

# INSIGHT EXCHANGE INITIATIVE

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## Creating Conversations Kit



CREATING CONVERSATIONS EVENTS

# Resistance, Response and Evidence

July 2018

# Introduction

Watch the 3:35min Video of 'Introduction' on  
<https://www.insightexchange.net/creating-conversations/resistance-response-evidence/>



“We all have an interest in addressing violence, preventing it, addressing it, moving on... creating a better world for our kids, our grandkids, our world etc. etc.”

“Ideas come from conversations, they don’t come from ‘heads’. Ideas are social, they don’t come from individuals”

**ENGAGE** | **THINK** | **TALK**

In what ways do you create conversations that build ideas? |  
Who do you really appreciate having conversations with?

# Elders create Safety

Watch the 4:28min Video of 'Elders create Safety' on <https://www.insightexchange.net/creating-conversations/resistance-response-evidence/>



“Elders create safety and dignity right?”

“..they were just overwhelmed by the kindness and the dignity...”

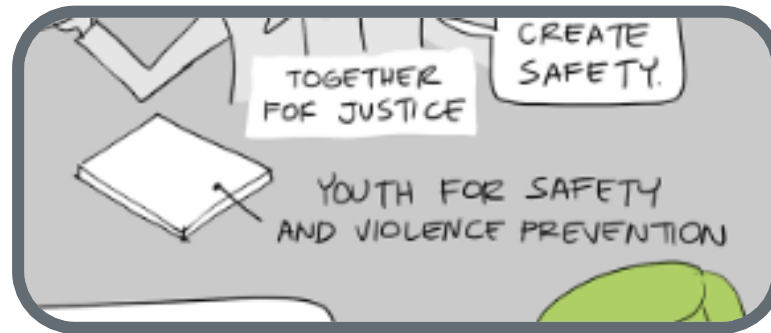
“...so throughout that project ‘[Together for Justice](#)’ we engaged the Police in critical analysis of language, and understanding victim resistance...”

**ENGAGE | THINK | TALK**

Have you ever changed roles in the conversation to develop your perspective?

# Youth for Safety

Watch the 1:16min Video of 'Youth for Safety' on <https://www.insightexchange.net/creating-conversations/resistance-response-evidence/>



“... insisting that he (the Prime Minister) change the criminal codes, because the criminal codes in Canada, like the criminal codes in Australia, transforms ‘violence against children’ into ‘sex with children’. And so they are doing sexual assault prevention as 14, 15, 16 year olds...”

**ENGAGE** | **THINK** | **TALK**

Who do you ‘carry around in your head’ when you have ethical questions?

# Better at Understanding

Watch the 4:56min Video of 'Better at Understanding' on <https://www.insightexchange.net/creating-conversations/resistance-response-evidence/>



“... Perpetrators commit ‘violence’. They don’t commit ‘trauma’. We need to be talking really clearly about the perpetrators actions, not a theory about what is happening in the mind body brain of the victim. As soon as you begin talking about violence as trauma, notice you are substituting with the a theory about the mind body brain of the victim rather than describing the actions of the offender...”

“...So, If we get better at addressing violence we get better at everything. Because it is at the bottom of so many diverse forms of suffering”

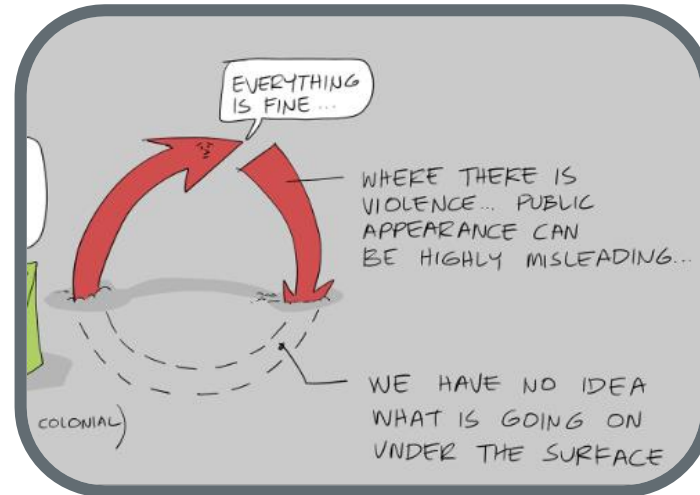
**ENGAGE | THINK | TALK**

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

# Context of Violence

Side A

Watch the 6:05min Video of 'Context of Violence' on <https://www.insightexchange.net/creating-conversations/resistance-response-evidence/>



“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.”

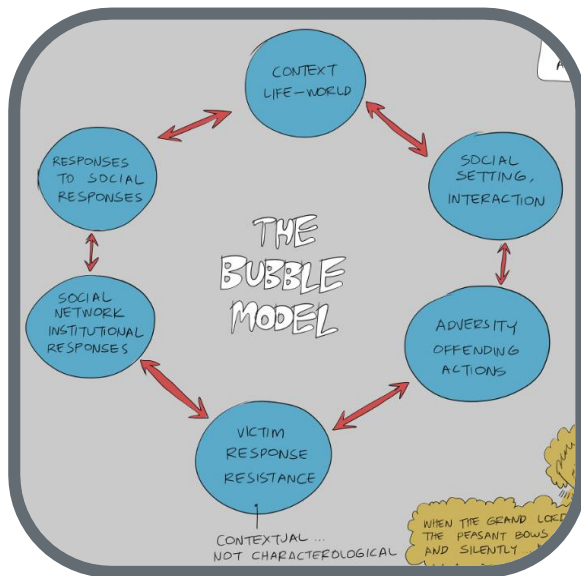
**ENGAGE** | THINK | **TALK**

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’.

