

Final Report

Peel Institute On
Violence Prevention



PEEL INSTITUTE ON VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Global Symposium On Violence Prevention

June 22-24, 2016

Organization

Click on logos to learn more about the organizations



THE SYMPOSIUM ACADEMIC, ABSTRACT SELECTION COMMITTEE

Farah Ahmad MD., MSc., Ph.D., MBBS, MPH

Associate Professor, School of Health Policy and Management, York University
Committee Chair

Monica Riutort BA., BSc., MA

Manager, Peel Institute on Violence Prevention, Family Services of Peel

Susan Silver BA. MSW, PhD

Associate Professor, School of Social Work, Ryerson University
Member

THE SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Monica Riutort BA., BSc., MA

Manager of the Peel Institute on Violence Prevention, Family Services of Peel
Committee Chair

Melchiori, Paola

Author, Feminist Theory and Knowledge Creation
Member

Ofosu-Barko, Delilah

Research Operations Manager, Institute of Better Health, Trillium Health Partner
Member

DeCoito, Paula, Ph.D.

Chair of the Peel Poverty Action Group
Member

Rupnarain, Sandra

Director of Client Services, Family Services of Peel
Project Management



Overview of the Institute



Peel Institute on Violence Prevention was initiated in 2013. The Institute is an inter-disciplinary and inter-sectoral collaborative initiative among agencies in the Region of Peel, working toward the eradication of all forms of violence.

Objectives of the Institute:

- Focused on developing the capacities of different sectors in Peel to address issues of violence through prevention and intervention.
- Function – to bridge academia with the community to acquire new knowledge – which will function to:
 - inform public policy, and
 - enhance capacities of community agencies.
- Engage in policy analysis and participatory action research on current responses to violence.
- Achieve equity in services for survivors of violence in the Region of Peel.
- Enhance the capacities of community-based agencies by developing program evaluation tools that will measure access to seamless, interdisciplinary services and support.

5 Foundational Initiatives:

Partnerships

- Partnered with the newly-founded Dahdaleh Institute for Global Health, York University

Operating Framework

- Developed an anti-oppression and anti-racism equity framework

Research

- A study that focused on identifying gaps in data collection in agencies that serve survivors of violence in the Region of Peel
- Produced a literature review on the impact of sexual assault on men

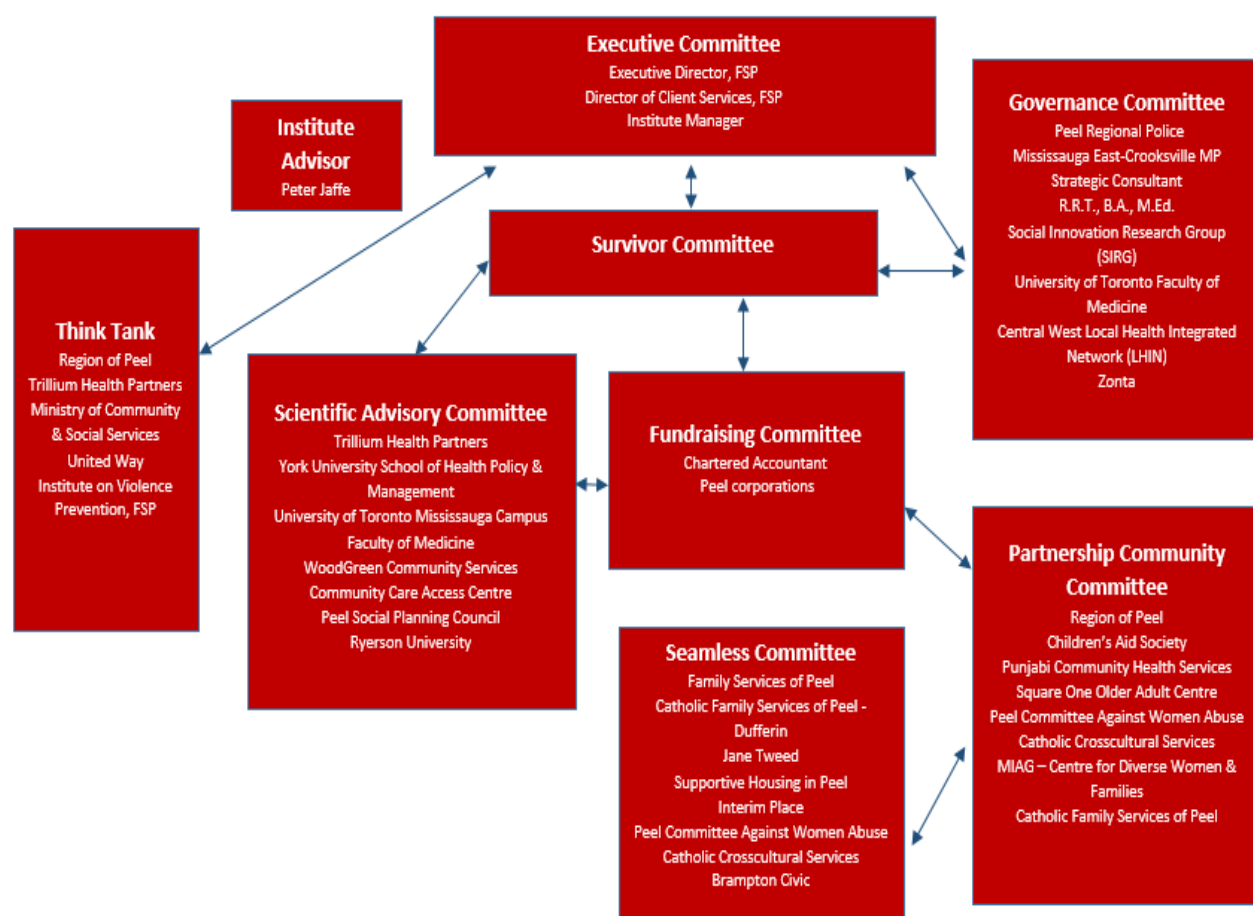
Knowledge Translation and Exchange

- Collaborated with Family Services of Peel to organize a fathering conference

Resource Development

- Developed a Peel trauma training, focusing on determinants of health, and a trauma screening tool

Structure of the Peel Institute on Violence Prevention



Highlights of Keynote Speakers



Expert Highlights

- Women Rights are one of the most urgent issue in our generation, however, there is a lack of increase in the accessibility for women to get the necessary resources.
- Nations with increased women status and gender equality see a decrease in war and terrorism.
- Women abuse has been linked to serious illnesses and poor health conditions.
- Social cultures largely influence women's decisions on speaking out about violence against women.
- Predominantly in the past, Violence Against Women (VAW) studies and solutions have focused on white, middle class, English speaking women thus creating the "single identity".

