HANDOUT 15A.2 IPV SAFETY PLANNING

Using the strategies and tools discussed, carry out a safety assessment and safety planning based on this survivor’s case. The prompting questions for the safety assessment and the safety plan are below.

Case Study:

**\*\* TO BE COMPLETED BY FACILITATOR\*\***

* Demographic information of the survivor (who the person is—age, gender, ethnicity, refugee/IDP status)
* Living situation (where does the person live; who else do they live with, children?)
* IPV situation (how long, frequency, types of abuse, any recent critical incidents)
* What the key needs are related to the incident
* How the person reached your services
* Existing safety strategies
* Existing resources that could help with safety
* Anything else important to understanding the context or case

**SAFETY ASSESSMENT PROMPTS/ QUESTIONS**

**1. Assess survivor’s sense of safety in home**

**2. Identify patterns of abuse**

* Can you tell me about some of the times you have felt most unsafe around your husband/partner?
* What have you noticed about your husband/partner during those times when you feel unsafe? (What is he doing? What is his state of mind like?)
* What is happening around you during those times when you feel unsafe? (Are you in a particular place? Is it a certain time of day? Are you alone with him? If not, who is with you?)
* Have you noticed anything in particular that comes before the violence?

**3. Summary of Risk Assessment (Use Handout to carry out Risk Assessment)**

**SAFETY PLAN PROMPTS/ QUESTIONS**

**Existing responses**

What do you do when you are in danger? Discuss with her if and how this is working.

**Existing resources (people, money, materials):**

**Where could you go?** (Help the survivor to think of at least one safe place she can get to quickly in an emergency. She should arrange things with that place ahead of time).

**Whom do you trust?** (Think about anyone (neighbors, friends, family members, an organization) that the survivor can trust. For example, discuss having a signal with helpful neighbors. Upon seeing this signal from the survivor, neighbors would plan to visit in a group).

**What financial resources do you have**? (Can she save money and hide it somewhere the abuser will never look or keep it in a designated safe place.

**What material resources do you have?** (Can any of these be moved out of the abuser's reach? Can any of them be used to support the survivor if she needs a means of income?)

**Explore potential safety strategies:**

**Who already knows about your partner’s abuse?** (The survivor may not be embarrassed to enlist the help of these people).

**Is there anyone who can talk to the perpetrator at a non-violent time to try to discourage his violence?** (There may be someone whom the perpetrator respects that could work with him to stop his use of violence. Even if temporary, it may give the survivor some respite).

**What local authorities or police might you involve, and under what circumstances would you involve them?** (Discuss with the survivor at what point she would report the perpetrator and involve authorities).

**How can you involve your children**? (If the survivor has children, what do the children do when the survivor and they are in danger? How can the survivor involve her children in safety strategies?)

**If needed to/ decided to leave**

**If you have to leave, what will you bring**? (Consider important documents such as identification for her and the children, clothing, food, and money and how they will be carried).

**If you have to leave, what will happen to your children? (** If the survivor has children, what will be their role in the escape? Survivors almost always flee with their children, so it is important for the survivor to think about their safety and how much they are able to handle. If they will not go with her, what are the arrangements for their care?)

**Who else might be in danger if you had to leave**? Consider whether the perpetrator would take out his frustration on anyone else if the survivor left.

**SUMMARY**

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| --- | --- |
| **Existing responses** |  |
| **Resources** |  |
| **Potential safety strategies** |  |
| **If had to / decided to leave** |  |