

A group of six Black people of various ages are smiling and posing together outdoors. In the foreground, a man with a beard and a woman are smiling broadly. Behind them, a young girl is being carried on a man's shoulders, and another woman is smiling. An older man is visible on the far left. The background shows a brick house and greenery under bright sunlight.

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

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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

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

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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

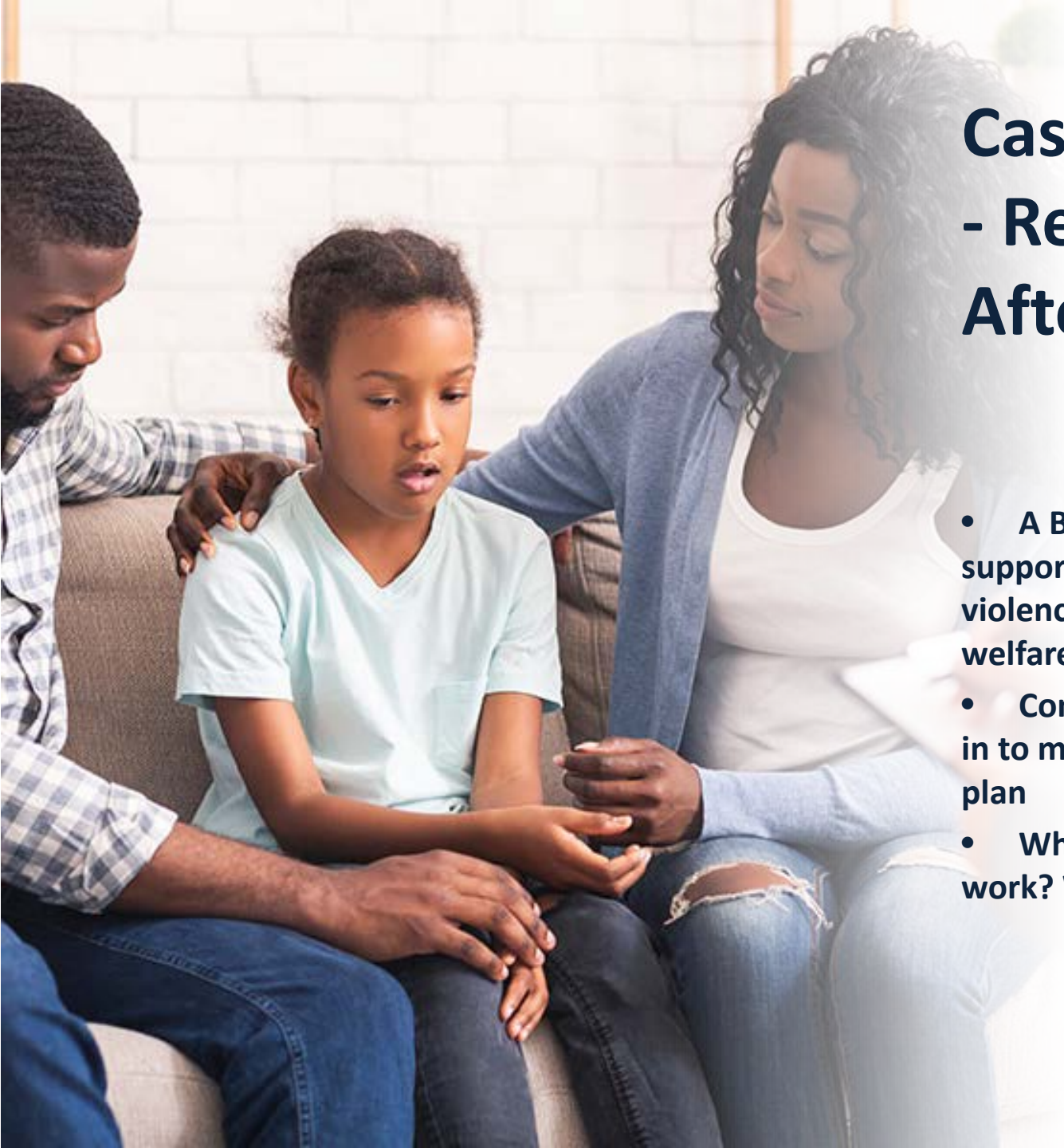
- Anti-Black racism and institutional distrust
- Funding inequities and invisibilization of Black-led work
- Siloed services that ignore intersecting realities