- We still have not reached a level of consensus worldwide on how to eliminate violence towards women.
- The VAW movement is shifting from an egocentric approach (single identity) to intersectionality (multiple identities).
- Creative solution can only be achieved by building coalitions and alliances with all equity-seeking groups and incorporating voices from multiple feminist movements.
- Today's generation is heavily focusing on advocating women's, aboriginal and environmental rights, thus providing a glimmer of hope in the elimination of violence against women.

[Link to the Presentation](#)

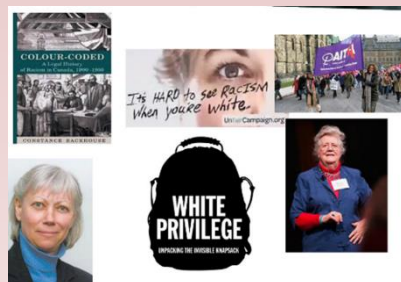
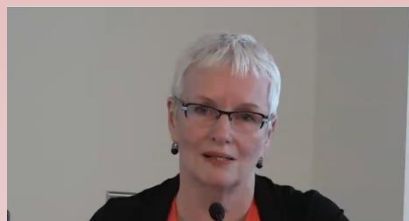


Still a Movement After All These Years? Reflections and Critical Conversations for Ending Violence Against Women in 2016

(Room 2060)

Deborah Sinclair, Clinical Social Worker, Trainer, Consultant, Policy Advisor and Expert Witness, has been at the forefront of Canada's movement to end violence against women and children for more than 35 years. She was awarded the YWCA 2010 Woman of Distinction for Social Justice and is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social

Work, University of Toronto.



Highlights of Keynote Speakers



From the Local to the Global: 30 years of Violence Prevention

(Reception)

Sheherazade Hirji, President and CEO, the Canadian Women's Foundation

Sheherazade has worked in the philanthropic sector for the past 20 years. She served on the Canadian Women's Foundation violence prevention committee for several years and joined the Foundation's Board of Directors in 2008.

She has dedicated her career to the philanthropic sector, in such roles as the Vice President of Client Services at Tides Canada, Vice President of Grants at Ontario Trillium Foundation, and Executive Director of the Royal LePage Shelter.



Expert Highlights

- Canada Women's Foundation (CWF) still has a long way to go in violence prevention, but it is continually improving.
- CWF is one of the largest women's foundation in the world.
- CWF's aim is to ensure that no woman or girl is left behind.
- Awareness on violence against women has dramatically increased in the last few years due to high profile cases as well as an increase in support towards women's rights.
- We are in a bridging moment where local dialogue is starting to connect with national and international conversations.
- One of the biggest issues still prevalent today is girls not having the same standing as boys in the basic unit of the family.
- One act of violence takes four generations to heal.
- Childhood experience has an impact on genetic memory.
- Moving forward, we need to change the conversation and invest in a generation to realize full gender equality.

[Link to the Presentation](#)

Highlights of Final Plenary

Expert Highlights

Topic: Education, Gender, Human Rights and Violence

- Numerous Brazilian federal and state legislation exists on violence against women.
- Federal and State laws:
 - A 2015 law describes femicide as heinous crime and increases penalties.
 - A 2003 law requires compulsory notification if violence is witnessed in public or private health services.
 - 2011 law set up a database containing indexes of violence committed against women in the state of Sao Paulo.
 - Since 2011 state government provides monthly stats on violence against women.
- Federal Reduction strategies implemented by Brazil:
 1. Department for Combatting Violence Against Women.
 2. "Women, Living Without Violence" program aims to integrate and expand existing services.
 3. Call 180 – 24/7 helpline for women.

Interaction between the University and the Community

- For a majority of Brazilians, principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights remain theoretical and have yet to be put into practice.
- Violence, social exclusion, and prejudice affect groups that have historically had their rights denied – woman, children, elderly, sexual minorities, disabled.
- Centre for Human Rights & Citizenship of Marília (NUDHUC) was established to promote and defend human rights and citizenship, and shape public policy.
- NUDHUC scrutinizes public policies initiated by local government in an effort to assist in the evaluation and implementation of the government's human rights program.
- In addition to organizing and executing events, NUDHUC facilitates courses to train teachers, students, and the general community in human rights, gender, and citizenship.

Psychological impact of violence in school

- Violence exhibited in Brazilian schools began during the country's social democratization period of the '80s.
- Shift in violence in schools, away from violence targeting property, towards interpersonal characterized first by students vs. teachers, and then students vs. students.
- Seen as a public safety issue, governments have tried to combat violence through school patrols and education initiatives.
- Recent focus has been on applying elements of social psychology, which sees individuals as social and active beings.
- Social psychology is applied through activities that seek to organize community members in order to find common solutions, strengthen social and personal ties, and to raise awareness of the social realities facing Brazilians.

Global Panel on Violence Prevention

Topic: Education, Gender, Human Rights, and Violence



Moderator: Paola Melchiori, Founder of the International Feminist University Network, an international think-tank for women's critical thinking and education.

[Link to the Presentation](#)



Panelists:

UNIVERSIDADE ESTADUAL PAULISTA
"JÚLIO DE MESQUITA FILHO"

Professor Mariangela Spotti Lopes Fujita, Vice-Rector, State University of Sao Paulo, Brazil:

Violence Prevention for Women in Brazil

[Link to the Presentation](#)



Professor Nilma Renildes da Silva, University Paulista, Brazil: Specialized care to women in situations of violence and access to social assistance at the single welfare system

[Link to the Presentation](#)

Professor Tânia Suely Antonelli Marcelina Brabo, University Paulista, Brazil: Interaction between the University and the Community: culture and human rights

[Link to the Presentation](#)



Concluding Thoughts



*Dr. Farah Ahmad, Associate Professor
at the School of Health Policy and
Management, Faculty of Health, York University*

Dr. Ahmad serves as a Research Scientist at the North York General Hospital. Her research is focused on examining and improving the health system, especially for psychosocial health of vulnerable communities. The key foci in her research are mental health, partner violence and eHealth innovations. She values principles of community engagement and uses mixed-method research designs.

[Link to the Presentation](#)



Chair's Highlights

Who were the participants?

