

Trauma-Informed Facilitation and Digital Media Literacy Education





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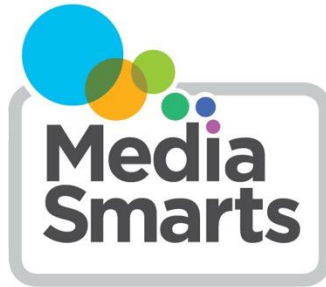
Innovations in Addressing Gender-Based Violence and Trauma- and Violence-Informed Health Promotion

A NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Oct 1–2, 2025

INTRODUCTIONS

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Overview and Objectives

- Gain an understanding of a trauma- and violence-informed approach to digital media literacy education and program facilitation.
- Identify practical tools in trauma-informed facilitation for before, during, and after program facilitation.
- Engage in a guided, interactive activity to incorporate a trauma- and violence-informed approach in your own programs and facilitation practices.

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Moving On:

Digital Empowerment and Literacy Skills for Survivors

- Four-year intervention research project
- Goal: to adapt, deliver, and evaluate digital media literacy resources for survivors of family violence and practitioners in the VAW sector

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Moving On:

Digital Empowerment and Literacy Skills for Survivors

- Trauma- and Violence-Informed Approach
- Address Complex Online Harms Through Digital Media Literacy Education
- Collaborative and Sustainable Interventions at Individual, Community, and Systems Levels



Resilience through DigitalSmarts



Facilitation Materials

Facilitation Guide

Handbook on Trauma-Informed Digital Media Literacy

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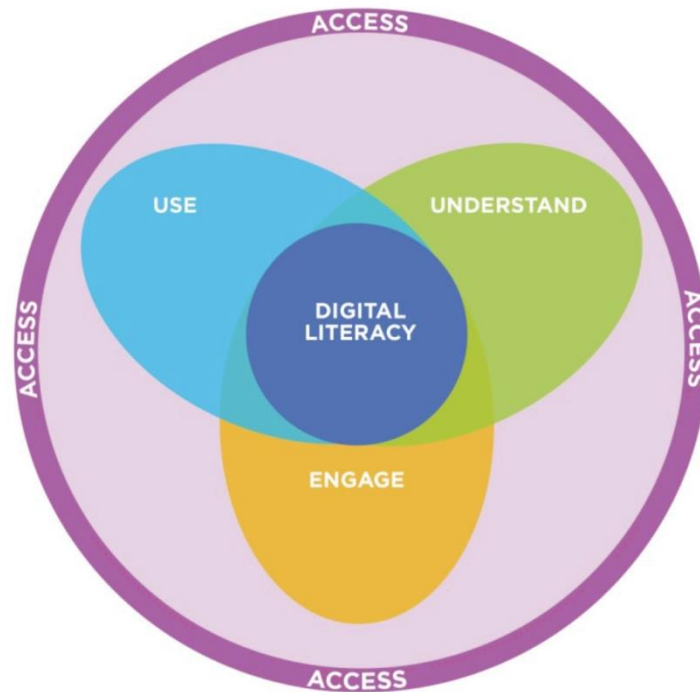
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Digital Media Literacy

Involves not just **access** to technology, but also how to **use**, **understand**, and **engage** with it.



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Technology-Facilitated Violence And Abuse

A form of abuse or controlling behaviour involving the use of technology to coerce, stalk, surveil, or harass another person

Trauma

An event or circumstance resulting in physical, emotional, and/or life-threatening harm.

Trauma also includes the lasting adverse effects that this event or circumstance has on an individual's physical, mental, emotional, social and spiritual health and well-being

Re-traumatization

The re-activation of trauma symptoms through thoughts, memories, or feelings related to a past trauma experience.

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Trauma- and Violence-Informed Approach

- Recognizes widespread impacts, signs, and symptoms of trauma and understands potential paths for recovery; fully integrates knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, and practices; and seeks to actively resist re-traumatization
—SAMHSA, 2014
- Implementing a trauma- and violence-informed approach is a continuous process and not an outcome
- We welcome comments, suggestions, feedback or promising practices on trauma-informed approaches





QUESTIONS?

