

Victim to Survivor, Survivor to Leader: The Story of Healing from Gender-Based Violence in Guatemala

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Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

- Definition
- Prevalence and antecedents in Guatemala
- Previous research has made visible a pathway used by women and girls:

Victim to Survivor, Survivor to Leader

Research Questions

What do Guatemalan women victimized by GBV need in order to become survivors?

What do Guatemalan women survivors need in order to become leaders who work to eradicate GBV?

Research Findings

- Women need **education** about their **rights, options, and available resources**
 - “I now know I have the right to not be abused.”
- Women need **training** in **political processes, advocacy skills, leadership**
 - “I am an elected member of the community council and I know I have the ability to make a difference.”

Research Findings

- Women need **access to free counseling** and psychological services
 - “I went to therapy and started to love myself.”
 - “If I had to pay for services, I never would have been able to go. I would still live being beaten every day.”

Research Findings

- Women need ***each other*** for solidarity, support, and assistance. This is especially true in low-resource environments. Women are the reason other women survive.
 - “I learned from the other women in the group that what I was experiencing was abuse.”
 - “When someone new comes to the group and is in bad shape, we support her, we tell her she isn’t alone, we share our stories. Little by little, she gets stronger.”

Next Steps

- Working to build a program to incorporate findings
- Bring the program back to US to work with diaspora of Guatemalan women who are walking this path from victim to survivor, survivor to leader

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