Core Tenets
Response-Based Practice

Take a tour through the core tenets of Response-Based Practice within this Foundations Guide. Coates, L. Ph.D., Todd, N. M.Ed. & Wade, A. Ph.D. (2000) (Updated 2019)

Inside Insight Exchange

Take a deeper dive into these ideas applied?

Insight Exchange centres on the expertise of people with lived experiences of violence and gives voice to these experiences. It is designed to inform and strengthen social, service and systemic responses to Domestic and Family Violence.

Insight Exchange has been designed by Sightlines Professional Services Division of Domestic Violence Service Management (DVSM), in collaboration with Dr Linda Coates and Dr Allan Wade from the Centre for Response-Based Practice Canada.
Domestic Violence Service Management would like to thank:

• Dr Linda Coates and Dr Allan Wade and their colleagues at the Centre for Response-Based Practice, Canada for their visionary and pioneering work on social responses, resistance, language, and the upholding of dignity.

• All the participating individuals and organisations who have shared your insights and learning for the benefit of many.
## INTERACTION

1. **Humans are best understood as social actors**: Individuals respond to one another continuously and orient to one another as social actors with the capacity to choose and respond.

2. **Dignity is central to individual and collective well-being**: Social interaction is organized largely around dignity. Even small affronts can be met with intense responses. Violence is an affront to dignity, but not all affronts to dignity entail violence.

3. **Violence is social and unilateral**: Violence is *social* in that it is committed in specific interactions that involve at least two people. Violence is *unilateral* in that it entails actions by one person or group against the will and well-being of another person or group.

4. **Violence is, with rare exceptions, deliberate**: Perpetrators anticipate and work to suppress victims’ resistance. Even so-called “explosive” or “out of control” acts of violence involve deliberate action.

5. **Resistance is ever-present**: Individuals respond to and resist violence and other forms of injustice. Resistance can be open and direct or subtle and disguised depending on the situation.

6. **Social responses are crucial**: Victims and offenders are constantly mindful of actual and possible social network and institutional responses. The quality of social responses in cases of violence is closely tied to victim responses, offender strategies, and outcomes in the short and long term.

7. **Details of social interaction in context**: "A sense of the unique, specific and concrete circumstances of any situation is the first indispensable step to solving the problems posed by that situation" (David Trimble, 1998). Close analysis of social interaction in social-material context is the essential starting point for effective intervention.

## LANGUAGE

8. **Fitting Words to Deeds**: There are no neutral descriptions. Where there is violence, the question of "which words are fitted to which deeds" is crucial (Danet, 1980, p. 189).

9. **Misrepresentation**: Verbal deception is central to most forms of violence. This can be *strategic* (e.g., perpetrators obscure their actions), *tactical* (e.g., victims conceal their resistance), *inadvertent* (e.g., professionals use misleading terms), or *systemic* (e.g., authorities promote ongoing distortions).

10. **Four Operations of Language**: Language can be used to (a) conceal or reveal violence, (b) obscure or clarify perpetrator responsibility, (c) conceal or elucidate victim responses and resistance, (d) blame and pathologize, or contest the blaming and pathologizing of victims.
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INSIDE INSIGHT EXCHANGE
Explore the Language Lab on Insight Exchange and related resources. Download the first edition of the Language and Violence Resource Kit.
This Resource Kit draws directly from the work of Dr Linda Coates and Dr Allan Wade: The Interactional and Discursive View of Violence and Resistance Interaction. 2007 and work of the wider team from the Centre of Response-Based Practice team.
**DEEPER DIVE INSIDE INSIGHT EXCHANGE**

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<th><strong>Shared insights from lived experience:</strong></th>
<th><strong>Learn more about insights from lived experiences of violence and other adversities through the videos, narratives and resources hosted on <a href="http://www.insightexchange.net">www.insightexchange.net</a></strong></th>
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<td><strong>The Insight</strong> component of Insight Exchange is grouped into projects or initiatives that shared the lived experience insights of others.</td>
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<td>• <strong>Voices of Resistance</strong></td>
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<td>• <strong>Voices of Reflection</strong></td>
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| **My Safety Kit** speaks in the voice of the reader who may be reflecting on their own relationships and (possible) experiences of domestic and family violence. | **Read prototype 1.1 of My Safety Kit** |
| Read the feedback summary report of Prototype 1.0 | We welcome continued feedback in order to improve future editions. |

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<th><strong>Follow My Lead</strong> speaks from the voice of people with lived experience of Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) who need the professionals and their social networks to be more prepared to respond effectively; more prepared to respond in ways that uphold dignity and build on safety.</th>
<th>Read the first edition of Follow My Lead.</th>
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<td>We welcome continued feedback in order to improve future editions.</td>
<td>Read about the background and build up to Follow My Lead.</td>
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Guide to Selecting a Counsellor is a resource to support with some things to consider if deciding to talk to a therapist. There is a wide range of types of therapy available and every counsellor will be different in some way. Finding the right counsellor isn’t always straightforward. This booklet can help you with some questions you might like to consider when selecting someone to work with.

This guide is a first edition. We welcome continued feedback about this guide in order to improve future editions.

Explore the Practice Exchange Portfolio on Insight Exchange and related resources.

Explore the short and long form videos on Insight Exchange and related resources/publications.

Read the Insight Exchange Engagement Report to find out more about our reach and influence in taking the ideas more broadly and deeply across sectors.

To find out more about participating in Insight Exchange visit the Participate page.