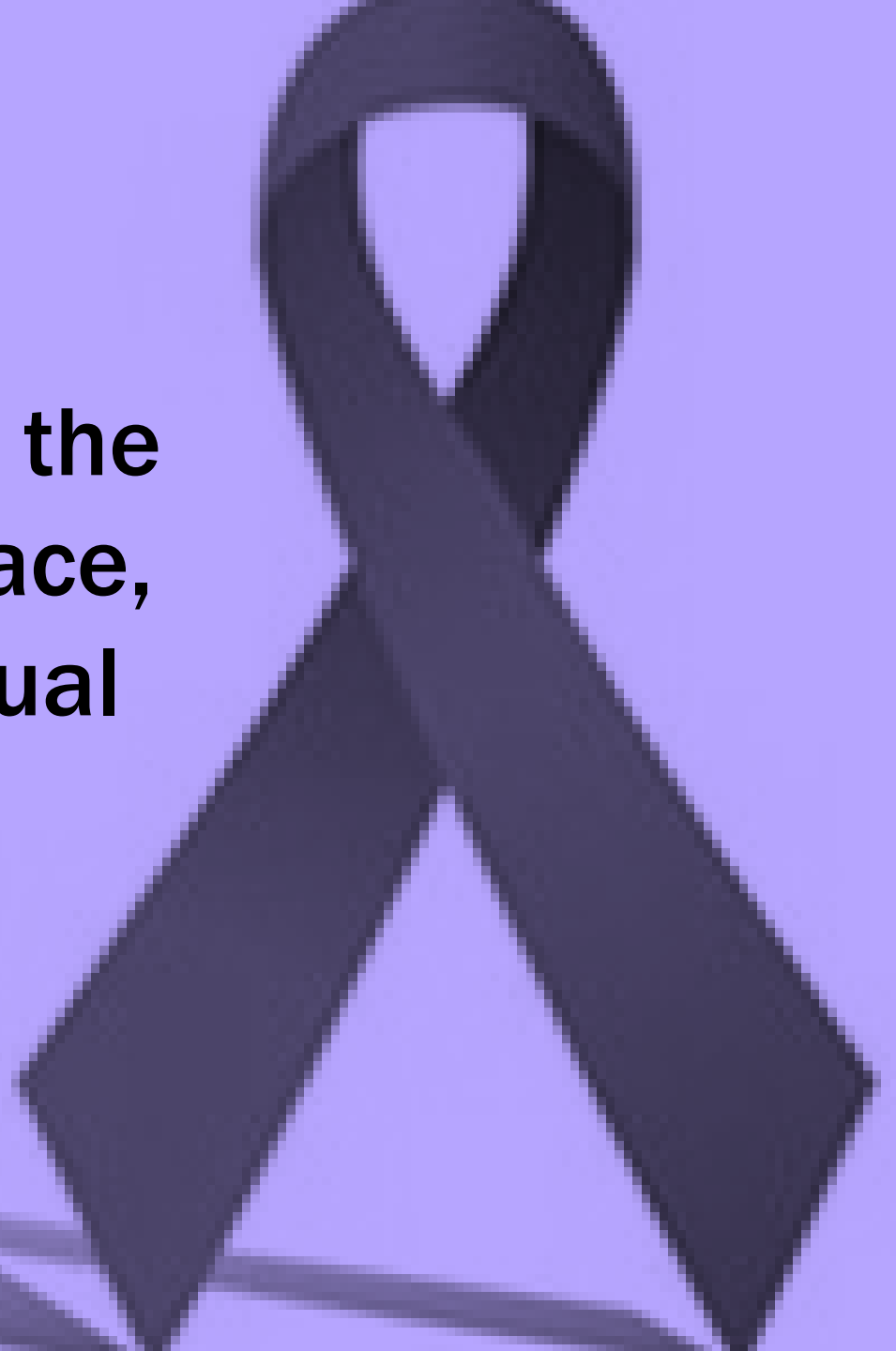


**Examining DV at the  
intersection of race,  
gender and sexual  
assault .**



# ACTIVITY

- Intersectionality exercise (20-30mins)
  - It is important for us to recognize that every individual is influenced and impacted by multiple dimensions of their diversity.

