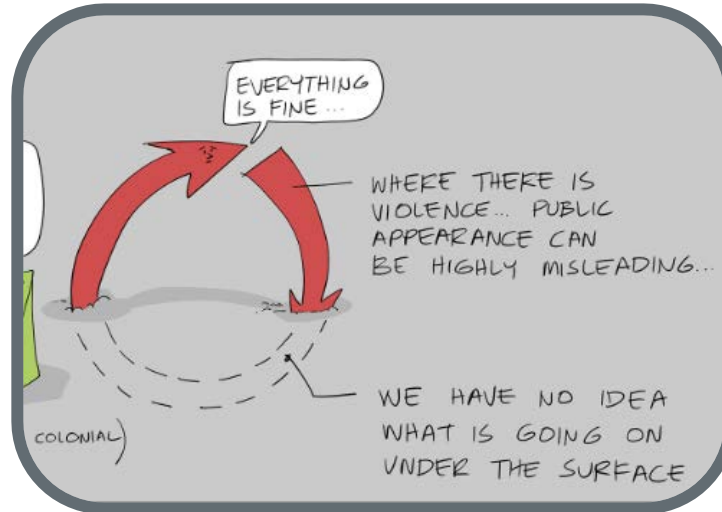


Context of Violence

Side A

Watch the 6:05min Video of 'Context of Violence' on www.insightexchange.net/creating-conversations/



“Where there is violence a great deal of the interaction is underground. You don’t see it, you don’t know what is happening, you’ll never know... you might hear things, you might hear important things, but there is a great deal you won’t hear from most people. If you ever think you are getting the full load of facts you are kidding yourself... there is always so much happening, it’s always more complex than you think it is, so keeping open to that possibility is a very important part of the practice.”

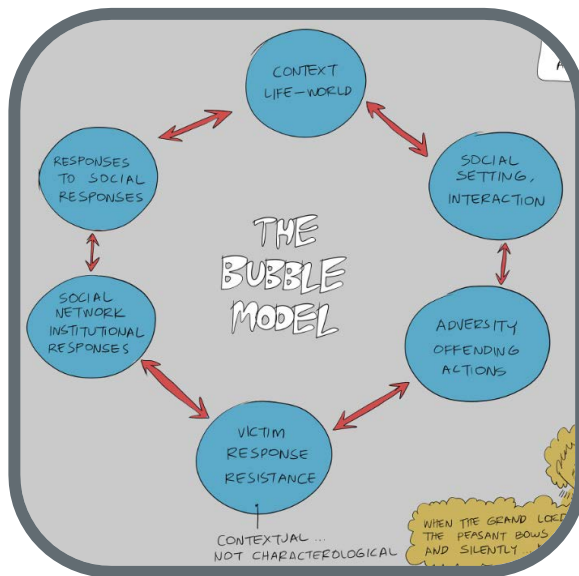
ENGAGE | THINK | **TALK**

What surprised you? | What did you appreciate about that? | What might you reflect on?

Context of Violence

“The way in which the victim responds to the offender has less to do with personality traits or early childhood experiences or mental disorders or anything else. It has less to do with that than it has to do with the context in which they live, the social, material realities at play in the moment. That’s what people are dealing with”

ENGAGE | THINK | TALK



What surprised you? | What did you appreciate about that? | What might you reflect on?

“..so men who use violence against their partners, drive way their families often as we know right? They socially and physically isolate the victim very often, use unpredictability to create a context of fear, threaten that ‘if you tell anyone that I’m going to kill you I’m going to hang myself in the shed and the kids are going to see me when they get home from school’ right?”

...So the reason that perpetrators do this sort of thing is not from some sort of abstract need for power and control – it is much more strategic and purposeful than that, you know. You need to control the social environment around the person in order to prevent other people from responding to them appropriately, to keep it secret. So you need to isolate them in order that you can violate them without the person being protected by other people.. This is strategic, even skillful, controlled and deliberate behaviour. It is not ‘out of control behaviour’.

The more closely we look at how people actually exercise violence and power, the more we see it is controlled, skillful, deliberate, strategic and systematic. The whole notion that people lose control is bullshit.

We have been talking about perpetrators of violence as ‘losing control’, ‘not having skills’, ‘not knowing any better’, as ‘being socialised into this kind of a man’ for how many years? All of those reduce responsibility off the offender and shift blame onto the victim.”