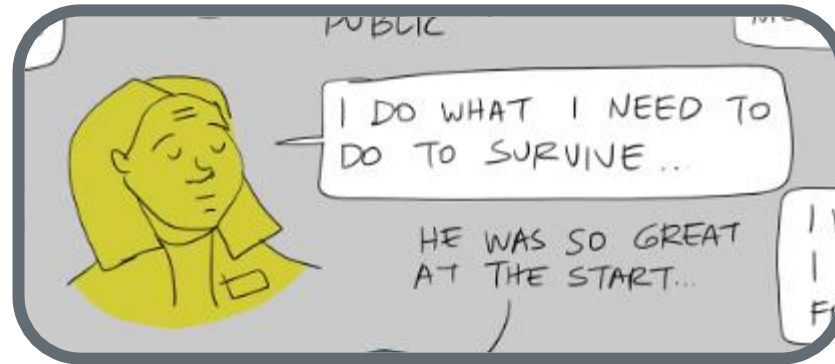
The more closely we look at how people actually exercise violence and power, the more we see it is controlled, skillful, deliberate, strategic and systematic. The whole notion that people lose control is bullshit.

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.”



# Dignity versus Survival

Watch the 2:13min Video of 'Dignity versus Survival' on <https://www.insightexchange.net/creating-conversations/resistance-response-evidence/>



“..and how complicated is that for a little girl to overtly pretend to side with dad in order to covertly protect mum....”

“Children are no less likely to resist violence than are adults. Children resist violence in many, many different ways...Children’s responses to interpersonal violence are vastly more complex than the trauma frameworks are leading us to believe”.

“Is there a difference between dignity and survival, or can it be both? I wouldn’t know really, I mean I would say sure, could be, for some it could be both...for some people they do things that are doing more than to survive physically, they are trying to survive as a person....They do things to survive and also do things that are risky, often right, and they also do things occasionally to challenge the person who is harming them because they will reassert their dignity as well. It’s something to be curious about....”

**ENGAGE | THINK | TALK**

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

# Identifying and Honouring Resistance

Watch the 5:23min Video of 'Identifying and Honouring Resistance' on <https://www.insightexchange.net/creating-conversations/resistance-response-evidence/>



“...because the perpetrators history is the history of violence.  
Victims do not have histories of violence they have histories of responding to and resisting violence...  
The perpetrators history is the *history of violence*, the victims history is the *history of resistance*.”

“Where do you get the spirit to fight back in so many extraordinary ways?”

“How about you journal all the ways you responded to the violence you endured... and she did so exploring all of her myriad, multiple, extraordinary, dignified, painful, awful, beautiful forms of resistance...”

**ENGAGE | THINK | TALK**

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

# Voices of Resistance

Watch the 1:49min Video of 'Voices of Resistance' on <https://www.insightexchange.net/creating-conversations/resistance-response-evidence/>



## **I am experienced in anticipating his patterns and tactics of abuse used against me**

When he knew I was pregnant he beat me to a pulp and I miscarried twice. Publicly he would be saying to friends that he wanted to have kids.

When I suspected I was pregnant again I hid it from him. I produced the pregnancy test with him and my mum in the same room together. I knew that if the pregnancy was public that he would have to go along with it and this would keep my daughter safe.

Mum took a photo of us with the pregnancy test. It was public. I had managed his violence towards me, not accept it, but manage it.

So for the nine months I was pregnant the physical violence stopped. I did a

“See how close you have to get to the person’s experience to make sense of this. ...People are always doing these things, but almost no-one asks about it.... Everybody resists...”

To me I meet people who have been told over and over and over what is wrong with them, and they have never had the opportunity to talk about how they have responded. To me that is a violation of the human rights of victims.

More about ‘Voices of Resistance’ - <https://www.insightexchange.net/follow-my-lead/voices-of-resistance/>

**ENGAGE | THINK | TALK**

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

# Honouring Children's Resistance to Violence

Watch the 1:41min Video of 'Honouring Children's Resistance to Violence' on <https://www.insightexchange.net/creating-conversations/resistance-response-evidence/>



“Its so kind of ordinary and simple and matter of fact but really focused on the context, the interaction, what children are doing and what their purposes are...”

“Honouring children's resistance is a beautiful thing isn't it? Because children always resist violence and protect other people, and work for safety, and try to have a better life, right?”

**ENGAGE | THINK | TALK**

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

# Upholding Dignity For All

Side A

Watch the 3:55min Video of 'Upholding Dignity For All' on <https://www.insightexchange.net/creating-conversations/resistance-response-evidence/>



“Many people use violence so as to maximise the humiliation of the victim....  
Many people who perpetrate violence are very aware of the power of humiliation.”

**ENGAGE | THINK | TALK**

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

# Upholding Dignity For All

Side B



“When you are working with people who have perpetrated violence it is important they are treated with the utmost dignity.... Many people who have used violence deny the violence, or make excuses, partly because they fear you are going to see them as a non-redeemable human....and they are well aware of that... so part of what they do is endeavour to retain their dignity... ”

“With rare exceptions we see violence as deliberate and people who perpetrate violence as already possessing all the skills, awareness and abilities to be completely respectful and non-violent before you have already met them....”

“...Your actions are deliberate and you are responsible for them and we know that you are completely capable of behaving differently. And we can find out that you are capable of behaving differently by looking at your excuses, justifications and denials... because people would not bother to deny it was violence if they didn't know it was wrong...”

“So it's much more dignified to treat men as capable competent social actors...than as people who just are stupid and hapless and driven by forces they don't understand and need us to tell them how to behave. From our point of view that is humiliating and you don't get people to become responsible that way...”

“... and so we treat people as capable...continually drawing the man to his own competency and choice making...”

