



# Breaking the Silence: Strengthening Black Communities Through Collective DV Prevention

Conversation Session | Dr. Patrina Duhaney



presents:

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

*A NATIONAL CONFERENCE*

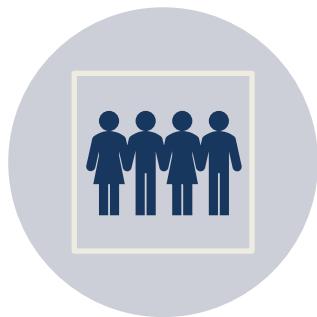
Oct 1–2, 2025



# Session Overview

- Facilitated conversation on domestic violence prevention in Black communities
  - Grounded in trauma-informed, community-anchored, and anti-racist practice
  - Focus on trust, healing, and accountability

# Session Objectives



EXAMINE STRUCTURAL  
FACTORS THAT  
INFLUENCE DV  
PREVENTION IN BLACK  
COMMUNITIES



LEARN FROM  
COMMUNITY-DRIVEN,  
IDENTITY-AFFIRMING  
STRATEGIES



REFLECT ON  
ENGAGEMENT  
PRACTICES THAT  
CENTRE HEALING AND  
LEADERSHIP

# Why This Conversation Matters

DV prevention has often excluded Black communities or pathologized them

We must shift from reactive models to community-rooted and leadership-driven practices

This conversation reclaims voice, insight, and direction from within Black communities



# Core Concepts



Trauma- and violence-informed principles



Ubuntu: I am because we are



Community accountability, not carceral default



Legacy and relational responsibility

# Community Strengths and Resistance

Examples of local leadership in healing and prevention

Collective care models rooted in Afro-diasporic traditions

Family-led and peer-led dialogue spaces

# Systemic Barriers

- Anti-Black racism and institutional distrust
- Funding inequities and invisibilization of Black-led work
- Siloed services that ignore intersecting realities



# Reflection Prompt - What's Missing?



- Where are Black voices missing in DV prevention frameworks?
- What assumptions exist in your own work?
- Where are opportunities for transformation being missed?



## Case Example

### - Rebuilding After Harm

- A Black family seeks support after an incident of violence but refuses child welfare involvement
- Community leaders step in to mediate and build a care plan
- What would support this work? What gets in the way?



## Relational Accountability in Action

- Leadership grounded in relationship, not control
- Repair over punishment
- Recognizing the impact of historical harm on present dynamics

# What Black Communities Are Saying



- “We need to stop being studied and start being supported.”
- “We already have the answers - we just need resources and trust.”
- “Accountability doesn’t start in a courtroom - it starts in our homes.”

# Reframing Prevention



- From intervention to interconnection
- From service to solidarity
- From compliance to community leadership

# Barriers to Engagement: Naming the Gaps

State surveillance and  
criminalization of  
Black families  
across generations