# WHAT IS INTERSECTIONALITY?

[https://youtu.be/z-nmxnmt\\_XU](https://youtu.be/z-nmxnmt_XU)

**“By intersectionality, we refer to the connection between aspects of identity, and by ‘intersectional discrimination’, the different types of discrimination or disadvantage that compound on each other and are inseparable.” (Pru Goward 2002)**

**Multiple forms of discrimination occurring simultaneously. (Ontario Human Rights Commission 1999)**

# WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

- **”[t]he experiences Black women face are not subsumed within the traditional boundaries of race or gender discrimination as these boundaries are currently understood, and that the intersection of racism and sexism factors into Black women's lives in ways that cannot be captured wholly by looking at the race or gender dimensions of those experiences separately.” -Kimberle Crenshaw**

# WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

It is important to recognize the influence of the intersection of an individual's racial identity and identity as a survivor of domestic violence.

Multiple factors and experiences come into play and influence how women of color experience domestic violence, seek help and support and the barriers they often face when seeking help.

- **“At a more personal level, though, feminism without intersectionality keeps us from fully expressing who we are! A lack of intersectionality leads to an erasure of people and their identities.”** ([Jarune Uwujaren](#) & [Jamie Utt](#), 2015)

# PREVALENCE

Women of color face higher rates of domestic violence and domestic violent homicides.

- **Statistics:**

- African American women:

- 29.1 % have been raped, physically assaulted and/or stalked by an intimate partner in their lifetime.
- Experience intimate partner violence at a 35% higher rate than white females and 2.5 times the rate of women of other races.
- Experience higher rates of intimate partner homicide when compared to white survivors. (NVAWS).

# PREVALENCE

- Asian & Pacific Islander Women:
  - 41-60% reported experiencing domestic violence in their lifetimes.
  - 60% of immigrant Korean women have been battered.
  - 44-47% of Cambodians reported that they knew of a woman who was a victim of domestic violence.
- Hispanic/Latino Women
  - 23.4% Hispanic/Latino females have been victimized by intimate partner violence in their lifetime. (NVAWS)
  - Hispanic women were more likely to report being raped by an intimate partner
  - 48% of Latinas in one study experienced increased violence by their partners since immigrating to the US.

# PREVALENCE

- Native American/Alaskan Indian Women
  - Frequency & extent of abuse varies among different tribes.
  - Report higher rates of intimate partner violence than women and men from other minority backgrounds.(NVAWS)
  - 37.5% of NA/AI women experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetime.



# HEALTH IMPACTS

- Domestic Violence is often linked with chronic health problems, over 80% of survivors struggle from chronic illnesses such as asthma, diabetes & digestive diseases.
- Long-term effects of domestic violence affect women of color disproportionately and they often face lack of access to assistance with those effects.
- Almost 1/3 of Hispanic individuals are uninsured, African Americans are 2/3 more likely to be uninsured than white Americans and 30% of Native Americans lack health insurance coverage.
- On a structural level many states with high Hispanic and African American populations refused to adopt parts of the Affordable Care Act including the optional Medicaid expansion that could assist more people with access to healthcare.

**So victims of color face higher rates of domestic violence, suffer long term effects at higher rates but many lack access to health care or health insurance to address the health consequences they face.**

# LEGAL BARRIERS

Ian Haney López finds that unconscious racism undergirds the current legal construction of race in two interrelated ways: “[f]irst it fosters the racially discriminatory misapplication of laws that themselves do not make racial distinctions[;] and second, it engenders the design and promulgation of facially neutral laws that have racially disparate effects.”

- Racism in the legal system-women of color seen as less trustworthy/believable-their violence seen as mutual over self-defense due to stereotypes, “good victims” are white
- Due to a history of oppression and violence from police and legal institutions may lead African American victims to not report due to fear of police violence against their perpetrator and fear of discrimination.
- Legal status concerns-undocumented women often face fear or threat of deportation.