All of the participants shared one thing in common: they are active members of their communities who were:

1. Connected by concerns of social justice and equity.
2. Creative and did not settle for mediocracy.
3. Successful in adopting solutions to complex problems.
4. Required more resources to address family violence.

How did the sector get to where it is now?

To date, success has been achieved as a result of:

1. Building on the emerging local, national, and global political will to confront violence.
2. Actively engaging survivors to gain their input in program development in areas such as cultural sensitivity and the creation of safe spaces through:
 - Storytelling; art-based healing; meditation.
 - Involvement of boys/men; elders/caregivers; professional training.
3. Coordinating and collaborating.
 - One-stop model; information communication technology; and trauma/neuroscience informed approaches.
4. Evaluation and Research.
 - Shared frameworks; mixed-methods; community – university and local – global partnerships.
 - Survivors as subjects.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Concurrent Sessions

Topic: Policies: Determinants of Health and Equity

Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression Framework

Baldev Mutta and Anu Randhawa, Punjabi Community Health Services (PCHS)

Baldev Mutta presented a counselling model developed by Punjabi Community Health Services (PCHS) in addressing Intimate Personal Violence (IPV) within the Punjabi community. The model employed by PCHS is specific to the Punjabi community in that it takes into account specificities of the South Asian community: a collectivist culture with extended families, violence perpetrated by more than one family member, and the absence of police involvement. Central to the model's intervention is understanding the role of the individual perpetrator and the wider family. During the presentation, Mr. Mutta presented three categories of women that utilize PCHS's services – women who seek the skills to cope with violence, but not confront it; women who seek couples counselling in order to save the marriage; and women who seek an end to marriage and life without their partners. In addition, three categories of male clients were presented: men who abuse their spouses; men who are violent to their mothers, daughters, and wives; and men who exhibit violence towards other males and females. Concluding the presentation, Mr. Mutta presented PCHS's six marriage reconciliation sessions, which focus on communication, expectations, and problem solving, and compromise to overcome conflictual issues.

Persisting Inequities at the Intersection of Multiple Identities of Victims of Violence Due To Inequities in Social Determinants of Health and Well-Being

Leena Masoud, Peel Institute on Violence Prevention

This session reviewed the intersectionality of multiple social determinants of health and well-being, as integral to delivering equitable health and social services and achieving optimal health and well-being, according to the Aboriginal Circle of Health. The Equity Framework proposed by the Peel Institute on Violence Prevention contributes to the discussion of racism, oppression, equity, and determinants of health and well-being by prioritizing gender and race as key determinants, which cannot be ignored at the intersection of other social determinants of health and well-being, such as violence.

Collaborative Overload: How to Avoid the Pitfalls and Provide Seamless Services to Survivors of Interpersonal Violence

Rubaiyat Karim, York Region Centre for Community Safety (YRCCS), Represented by Meccana Ali

This session reviewed the concerns raised by an audit by the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario in 2013, which highlighted the need to identify whether the Domestic Violence Action Plan was meeting its objectives of preventing domestic violence and improving supports for abused women and their children. In Ontario, seven Violence Against Women (VAW) hubs have created an evaluation framework in consultation with over 110 member organizations to identify promising practices. These hubs also provide insight into how YRCCS, in partnership with over 25 partner agencies, provides support to individuals and families that are at an elevated risk of victimization. The key to providing support to victims is delivering co-ordinated and integrated interventions within hubs comprised of the right blend of technical capabilities and service capacities. Integrated services improve system navigation, service delivery, and evaluation, which in turn aids client outcomes. YRCCS and its partners believe that the most important outcomes include the ability to access services, increase safety/reduced violence, knowledge and awareness regarding scope of services and safety plans.

Time to Speak Up and Stand Up For Each Other

Doina Oncel, Violence survivor and an avid advocate for violence against women.

As a survivor of violence, Doina Oncel believes it is necessary to speak about her experiences in order to help other women speak about theirs, in the hope of eliminating violence against women. Doina's message to other survivors of violence and women is to speak up, stand up to violence, stand up with other women and for other women, and support other women as much as you can help them escape violence. Her presentation also had a message for service providers and funders: violence against women remains a serious problem. Doina's presentation stressed that survivors must be believed, that funding cuts only serve to deepen the trauma suffered by survivors, and that economic stability is key to promoting women's independence.



Concurrent Sessions

Topic: *Community Education*

Empowering Against Exploitation

Jody Horzelenberg, Elizabeth Fry Society of Peel-Halton

In her presentation, Ms. Horzelenberg discussed commercial sexual exploitation and the prevention program employed by the Elizabeth Fry Society of Peel-Halton. Offering group prevention education to girls, the “Empowering Against Exploitation” program educates participants to shift their attitudes, knowledge, and skills around exploitation and focuses on understanding and avoiding the recruitment tactics of exploiters. Co-written and directly informed by survivors of sex trafficking, the prevention program delivers education through a collaboration between survivors and the police. The program also touches on substance abuse, online safety, sexual and emotional health, examining vulnerabilities, building self-esteem, and connecting girls to resources. The program aims to give girls the tools to recognize and avoid exploitative situations, improve decision-making capacities, and increase protective factors against exploitation.

Girls Suffering In Silence: How Gender Specific Groups Can Lead To Violence Prevention

Leanne Shafir, The Heal Network

This session discussed The HEAL (Helping End Abuse for Life) Network, which is a 19-agency collaborative that addresses issues of domestic violence and its impact on children and youth. Since 2013, HEAL has been running the Girls’ Circle program in the Region of Peel. The goal of this program is to provide education and support for young women. It addresses issues such as body image, self-esteem and healthy relationships, and equips them with the tools needed to live violence-free lives. Evaluation results from the past two years have revealed that program participants consider themselves better able to express their emotions and exhibit reductions in self-harm; increases in empathy, self-efficacy, body image and educational aspirations and expectations.

Building Trust, Engaging the Disengaged: One Mic Educators

SPIN El Poeta, One Mic Educators

SPIN El Poeta, from One Mic Educators, a social enterprise, discussed the best practices for engaging youth through Culturally Relevant and Responsive Pedagogy and Hip Hop as Critical Pedagogy. Over the last decade, One Mic Educators have taken hundreds of youth on retreats out to Six Nations territory to connect them with elders and youth leaders. The trust built with youths who suffer from trauma, violence, and conflict with the judicial system enables youth to gain self-esteem and critical knowledge through experimental learning.

Is the Justice System Appropriately Serving Survivors of Sexual and Partner Abuse?

