

# Engaging Men In Promoting Safety And Beyond For Their Loved Ones

-Presented by Iris and Christopher from THK Family Services



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*Mission: To help anyone who needs help, with full respect to their race, colour, creed, language, culture and religion – to serve mankind.*

# Agenda

1. Presenters' introduction

2. Participants' experiences

3. Men's experiences

4. Engaging men who caused hurt

5. Conclusion

# 1. Presenters' Introduction.



Christopher

- THK Family Service Centre @ Tanjong Pagar
- Facilitator for Brotherhood and OBS@TP (an elderly groupwork for our elderly with past negative experiences)
- Master of Narrative Therapy and Community Work and a certified practitioner of Choice Theory and Reality Therapy



Iris

- THK Family Service Centre @ Bedok North
- Facilitator for Brotherhood
- Master of Social Work at the University of Toronto with a focus on Trauma-Informed Practice



## 2. Participants' experiences

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We are curious how would you describe your personal experiences when working with men who caused hurt?

**MWCH:**

Men who have caused hurt



Go to [www.menti.com](https://www.menti.com)  
and use the code 6372036

# 3. Increased risk of violence

The risk of a recurrence of violence is likely to increase if the men who caused hurt are not meaningfully engaged. (McCulloch, J., et al. 2016)



## 3.1. Men's experiences

My name is Brother A. I joined Brotherhood group work in 2022

My name is Brother B. I have been attending Brotherhood group work since 2019

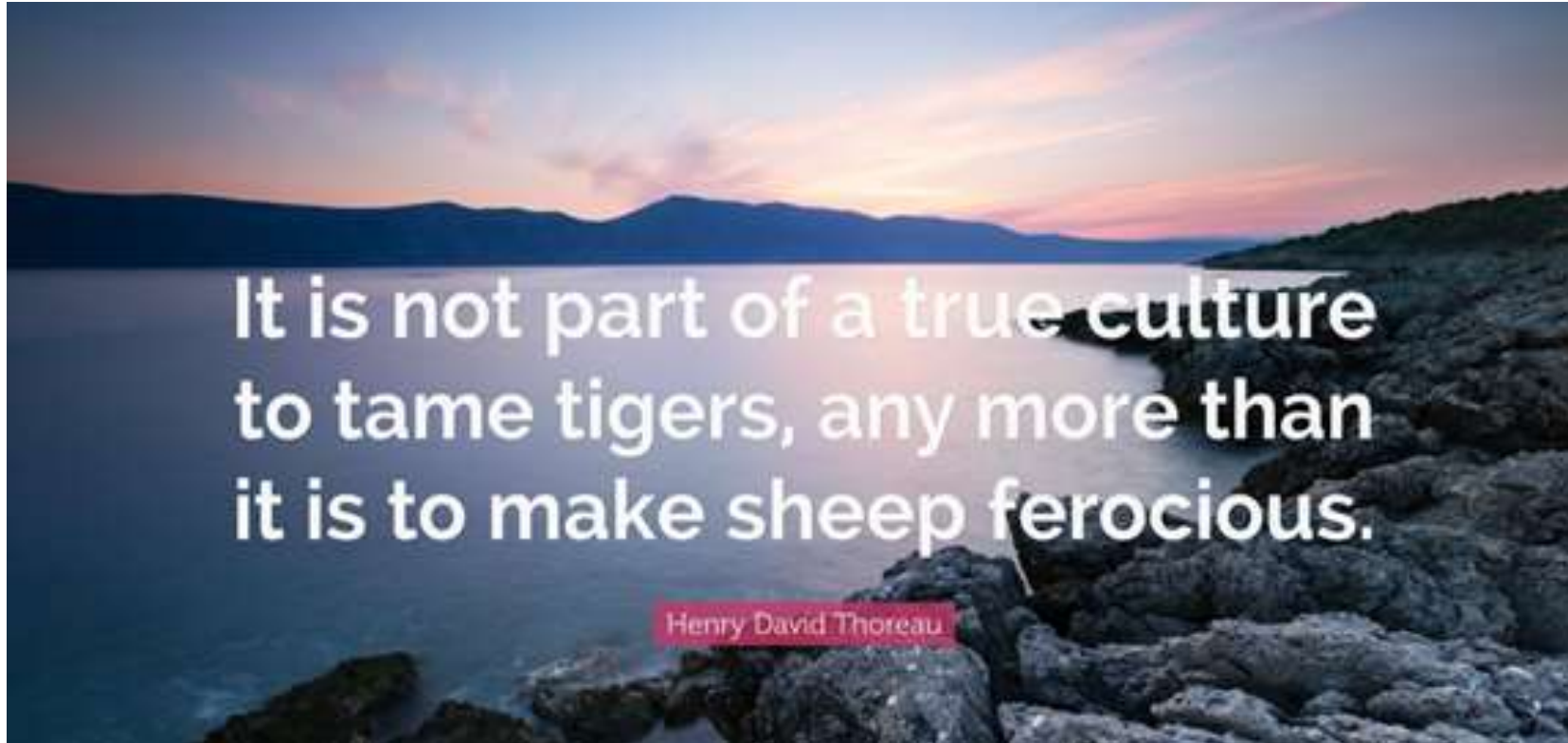
On behalf of our brothers, We are here to share our experience with you