ABOUT MEDIA SMARTS

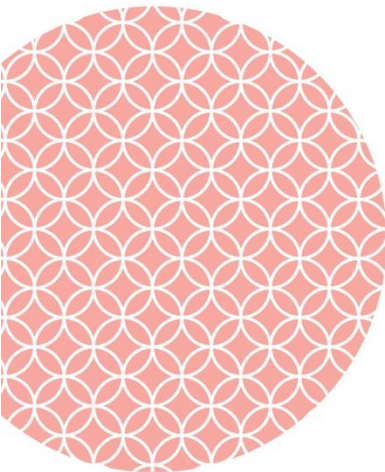
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Handbook content

- Background information
- Six foundation principles for a trauma-informed approach
- Promising practices in implementing these six principles
- Considerations for remote/virtual facilitation
- Tip sheet



KEY PRINCIPLES

of a trauma and violence-
informed approach

KEY PRINCIPLES

of a trauma and violence-
informed approach

SAFETY

TRUST AND
TRANSPARENCY

EMPOWERMENT

PEER
SUPPORT

INTERSECTIONALITY
AND CULTURAL
HUMILITY

COLLABORATION

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Based on SAMHSA 2014

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Safety

Participants and facilitators should feel physically, emotionally and psychologically safe



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Safety in the workshop design

- Multiple breaks (especially after potentially difficult discussions)
- Inclusive and empowering language
- Statements of fact
- Suggesting signals to indicate when participants need a break



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Safety: Promising Practices

For facilitators:

- Try to maintain awareness of your own emotions
- Have two facilitators per workshop to support breaks and instances where one-on-one attention may be needed
- Identify and utilize available resources and supports before, during, or after workshops
- Refer to tip sheet at the end of the handbook



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Safety: Promising Practices

For participants:

- Explain key concepts
- Consider the way a physical space is set up
- Look for signs of re-traumatization
- Prepare to potentially implement de-escalation techniques
- Debrief



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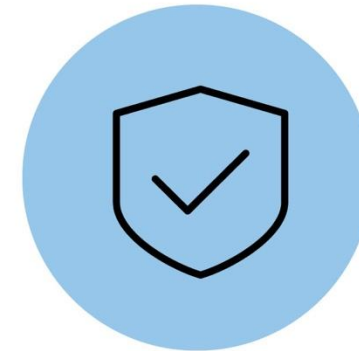
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Trust and Transparency

- built through being honest and clear about processes and operations during workshops
- allows participants to feel in-control and empowered while discussing potentially difficult topics



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Trust And Transparency: Promising Practices

- Confirm participants understand the workshop purpose and agenda
- Set expectations and boundaries at the start
- Check in regularly, allow for breaks when needed
- Communicate when you need to adjust the agenda

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Peer Support & Collaboration

Key to establishing safety, well-being, and resilience because participants are often more empowered by collective rather than individual efforts



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Peer Support & Collaboration: Promising Practices

- Allow space and time for building relationships
- Allow participants to first assess and express their needs
- Collaborate with participants to make decisions where possible



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Empowering Participants

Encouraging participants' strengths and honouring their experiences, choices, and contributions

Especially important because of the feelings of powerlessness and lack of control associated with trauma and abuse



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Empowering Participants: Promising Practices

- Allow participants to make choices
- Affirm and validate participation
- Ask questions that encourage resiliency

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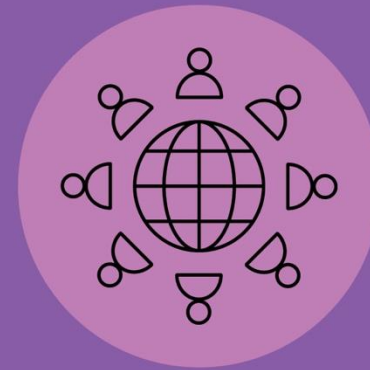
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Considering Intersectionality And Cultural Humility

A trauma-informed approach acknowledges, respects, and is responsive to participants' identities and the intersections within those identities



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Intersectionality & Cultural Humility In The Workshop Design

This program is shaped by MediaSmarts' work with a diverse network of partners and advisors who serve a diverse group of survivors



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Considering Intersectionality & Cultural Humility: Promising Practices

- Maintain awareness of identities, their intersections, and how they may impact participants' trauma and participation
- Be respectful and open to different cultural approaches and ways of knowing
- Avoid assumptions and generalizations of different identities
- Use inclusive language and approaches



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Remote Facilitation: Challenges

- Barriers created by not sharing the same physical space (e.g. protecting participants privacy)
- Participants may join from spaces in which they experienced trauma
- Screen fatigue



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Remote Facilitation: Promising Practices

- Confirm participants are in a safe and comfortable space
- As much as possible, ensure online privacy and safety
- Make use of online features that can enable safety and well-being
- Consider body language and environment

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Tip Sheet: Summary of Promising Practices

Key Definitions:

Digital Media Literacy: the ability to access, use, understand, and engage with media in all forms confidently and critically.