# LEGAL BARRIERS CONTD

- <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/tribal-justice-prosecuting-non-natives-sexual-assault-indian-reservations/>

# ECONOMIC BARRIERS

- Poverty-Due to systematic racism, poverty affects women of color at higher rates than white women.
- Limited options and access to resources
  - Victims may feel more trapped in abusive relationships because of financial needs.

# ACTIVITY

[HTTP://EVERYDAYFEMINISM.COM/2015/09/WHITE-FEMINISTS-ANTI-RACISM/](http://everydayfeminism.com/2015/09/white-feminists-anti-racism/)

## How White Feminism™ can look just like sexism

a comic by Alli Kirkham  
For Everyday Feminism



You may have heard the term White Feminism™ and may be wondering what it means. White Feminists™ are people who espouse feminist beliefs but are not aware of the double standards they perpetuate when discussing issues of race - while not all White Feminists™ are white, the problems of White Feminism™ are grounded in white supremacy and a noxious sort of "color blind" thinking that pretends all issues of race are resolved. In the same way that antifeminists frequently deny the existence of male privilege White Feminists™ deny the existence of white privilege and the advantages it confers.

I don't want to seem sexist but...



I don't want to sound racist but...

# CULTURAL/SOCIETAL BARRIERS

- Societal responses-Racism & stereotypes, societal lack of empathy for victims of color.
  - African American women often seen as “domineering” and requiring control, seen as strong, resilient and protectors of the community.
- Religious beliefs that excuse the perpetrator’s behavior.
- Fear of isolation or alienation.
- Loyalty to family, race & culture.
- Fear of rejection from community.
- Distrust of law enforcement- fearful of a racially and culturally biased justice system
- Distrust in domestic violence or sexual assault services that may not be culturally or linguistically competent.
- Fear of deportation or separation from children for immigrant women.

# BARRIERS TO ACCESSING SERVICES

- **Asian & Pacific Islander** women may feel uncomfortable and alienated in shelter due to issues around food and undressing in front of others.
  - Also may struggle with feeling comfortable to tell others about their victimization.
- **Hispanic** women may face barriers due to lack of access to information and resources in their native language.
- **Native American and Alaskan Indian** women may face difficulty in finding shelter and resources, especially if they have lived on a reservation most of their lives and may not speak English.

# NEXT STEPS

- Recognize the impact intersecting identities has on survivors of domestic violence and sexual violence.
- Understand how experiences of racism and oppression impact survivors of domestic violence and their ability to seek and receive help in leaving an abusive relationship.
- Recognize that racism and structural racism adds additional barriers and trauma to women of color who are survivors of intimate partner violence.
- Continue to educate ourselves on intersectionality and the impact of racism and oppression has on victims of color.
- Incorporate an intersectional approach into our work with survivors.



# PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

## 1. Self-Reflect

- Intersectionality demands that we deliberately [look within ourselves](#) — at the places where we don't understand and where we feel challenged. We must take upon ourselves the desire to learn about issues and identities that do not impact us personally. ([Jarune Uwujaren](#) & [Jamie Utt](#), 2015)

## 2. Decenter Your Perspective

- As feminists, it's important that we pay attention to the fact that feminism is about more than ending sexism — it's also about ending all the interconnected systems of oppression that affect different women in different ways. ([Jarune Uwujaren](#) & [Jamie Utt](#), 2015)

## 3. Be Willing to Make Mistakes

- There's no room for [perfectionism in feminism](#). That is to say that we must be willing to make and learn from mistakes in the process of doing feminist work. ([Jarune Uwujaren](#) & [Jamie Utt](#), 2015)

# DISCUSSION

- **Break into small groups**

- 1. What are your thoughts/responses to the issues presented?**
- 2. How can you bring an intersectional perspective into your work with survivors?**
- 3. How can you bring an intersectional perspective into your activism?**

# ENDING NOTES

<http://everydayfeminism.com/2014/10/feminism-intersections-race/>

The journey toward intersectionality is difficult. You will make mistakes; we all will. But if we want to realize relationships, communities, or societies built upon justice, we have to keep doing that work.

([Jarune Uwujaren](#) & [Jamie Utt](#), 2015)

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