Jeannie Quinn, KAVAC (Kingston Anti-violence Advisory Council)

Jeannie Quinn’s experience as a survivor of partner abuse – who has sought justice through three levels of the court system –laid bare the contradictions that afflict our justice system with regard to sentencing of perpetrators. Having struggled to find appropriate justice, Ms. Quinn believes that more efficient and harsher sentencing and early education could reduce the number of violence against women cases.

Concurrent Sessions

Topic: Service Provisions:
Clinical Approaches

[Serving All Women: Increasing Survivor Inclusion through a Harm Reduction Framework](#)

Kathy Willis, Huronia Transition Homes

This session covered the benefits and challenges of La Maison Rosewood Shelter's experience utilizing a harm reduction service delivery model. While service providers are constantly looking to improve accessibility, women who use, or are dependent on substances are often excluded from survivor inclusion initiatives, despite the fact that substances are frequently used as a coping mechanism for trauma. As a result, most VAW shelters have policies prohibiting admission of abused women if noticeably impaired. This presentation drew upon research to discuss how harm reduction is a critical component of survivor inclusion. Harm reduction meets people where they are in terms of their substance use, it uses non-judgmental strategies to help reduce harms caused by substance abuse, and does not require abstinence. Huronia Transition Homes's (HTH) La Maison Rosewood shelter fully integrated harm reduction in 2008.

[Evaluating the Effectiveness of Professional Clinical Services at Hope 24/7](#)

Laura Zilney, Hope 24/7

Hope 24/7's new service delivery model focuses on applying evidence-based psychotherapeutic interventions to individuals 12 years of age and older who experienced sexual violence. Hope 24/7 is the Centre of Excellence for clinical intervention and the prevention of relationship and sexual violence. The model employed by the agency seeks to take the client from a baseline level of mental distress, and through the application of specific, targeted, client-centred clinical interventions, return the individual to functionality. The theorized objective is that clients who complete a treatment regime would: (1) be able to return to their daily lives without experiencing moderate to severe psychological impairment; (2) maintain the achieved level of functionality for at least one-month after completing treatment; and (3) as a result of the treatment intervention eliminate and/or reduce the incidence of further victimization. Treatment is administered to clients 12 years of age and older seeking support from Hope 24/7. Results indicate that treatment completion rates correlate with client satisfaction scores, which reinforces the principle that rapport is the most important factor in client success. When administering treatment, Hope 24/7 recognizes the unique needs and circumstances of each client.

[Psychotherapy and the Implication for Neural Change](#)

Josepha Martyres, Family Services of Peel

Ms. Martyres' presentation dealt with the impact of counselling on neurobiology. Research and practice has shown that changes in the brain occur through neural plasticity and neurogenesis in response to learning and adaptation. Through counselling, individuals are taught new skills and methods of coping which impact learning and adaptation. Thus, illnesses associated with abnormal brain activity such as unipolar depression, compulsive disorders, and panic disorders can be remedied by prompting system improvements and neural structures through counselling.

In Distorted Mirrors - A Personal Story of Survival

Olha Oliynyk

Olha, a survivor of partner abuse and violence, presented a reflection of her experience with services for clients who are either experiencing or are healing from abuse. Olha believes that a better understanding of the dynamics of abuse and its effects on physical and psychological well-being can help assist survivors and people experiencing abuse. Olha's personal story can help support existing knowledge and possibly add new perspectives on causes and effects of violence and abuse. Some of the impacts of abuse and violence on Olha's psychological well-being include feelings related to identity loss, fear of the unknown, depression, anxiety and panic attacks. The analysis of her personal story can help clarify subjective aspects of the dynamics of abuse and apply them to violence prevention by helping victims and survivors deal with their complex situations. In addition, Olha believes that her story can aid service providers by helping them recognize the signs of abuse in their clients, which in turn can improve their ability to support their clients with appropriate services.

Concurrent Sessions

Topic: Community Connections

[Building Trust and Reducing Isolation: A Pilot Project in Hamilton, Ontario](#)

Cathy Watts, 1 in Four

This session discussed the 1 in Four pilot project, which was created to help women suffering from abuse in their relationships. The online project includes survivor-written blog posts, a monthly calendar of events, and a resource database. The project is unique because it is the first survivor-informed resource to act as a bridge connecting women with community supports. 1 in Four utilizes survivors' experiences to build trust, reduce isolation, provide education, and simplify access to services. The 1 in Four pilot project in Hamilton is ongoing.

[Resilience and Resources among South Asian Immigrant Women as Survivors of Partner Violence](#)

Farah Ahmad, York University

This session discussed the "Resilience and Resources among South Asian Immigrant Women as Survivors of Partner Violence" study that examined the resiliency from the perspectives of South Asian (SA) immigrant women who identified themselves as survivors of partner violence. Applying a critical emancipatory feminist lens, the study conducted in-depth interviews with 11 women. Analysis identified five cross-cutting themes: resources before and after the turning-point (i.e., decision to confront violence), transformations in self, modification of social networks, and being an immigrant. Women drew upon their individual cognitive abilities, social support, and professional assistance to move beyond victimization. SA immigrant intimate partner violence survivors sought multiple resources at micro, meso and macro levels, signifying the need for socio-ecological approaches in programs and policies along with inter-sectoral coordination to foster resilience.

[Presence, Partnership and Persistence: Meeting the challenges from within the community](#)

Kevin Birmingham, The Journey Neighbourhood Centre

The Journey Neighbourhood Centre was reviewed in this session, which occupies a storefront in a small strip plaza, in the midst of the community they serve. They are the embrace of a challenged community that is often resigned to its circumstances. The Journey Neighbourhood Centre's mission is realized through programs, transformation, advocacy, and hope to the Ardglen/Orenda community. Their methods can be summed up with three "Ps": Presence, Partnership and Persistence – applied by staff, volunteers and advisors who are members of the community.

[Abuse Never Become Us](#)

Jenny Starke and Tharshiga Elankeeran, A.N.B.U.

Abuse Never Becomes Us (A.N.B.U.), which loosely translates to love in Tamil, is a non-profit organization that works with survivors of childhood sexual abuse in the Tamil community. The founders are Sri Lankan, Tamil-speaking women with lived experiences of childhood sexual abuse. Both identify and relate to their community's past and present trauma and they believe in building and exploring their own capacity to heal. A.N.B.U.'s objectives include providing holistic support and identifying different modalities to promote healing and empowerment of survivors of childhood sexual abuse, exploring and building capacity within the Tamil community to raise awareness and open dialogue on childhood sexual abuse, and building service capacity through collaboration and partnerships.