Institutional distrust  
rooted in systemic  
anti-Black racism  
and neglect

Chronic underfunding of  
Black-led domestic  
violence prevention  
efforts

Dominant narratives  
that erase strength and  
focus solely on deficits

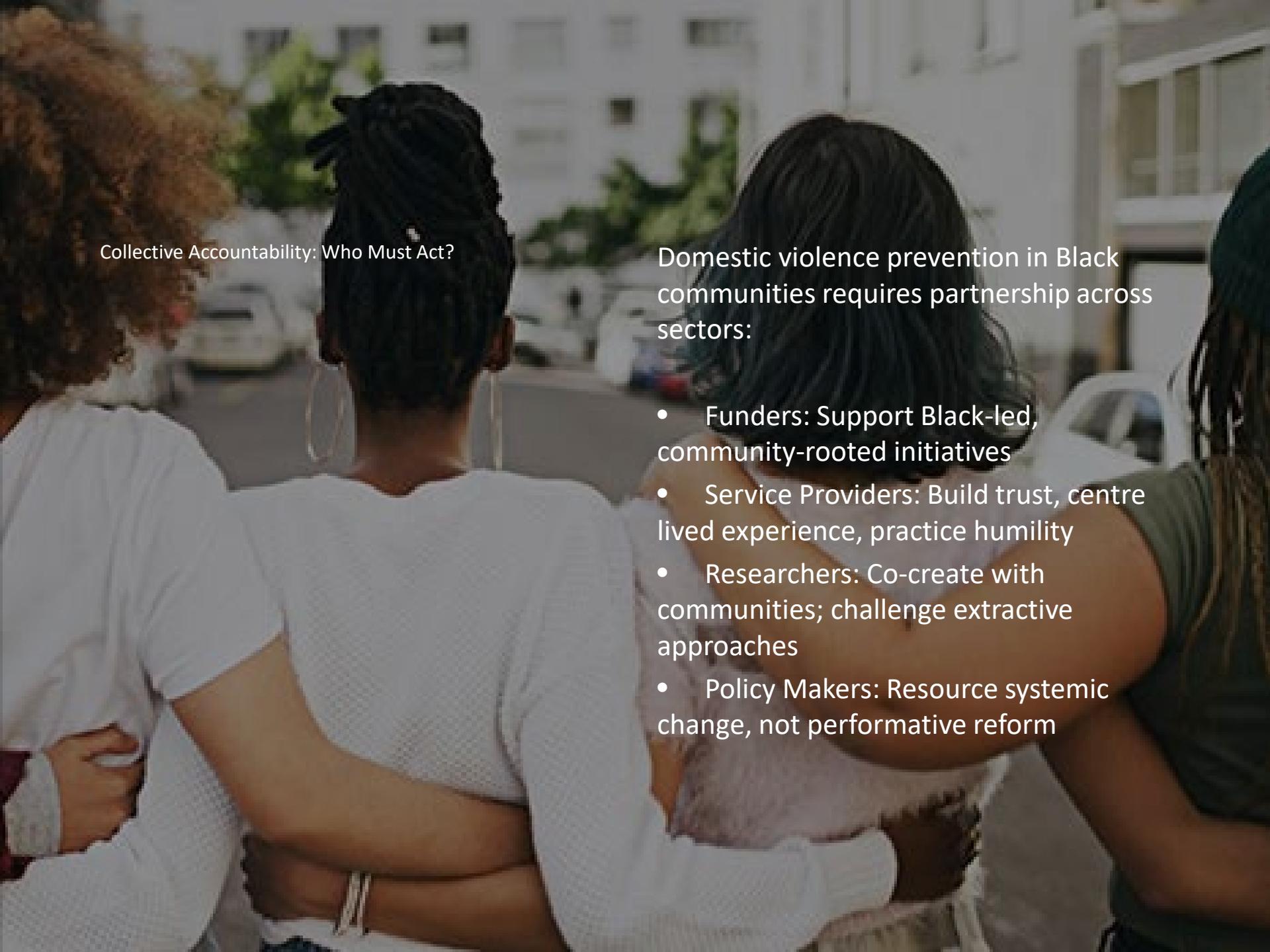
Limited access to  
trauma- and violence-  
informed supports  
shaped by Black  
community leadership



## From Exposure to Action

Now that we've named the barriers Black communities face, we ask:

- Who holds responsibility for interrupting systemic harm?
- How do we act collectively across roles and sectors?
- Let's explore what shared accountability can look like.



### Collective Accountability: Who Must Act?

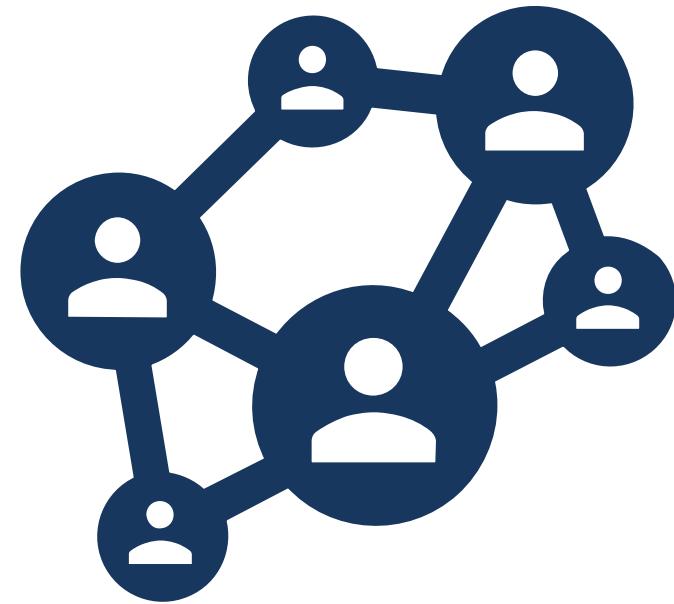
Domestic violence prevention in Black communities requires partnership across sectors:

- Funders: Support Black-led, community-rooted initiatives
- Service Providers: Build trust, centre lived experience, practice humility
- Researchers: Co-create with communities; challenge extractive approaches
- Policy Makers: Resource systemic change, not performative reform

# Reimagining Liberation: Beyond System Responses

What does collective well-being look like when defined by Black communities?