## 3.2. Common responses of disengaged men

- Sense of anger
- Felt disrespected
- Sense of loss
- Defensive: “I have nothing to lose!”
- Chaos and rigidity.





It is not part of a true culture  
to tame tigers, any more than  
it is to make sheep ferocious.

Henry David Thoreau

## 4. Engaging men who have caused hurt



# 4.1 Why engage men who caused hurt?

- Holistic safety planning for the family
- Reduce risk of violence
- Create conditions for the possibilities of individual or family healing and reconciliation



## 4.2 Men's preferred way of being engaged

- Experiences from brother
- Experiences from Brotherhood facilitators



## 4.3 Men's preferred way of being engaged

On behalf of our brothers, We are here to share our experiences of being engaged



## 4.4 Summary from men's experience

- I want to be addressed by professionals on what is going on and what I need to do
- I need as much support as my wife and children do
- I would like to be treated with respect by professionals, even if I have committed violence in the family
- Please have faith in me that I want to change and that I can change

*Faith*  
over  
*fear*



## 4.5 Our approach

- Group work intervention: Duluth model (Pender, 2012; McGinn et al., 2020).
- Safety & Repair: A 3-phase approach to address gender-based violence (Scott, 2019).
- Most of men in our profile suffered some forms childhood adverse experience: research shows that they are childhood trauma survivors (Voith, Topitzes, Berg, 2020; Gilbar, Taft, Dekel, 2020)



(continued)

- Relational lens:

“Connection is correction”

Middleton-Moz, J. (2021)



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## 4.5.1 Literature review (what have been helpful facilitating men's change)

- One common factor is the length and quality of programs offered by agencies (Bowen, 2010; Morgan et al., 2019).
- The other commonly recognized factor is the therapeutic relationship between group work facilitators and participants (Bowen, 2010; Holtrop et al., 2017; Morrison et al., 2021; Hamel et al., 2021).



## 4.5.2 Literature review (what have been helpful facilitating men's change)

- Facilitators' ongoing engagement with men is a priority in responding to family violence and opens up more opportunities and possibilities (Wendt et al., 2020)
- The cultural component has been highlighted when working with different ethnic groups (Zellerer, 2003; Holtrop et al., 2017; Baptista & Tagliamento, 2021)
- Children are often identified as one of the motivations for them to change and persevere through change (Morgan et al., 2019).



## 4.5.3 The Duluth Model Approach



### (Control Log)

- **Actions**: Briefly describe the situation and the actions you used to control your partner (statements, gestures, tone of voice, physical contact, facial expressions).
- **Intents**: (What did you want to happen in this situation?)
- **Beliefs**: (What beliefs do you have that support your actions and intents?)
- **Feelings**: (What feelings were you having?) How does it feel to have decisions made for you?
- **Minimization/Denial/Blame**: (In what ways did you minimise or deny your actions or blame her?)
- **Effects**: (What was the impact of your actions? On you, her, and others)
- **Past violence**: (How did your past use of violence affect this situation?)
- **Non-controlling behaviours**: What could you have done differently?

## 5. Conclusion

A collaborative effort, engagement and intervention with MCWH not only help to hold MWCH accountable in ensuring safety of women and children, but also serve to promote individual/family healing and reconciliation.





Kepada mangsa di luar sana yang mungkin sedang menderita kerana keganasan,





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# THANK YOU



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