Concurrent Sessions

Topic: *Services Models - Target Populations Elder, Women, Black Diaspora and Aboriginal Communities*

[The Peel Elder Abuse Support Program: A Case Study](#)

Kevin Leet, Family Services of Peel

This session reviewed the Peel Elder Abuse Support Program at Family Services of Peel. The program provides support, referrals and advocacy to older adults who find themselves the focus of abuse and mistreatment at the hands of family, friends, paid caregivers and institutions. The only program of its kind in Peel Region, it utilizes a client-directed and driven approach, informed by Systems Theory and principles of restorative justice. Older adults are supported based upon their goals and expectations, with a focus on building resilience without judgement or expectation. Given the ethnic and cultural diversity within Peel, the program strives to honour the values and wishes of each individual client, many of whom reside in homes with several generations under one roof. Discussion also focused on how older adults access supports and services, the impact of ageism, culture of origin and the acclimation process upon the different generations in the family.

[Sistering Program: Building Community with Women Who Have Experienced Traumatic Life Events for Over 25 Years](#)

Susan Harris, Catholic Family Services of Peel-Dufferin

An overview of Sistering was provided in this session, as a wellness intervention that promotes reconnection with caring, supportive communities. Catholic Family Services of Peel-Dufferin (CFSPD) developed the Sistering Program in response to women who had received counselling services and wanted to give back to other women. From its beginning, Sistering was envisioned as a caring community of trauma survivors, where women could experience the sisterhood of women as they journeyed together toward greater healing. The community of Sistering offers a health promotion orientation through one-on-one mentoring, group wellness activities (yoga, Tai Chi, meditation, etc.) and support groups where both mentors and client sisters can be sustained in trauma recovery and health behaviours.

[Rawhide](#)

Melisse Watson and Harriet Badua-Baffoe, Rawhide

Throughout history, people belonging to the African Diaspora and the Indigenous communities of Turtle Island have been systemically targeted and oppressed. The Rawhide Project provides a platform for these difficult conversations – prioritizing voices of those most affected by interpersonal and/or systemic violence. Black and Indigenous peoples, and their allies, are provided a brave space where they can share their experiences of relational and systemic violence, and also create pathways to strengthen their communities' bonds and transform conflict. Rawhide provides spaces for community members to work together to transform and create, while introducing young persons to Transformative Justice practices.

[Building Resiliency: A Health and Wellness Session Integrating a Trauma Informed Framework with Marital Arts Philosophy and Practice](#)

Priyanka Sheth and Heather Turnbull

This session reviewed a trauma-informed framework which is aligned with martial arts philosophy which recognizes and establishes an individual's unique sense of self. Additionally, this framework seeks to authenticate each experience as integral to moving forward and empowering the individual through focus, mindfulness, physical and emotional engagement. Beginning with exercises in 'owning' current physical space and establishing participants' goals, the session featured an introduction to the intersection of trauma and martial arts practice.

Concurrent Sessions

Topic: Service Models –
Children

S.T.E.P. in the Right Direction: A Program for Preschoolers Residing in Women's Shelters

Raghida Mazzawi, Nova Vita Domestic Violence Prevention Services

Many preschoolers attending shelters with their mothers have been exposed to domestic violence and parental conflict since birth. In fact, research findings suggest that children younger than six, who directly witness violence, are at higher risk of developing cognitive and or psychological problems than older children. Traditionally work with children in shelters has focused on school age children, leaving preschoolers ignored. An early childhood education program in a shelter provides learning opportunities for younger children that will facilitate healthy growth and development as well as begin to alleviate the impact of witnessing violence through the provision of consistency, predictability and structure to the children. The S.T.E.P. (Support, Treatment, and Education for Preschoolers in shelters) program provides support, treatment and education for preschoolers and their mothers who reside in the shelter. Addressing the needs of preschoolers who witness violence is of an urgent nature and providing support treatment and education when these children flee abuse and come into shelters is a step in the right direction.

Investigating a Lens of Intimate Partner Violence

Alison Taylor, Office of the Children's Lawyer (OCL)

The study presented during this session explored the practices of the Office for the Children's Lawyer, which provides children and youth with an advocate in family law, in cases where intimate partner violence was present, through the experiences of frontline workers. The study interviewed nine frontline workers from Ottawa who worked in the Violence Against Women (VAW) sector. The findings led to several recommendations: (1) that collaboration between the OCL and frontline workers in the VAW sector should be strengthened, (2) frontline workers' knowledge if the OCL should be strengthened, (3) training for OCL investigators should be implemented or revised, and (4) children's safety should be prioritized within the context of the child's best interest.

Education of Non-Expert Health Care Professionals on Pediatric Sexual Assault Protocol

Jeremy Chad and Talia Goldberg

The objective of the project presented is to create an educational resource for Chantel's Place that could be adapted easily for a variety of healthcare audiences and delivered readily by Chantel's Place staff. Ultimately, the goal is to improve knowledge among non-expert health care professionals in Peel Region regarding recognition and care for survivors of pediatric sexual assault. A slideshow presentation was selected as the ideal format for the educational resource, and information was gathered from manuscripts, front-line clinician interviews, and case reviews. Two presentations were created: one for emergency room staff, and the other for an inter-professional health care audience. The results show that participants drew important lessons from those taught and emphasized, and that participants appreciated the presentation's clinical relevance. The strong, positive feedback suggests that this interactive presentation format is an effective way to educate healthcare professionals about pediatric sexual assault protocols.



Concurrent Sessions

Topic: Service Models –
Males

[Peaceful Alternatives for Male Youth Violence Prevention Program](#)

Joanne Young Evans, Family Counselling and Support Services for Guelph Wellington (FCSSGW)

This session discussed FCSSGW's piloted group program for male youths (aged 12 to 16) who have witnessed domestic violence and have exhibited aggressive behaviours. The objectives of this program include teaching at-risk youth non-violent and non-abusive ways to resolve conflict, help youth identify, express, and process their emotions related to traumatic experiences, and to develop peaceful alternatives to aggressive behaviors, and use group formats to hold youth accountable among their peers. Group sessions included an educational component, a discussion, and a skills-building exercise. Essential to the success of the program is the influence of mothers to encourage their sons to attend and the development of community referral networks.