Technology-Facilitated Violence and Abuse: a form of abuse or controlling behaviour involving the use of technology to coerce, stalk, surveil or harass another person.

Trauma-Informed Approaches: understand and are sensitive to the histories of trauma that people carry and encourage environments of well-being and safety rather than practices that may inadvertently re-traumatize.



Recommended Practices

Safety

- Confirm that participants understand key concepts including trauma and abuse.
- Establish access to supports.
- Look for signs of triggers and re-traumatization.
- Review de-escalation techniques.
- Set up the space with safety in mind.
- Allow more time for debriefs if needed.

Trustworthiness and Transparency

- Confirm participants understand the workshop purpose and agenda.
- Set expectations and boundaries.
- Check in regularly, allow for breaks when needed.
- Be honest and transparent including when you don't know something.

Peer Support and Collaboration

- Allow space and time for building relationships.
- Allow participants to first assess and express their needs.
- Collaborate with participants to make decisions where possible.

Empowerment

- Allow participants to make choices.
- Affirm and validate participation.
- Ask questions that encourage resilience such as: "What thoughts or actions give you hope?"

Cultural Humility

- Maintain awareness of identities, their intersections and how they may impact participants' trauma and participation.
- Be respectful and open to different cultural approaches and ways of knowing.
- Avoid assumptions and generalizations of different identities.
- Use inclusive language and approaches.

Remote Facilitation

- Confirm participants are in a safe space and can protect their online safety and privacy.
- Make use of online features such as registration and breakout rooms to promote participant safety.
- Consider how your body language and environment may come across to participants.
- Debrief and send follow-up email with workshop materials, resources, and supports.

Resources for Further Information

- SAMHSA on [Trauma and Violence](#) and [Trauma- and Violence-Informed Principles](#)
- [Tech Safety Canada](#)
- [Implementing Trauma- and Violence-Informed Care: A Handbook](#)
- [Trauma-Informed Self-Assessment for Facilitators](#)



QUESTIONS?



RESILIENCE THROUGH DIGITALSMARTS

About the workshops

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Digital storytelling
workshop

Workshop evaluation

Questions

Wrap-up/Next steps

Introductory workshops

- Intended for participants with most limited skills
- Focus on fundamental skills in **Access** and **Use** categories
- Little overlap



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Digital storytelling
workshop

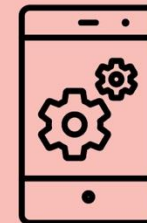
Workshop evaluation

Questions

Wrap-up/Next steps

Advanced workshops

- Intended for active Internet users
- Cover more advanced **Use** skills and introduce **Understand** and **Engage** skills
- Some overlap with Introductory workshops and each other



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Digital storytelling
workshop

Workshop evaluation

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Wrap-up/Next steps

Workshop format

Each workshop follows the same structure:

- Overview
- Content topics
- Quizzes
- Hands-On Activities
- Troubleshooting
- Vocabulary review
- Questions
- Follow-up: video and practice sheet



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workshop

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Wrap-up/Next steps

ACTIVITY

Pick **one** trauma-informed principle
*(safety; trust and transparency; peer
support and collaboration;
empowering participants;
considering intersectionality &
cultural humility)*

Communicate **three** concrete ways
you could implement this principle
in a past or current program/project

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Sign up to attend our free training session January 2026



bit.ly/ms-signupform

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Four decorative shapes are positioned on the left side of the slide: a large blue semi-circle with a white zigzag pattern at the top left, a large purple semi-circle with a white circular pattern at the top right, a medium blue circle with a white dot pattern in the center left, and a large red semi-circle with a white grid pattern at the bottom left.

Thank you for attending!

info@mediasmarts.ca