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

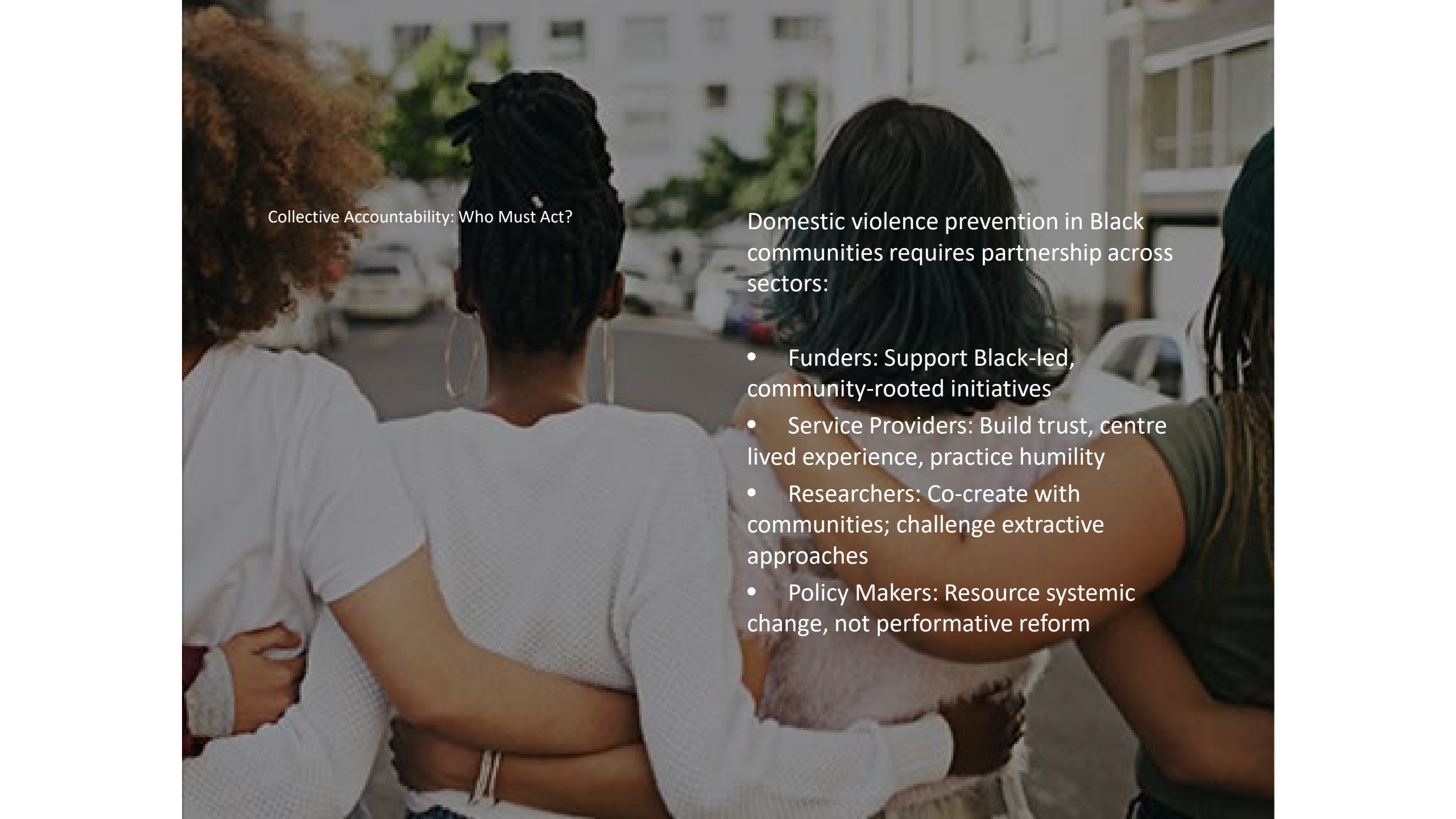
Limited access to
trauma- and violence-
informed supports
shaped by Black
community leadership



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?

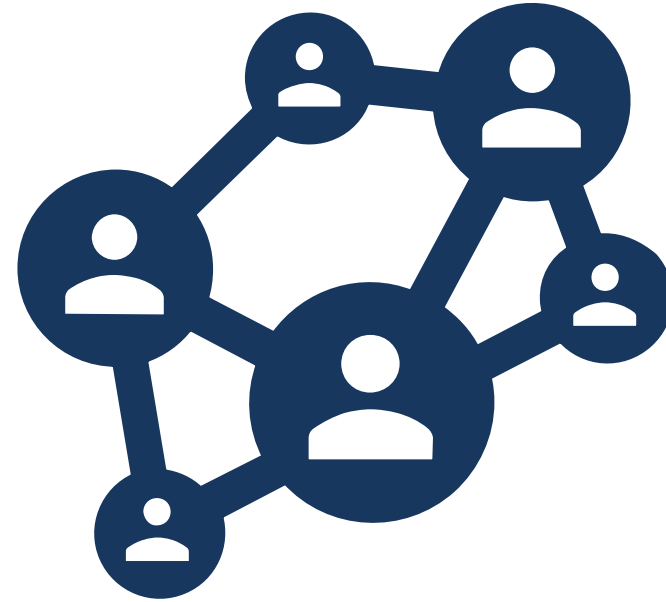
Domestic violence prevention in Black communities requires partnership across sectors:

- 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?