[The Partner Assault Response \(PAR\) Program, Family Services of Peel](#)

Ana Lazar, Family Services of Peel

The PAR program is a provincially approved program that addresses violence in intimate partner relationships. Using the Duluth model, which posits that domestic violence is a result of patriarchal ideology in which men are encouraged and expected to control their partners, the program has two primary goals, enhancing victim safety and increasing offender accountability. The program's philosophy is that through participation, individuals will exhibit a reduction and/or an end to their violent behaviours in their relationships, which in turn will lead to an increased sense of safety and well-being for their current/former partners and children who have experienced a witnessed abuse. In order to combat challenges that face the program, the presenter argued for: (1) the development of baseline data to evaluate the program, (2) obtaining participants' feedback, and (3) the need for a meaningful collaboration between governments, researchers, and community leaders and advocates.

[Cornwall, Ontario Domestic Violence Community Initiative](#)

Sarah Good and Susan Hess, Paths to Change

This session discussed the Paths to Change program, a newly developed domestic violence community initiative working with offenders to provide counselling and support. Paths to Change helps individuals find their way to healthy relationships and overcome life's obstacles, encouraging them to adopt healthy relationship practices with the aim of reducing domestic violence occurrences in their community. The program consists of providing an individualized plan, created collaboratively between the client and the assessment team. From that point on, every meeting is about the client, the plan, and achieving those goals in a way that best suits their needs. The program is tailored to address the needs of individual participants and offer specific case management and supportive services. Paths to Change aims to help remove the barriers preventing individuals from engaging positively in the community.

Concurrent Sessions

Topic: *Measurement and Evaluation*

[Ontario Collaborative Response to Family Violence: An Evaluation Framework for Hub/Co-location Models](#)

Mina Sigh, York University and Safe Centre of Peel

This session reviewed the Ontario Collaborative Response to Family Violence (OCRFB), a coalition of organizations that are based on “hub” models providing co-located or collaborative services for victims of violence against women, intimate partner violence, child abuse, and family violence. The OCRFB decided to conduct a project to create a harmonized evaluation effort across different hubs. The objectives were to conduct a literature review to ascertain best practices for evaluation, to understand the logic of Family Violence (FV) hubs, to identify what success looks like, and to determine what works well in different contexts. The presentation shared the process for this study, the best practices from the literature review and a framework for other collaborations to utilize. The session concluded with the presenter proposing that FV hubs work together in order to disseminate and share key findings, with hub partners, clients, funders, and prospective partners.

[Racial and Gendered Effects of Conditional Permanent Residence Status in Canada](#)

Rupaleem Bhuyan, Racial and Gendered Effects of Conditional Permanent Residence Status in Canada

The Migrant Mothers Project (MMP) is a research and community engagement project led by Rupaleem Bhuyan from the University of Toronto, in partnership with the Ethno-Cultural Council of Calgary and a network of service providers, legal advocates, and immigrant women who have precarious status in Canada. Launched in 2014, the study “How Conditional Settlement Impacts Immigrant Women” examines how immigration policies impact permanent residency, access to services and family reunification for sponsored spouses and live-in caregivers. During this session preliminary findings were presented from the analysis of public policy documents, demographic data produced by Citizenship and Immigration Canada, and from conversational interviews with 18 key stakeholders (service providers, lawyers and community advocates) who work with women living with precarious status in Alberta and Ontario. The presentation illustrated some of the ways in which conditional Permanent Residence status exacerbates vulnerabilities facing migrant women and their families.

[Measuring Performance: Utilizing the Balanced Scorecard Approach to Track, Monitor, and Evaluate Internal Processes and Client Outcomes](#)

Nikola Apostolov, Family Services of Peel

Mr. Apostolov discussed the Balanced Scorecard, a strategic performance management system, which not only aids organizations in translating their strategies by transforming vague and imprecise words like vision and strategy into clear objectives, but also promotes the utilization of metrics to achieve trust and accountability among funders and donors. The utilization of a Balanced Scorecard encourages organizations to: identify realistic results based on appropriate analysis, monitor progress towards results and resources used with the aid of appropriate data, and Increase knowledge by learning lessons and collectively integrating them into the decision-making process. Presenting evidence from Family Service of Peel's experience in developing the Balanced Scorecard, Mr. Apostolov argued that the adoption of the Balanced Scorecard system not only builds capacity to better serve clients, but can also be used to foster deeper collaboration among regional organizations.

Concurrent Sessions

Topic: Service Models – Women

[The Safe Centre of Peel: Integrated, hub-based service models for victims of abuse and violence. What works?](#)

Diwany Selvarasa, Catholic Family Services of Peel-Dufferin

The Safe Centre of Peel is a partnership of many agencies in one location, offering coordinated, responsive and accessible services and supports to individuals and families whose lives have been affected by abuse and violence. The Safe Centre of Peel, together with the Ontario Collaborative Response to Family Violence, engaged in the development of a collaborative evaluation tool with four pilot sites across the province. The Safe Centre of Peel model is based on strong partnerships, integrative services and a centralized intake. It brings many of those services into one location; effectively reducing travel, coordination and costs for clients. The integrated and co-located model also reduces accessibility barriers and allows for comprehensive safety planning at all levels. By supporting clients in overcoming the most common challenges, such as access to multiple services in one location, service coordination, and access to childminding, the centre is providing a unique and much needed model of service to clients.

[Using Culturally-Situated Peer Support to Reduce Violence Against Women \(VAW\)](#)

Maryam Ali, Family Service Toronto

Gender based violence is not always acknowledged and/or recognized and is associated with much stigma. This makes it hard for those working in the area of Violence Against Women, to raise awareness and address the issue. This is especially the case in newcomer communities that have been exposed to systemic violence and oppression of women, such as the Somali community. The presentation highlighted Family Service Toronto's adaptation of a well-recognized model of peer support to address the issue in this community. The objective of the implementation was to increase public awareness of gender-based violence and strengthen the community's capacity to address the issue. A community advisory group was established to develop a model of peer support that would resonate with the community. The Somali tradition of storytelling, an important culturally relevant means of communication, was easily incorporated into the peer support model, and provided the name for the program, Sheeko, Sheeko, meaning 'tell me a story'. Women peer leaders, from the community, were trained to facilitate conversation circles related to abuse, using the peer support model. When women are in an environment that feels safe, accessible and is truthful to their culture, there is more openness to discuss difficult and potentially stigmatizing issues.

