

BEING CONSCIOUS OF LANGUAGE IN VIOLENCE PREVENTION WORK

1 BE CONSCIOUS OF THE LANGUAGE YOU USE

Words hold power - being conscious of the language you are utilizing can help to create safer spaces.



2 BE OPEN TO LEARNING

We know that language can be misused, and mistakes can be made. We encourage an openness to learning from these mistakes and checking in when unsure of the language to use.



3 CHECK IN

When interacting or collaborating with an individual who has shared that they have experienced gender-based violence, check in with them about their preferred language (i.e. survivor, individual who experienced violence).



4 CALLING IN

Sometimes language is unintentionally misused - in these moments you can act as an accomplice by gently sharing with someone better language to utilize.



5 WHAT IF YOU AREN'T SURE?

If you aren't sure what language or terms to utilize, you can always check in with a colleague or access resources on the Promising Practices Online Learning Centre (like our Glossary of terms).



6 POTENTIAL TERMS

This language has been shared with us from Womenatthecentre:

- Survivor, not victim
- Declarations, not stories
- Reported, not alleged
- Aggressor, not perpetrator
- Accomplice, not ally