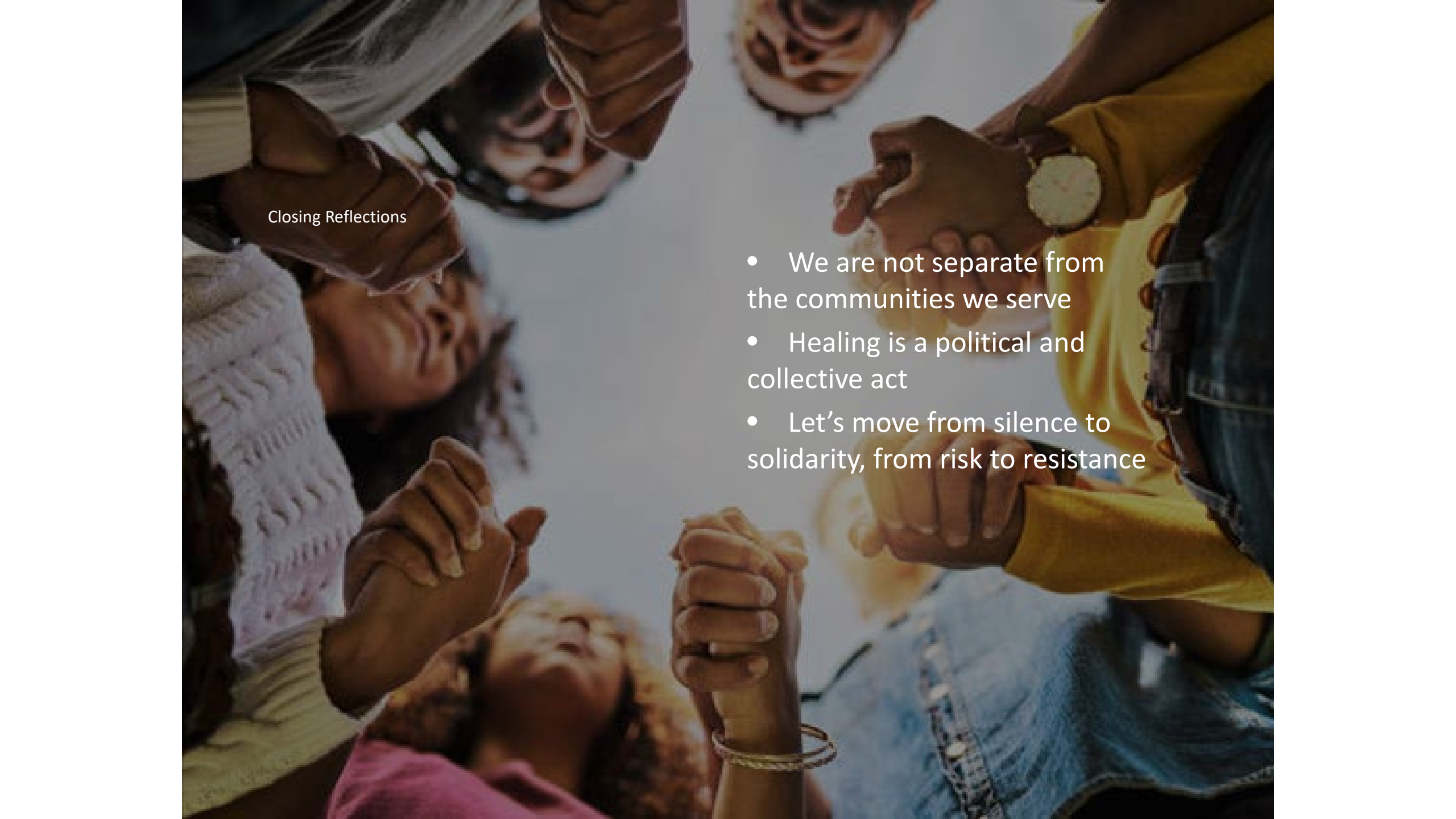
- Healing-centered spaces, not just risk assessments
- Intergenerational accountability, not surveillance
- Leadership, not stigma
- Trust-building, not token engagement
- Let's move from intervention to liberation.



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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