Concurrent Sessions

[My Work in Your Life: Conversations about Feminist Research and Practice, and Everyday Experiences](#)

Dana Gillespie Tozer, Halton Violence Prevention Council

As a feminist researcher and service provider, the presenter's project looked to answer the following question: what do women, with direct experience of violence and abuse, need from the research [or policy development] process in order to feel safe(r) to participate? In carrying out the research, the presenter connected with a small group of women who had experienced violence, with the intention of exploring what women participants might need in order for them to contribute to a research project, engage in service delivery, and/or reflect on policy. The project involved recruiting a focus group of seven women, all of whom had lived experiences of violence or abuse. Five questions were posed to the women, which were aimed at exploring the above-mentioned objective through a critical feminist epistemological frame.

[Culturally Sensitive and Linguistic Appropriate Service for Women](#)

Berna Bolanos, Catholic Crosscultural Services

This presentation reviewed the culturally sensitive and linguistically appropriate group counselling program at Catholic Crosscultural Services that provides information and support to women who have been abused or were at risk of physical and or emotional harm. Most of these women who utilized the services were isolated from the resources in their communities due to a language barrier and other assimilation problems associated with immigration and or financial constraints. The program's service responsibilities are (1) to increase women's knowledge about all forms of abuse and its impact on the lives and their children and them, (2) to assist in taking protective action for themselves and their children, (3) to increase women's understanding that they are responsible for their own, not their partner's behavior, (4) to provide a safe place where women can share their experiences and break the secrecy while receiving emotional support, belief and validation, and (5) to decrease women's isolation and increase their connection to other women.

POSTER Presentations



Poster Presentations

Trauma Training in Peel

Shereen Rampersad

This poster presentation described how to use the Trauma Screening tool during assessments, to ensure frontline workers have an adequate understanding and professional competency in addressing trauma using anti-oppressive and anti-racism screening tools.

Identifying Gaps in Data Collection Practices of Health, Justice and Social Service Agencies Serving Survivors of Interpersonal Violence in Peel

Doaa El_islambouly

Presenting the gaps in data collection as well as the scope of service available to survivors of interpersonal violence in the Region of Peel, this poster promotes community engagement through inter-agency dialogue and collaboration.

Balanced Scorecard Overview

Nikola Apostolov

This poster presentation described Family Service of Peel's Balanced Scorecard, which is a strategic performance management system that aids organizations in measuring internal business processes and external stakeholder outcomes.

Exploration of the Impact of Childhood Sexual Abuse on Adult Health

Elsabeth Jensen

This poster presentation described a study that explored the relationship between sexual abuse in childhood and mental health, physical health, social health, and global health in adulthood.

Addressing Social Determinants of Health and Wellbeing: Equitable Services for Racialized Communities in Peel

Leena Masoud

The poster presentation described the intersectionality of multiple social determinants of health and well-being as integral to delivering equitable health and social services, achieving optimal health, and well-being according to the Aboriginal Circle of Health.

Importance of Early Bonding and Self-regulation.

Magdalena Diaz

This poster presentation described the importance of early bonding and self-regulation as a base for developing healthy relationships and preventing violence. In addition, it introduced tools, programs, and services available in the support of early childhood development with a focus on building resiliency and self-regulation.

Alternatives to Violence

Joan Sweeney

This poster presentation described The Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP), which provides a cross-cultural approach to interpersonal violence through workshops in prisons, schools, and communities.

Peel Elder Abuse Prevention Network (PEAPN) Keeping Safe, Living Well

Karen Sibal

The Peel Elder Abuse Prevention Network promotes better practices among service providers to ensure coordinated, seamless service delivery to all older adults in Peel, especially those who are vulnerable and at-risk of abuse.

Evaluation Survey

Global Symposium on Violence Prevention 2016 **Priorities That the Institute Should Be Addressing**

<u>Priorities</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Race and Racism	46%
Mental Health	48%
Coordinated-Collaborative Response to Violence	63%
Addiction and Reaction to Violence	29%
Criminalized Women and Interpersonal Violence	34%
Human Trafficking	34%
Gender Violence and Human Rights	40%
Femicide	10%
Impact of Experiencing Violence in Health	38%
Making Specific to Aboriginal Women	25%
Education to Eradicate Violence	53%

What would you like to see or do at the next Symposium?

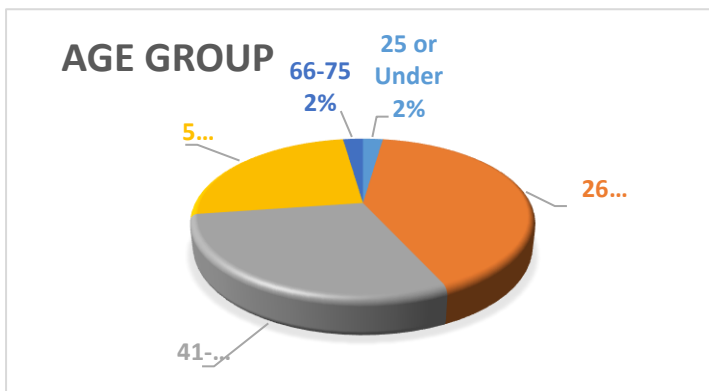
- Better translators for foreign guests
- A question and answer forum
- Some representation from the justice and legal system
- More of a focus on other cultural groups such as aboriginals, black youth, etc.
- More group dialogue
- Focus on prevention and what works
- More structured networking
- Give presenters more than 10 minutes
- More youth presenters
- More multi-media/dynamic presentations
- Longer duration (2-3 full days)
- More group-based oriented workshops
- Speak on violence in the LGBT community
- Survivor panel and additional networking opportunities

What can we learn from the lived experiences and needs of communities within Peel – as made evident at the Symposium?

- Factual information on violence in Peel
- Information on social health care service
- Oppression skills, survival skills, safety skills
- Funding issues
- Research being done by local agencies being leveraged with policy makers
- Many local initiatives have an impact
- Impact of violence and well-being
- The need to work more specifically with offenders
- Violence in all forms exists in Peel and across the GTA
- People with lived experience can provide insight, knowledge, expertise and recommendations
- Strategies need to be built to fit the needs of communities in Peel
- How individuals are accessing services
- Peel needs more services for men

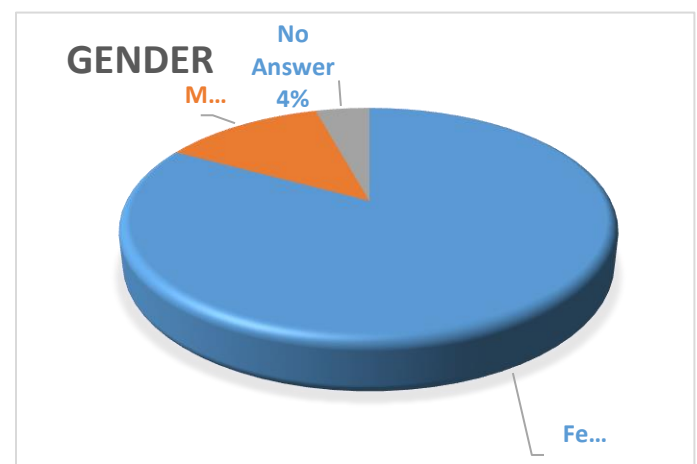
How can the institute support further community engaged research that takes an intersectoral analysis?

