

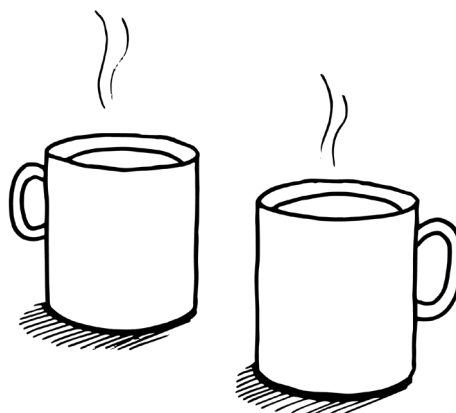
# FOLLOW MY LEAD



## Reflective questions to responders

- Please describe a specific example of what following a victim-survivors lead has looked like?
- What is one assumption, habit, or discomfort you have to manage in yourself to not take over, in order to follow the person's lead?
- All organisations and roles have constraints and limits. Have you found a way to follow a persons lead within the constraints/rules that you can't change. What do you think about when you do that?
- We won't ever know what our approach might have meant to the victim-survivor at the time, and over time, but what difference do you think this made 'in the moment'?

**I" can often perceive by the way that they formulate their disclosure the type of response that they are inviting and I try to follow their lead on that."**



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So I observe facial expressions, tone of voice and body language to gauge whether women need me to be, for example, like stoic or unfazed when they disclose the violence they have experienced or whether they need me to be more soft and sympathetic. I can often perceive by the way that they formulate their disclosure the type of response that they are inviting and I try to follow their lead on that.

So, an example is, um, a victim-survivor wanted to show me some photographs of some bruises and marks on her body that she had taken over a span of years. And I sensed that she felt nervous as she had never shown anyone. So, I made sure I was calm and empathetic but didn't express shock at the photographs so that she didn't feel responsibility for my emotions or feel alienated by an over-reaction on my behalf.