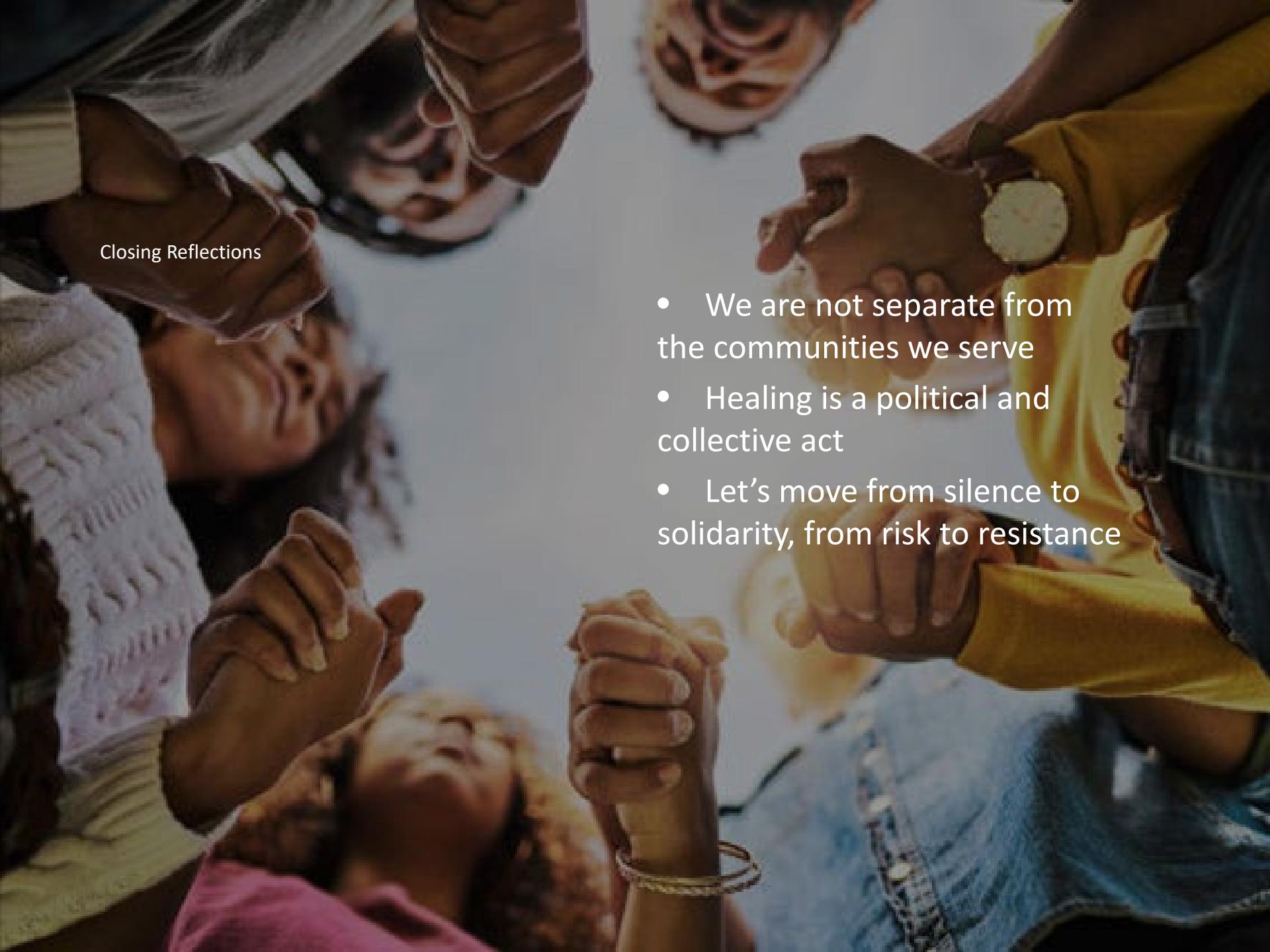
- Healing-centered spaces, not just risk assessments
- Intergenerational accountability, not surveillance
- Leadership, not stigma
- Trust-building, not token engagement
- Let's move from intervention to liberation.



# Reflective Dialogue



- What does accountability look like in your own work or community?
- What relational practices do you rely on or wish you had?
- What do you want to carry forward from today?



### Closing Reflections

- We are not separate from the communities we serve
- Healing is a political and collective act
- Let's move from silence to solidarity, from risk to resistance

Questions or  
Comments?



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