- Provide support through tools, methodology, and information
- Partnerships to fund
- Execute collaborative research that engages government and other key stakeholders to gain buy-in endorsement and unity in efforts to improve planning, funding and delivery of services
- Creating a forum for professionals to share research, programs, and ideas
- Include people from different socio-economic backgrounds
- Continue to have discussions on intersectionality with various organizations and how it should be practically implemented in services



AGE GROUP THAT ANSWERED THE SURVEY

GENDERS THAT ANSWERED THE SURVEY



Future Direction and Next Steps

1. Improve access to seamless, interdisciplinary services and support for survivors of violence.
2. Establish standardized methods of data collection for agencies providing services for survivors of interpersonal violence in the Region of Peel.
3. Create standardized mechanisms to evaluate services for survivors of interpersonal violence in the Region of Peel.
4. Promote community engagement and service-level transformation through inter-agency dialogue and collaboration.
5. Support community-based agencies.





Mis Roots

By Paloma. E. Villegas

I come from frijoles and chile and corn

The holy Mexican trinity

Used to make enchiladas and sopas and tacos

Not “crunchy tacos” or Taco Bell,

But tacos filled with any and every available food stuff

Including sopa de arroz, espagueti etc.

Who cares about committing carb on carb crimes.

I come from Jalisco, Guadalajara, Los Altos, Arenal

I come from places evacuated by emigrants

Where agriculture is an expensive reality

And a distant memory for many

Places built through remittances, those who stayed behind, those who returned and those who were forcibly returned

I don't come from Puerto Vallarta, or Cancun, or “Cabo”

I don't come from all-inclusive deals, with margaritas and “guac”

[when did it become a thing to shorten people's food? I don't call a hamburger

“ham” or a grilled cheese “grillc”]

I don't claim to come from exoticized women

“dicen que las mujeres de Jalisco son muy bonitas...”

presumed to come from European heritage

I come from mestiza/os whose indigenous roots have all but been forgotten

Or forcibly erased

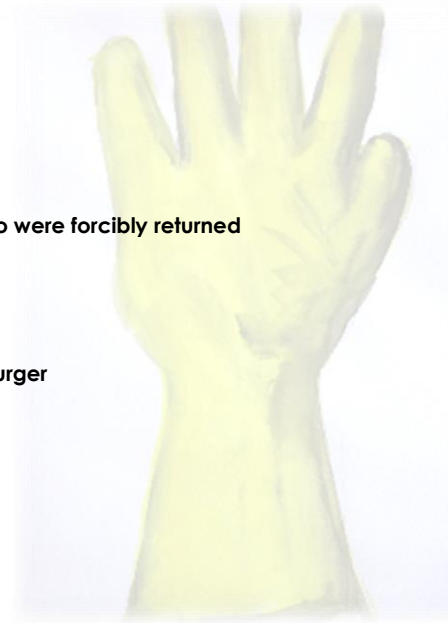
Or incorporated into a “Mexican” hegemonic identity

That often refuses to see race as a determining factor in people's lives

I come from family

From a strong woman who worked and worked until her body wanted to break

From a father so tied to his roots and anger that he became immobile



From dignidad and respeto and educacion

From Braceros and returnees

From domestic violence and intergenerational
resentment

I come from the north-east Bay

A place invisible to many

not close enough to San Francisco or Silicon Valley,
Marin or Berkeley, to its south

Or Napa and wine to its north

Where my love for burritos developed alongside
varicose veins

I got both from working in hot taco trucks [the original
food truck?] and deteriorating restaurants

Where the pay was low and the conditions sometimes
unfriendly

Where I was expected to waitress and cook and
translate,

But where I also learned to cook carnitas, salsa, and
caldo de camaron

I come from terms like self-deportation and
repatriation,

Illegalization

Which have been marked on my body

They've burrowed deep within me and blistered

The blisters often pop and seep with anxiety and fear

With tears and anger that fuel new blisters

I come from multiple migrations,

Making my way up north

To the "promised land" that did not lead to milk or
honey

But that was not fruitless either

I come from the realization that as we travel through
time and space

things don't change

and yet they do

I come from language and theory

I come from dirt and seeds

I come from color

Rich browns and deep oranges

Cool blue nights

Yellow green nopales, rich purple tunas

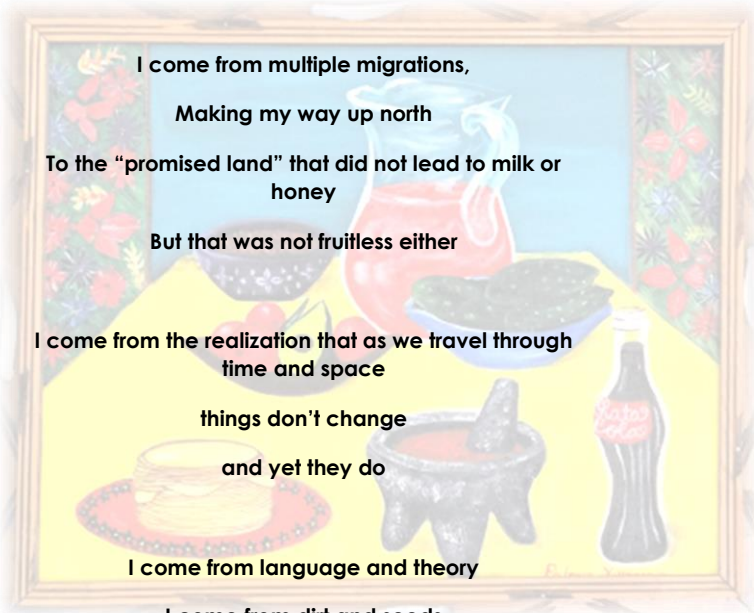
And,

as painful as it is to take a step

I travel toward hope

To heal the blisters

And plant the seeds



Final Report



PEEL INSTITUTE ON VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Global Symposium
On Violence Prevention

June 22-24, 2016