



Community Violence Healing Group

Participation Agreement

Purpose of the Group

This community healing group is designed to provide a safe and supportive space for community members impacted by violence to process their experiences, build coping strategies, and rebuild a network of safety and support within the community itself.

This group provides peer support and trauma-informed psychoeducation and is not a substitute for individual therapy, emergency services, or crisis intervention.

Group Agreements

The following group agreements are intended to help create a safe, respectful, and supportive environment for all participants. By attending, you agree to uphold these shared expectations.

1. Confidentiality
2. Speak From Your Own Experiences
3. Respect Different Experiences
4. Avoid Sharing Graphic Details
5. Permission to Pass

1. Confidentiality

We strive to create a safe and respectful environment. Participants are expected to maintain the confidentiality of others in the group and not share identifying information or personal stories outside the group. Phones should be silenced and stored away during group sessions. Photography, video recording, and audio recording are strictly prohibited.

While facilitators are committed to protecting your privacy, confidentiality in a group setting cannot be guaranteed. Other participants are expected to respect confidentiality; however, the program cannot control or be responsible for disclosures made by group members outside of the group.

Facilitators may need to share information outside of the group if required by law, or if there is concern about your safety or the safety of others.

2. Speak From Your Own Experiences

We ask that all participants speak from their own lived experiences by using “I” statements (e.g., “I feel,” “I’ve experienced”). This reduces the risk of making assumptions or generalizations, while helping to ensure that each voice and experience is honored.

3. Respect Different Experiences

Participants are expected to treat all group members with respect and dignity. Participants might have experiences or perspectives that differ from one another. While differences in perspective are welcome, hate speech, harassment, threats, or aggressive behavior will not be tolerated and may result in removal from the group.

4. No Sharing Graphic Details

To help maintain the emotional safety for all participants, we ask that you avoid sharing graphic or explicit details of violent experiences and refrain from naming specific individuals involved. Instead, we encourage you to focus on the emotional impact of your experiences including how these experiences have affected your thoughts, feelings, or sense of safety. Facilitators may pause or redirect discussion if shared content becomes emotionally unsafe for the group.

5. Permission to Pass

Participation in this group is entirely voluntary. You may choose to attend, leave, or step out at any time. Additionally, you may choose to speak during sessions or just listen in. Because this is an open group, participants may vary from session to session. You are encouraged to seek additional support outside of group if needed.

Attendance & Registration

Please arrive 5 - 10 minutes early to allow time to get settled. To help maintain a safe and supportive environment, late arrivals may not be admitted once the group has started. Participants must register in advance for each session by completing the online intake form.

Agreement & Acknowledgement

By checking the box during registration, you confirm that you have reviewed the community agreements, group policies, and understand the expectations for participation. You also confirm that you agree to follow these agreements to maintain a safe and supportive space for all participants.

Participation in this group does not create an ongoing therapeutic relationship beyond the group setting.