

learning through
transformative education



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Empowerment, training and advocacy photos by Todd France.

CTI 
CONNECT TRAINING INSTITUTE
Transformative Education

CONNECT is dedicated to ending family and gender violence.

Our goals are safe families and peaceful communities. Through a holistic combination of prevention, education and early intervention programs, we work within families and communities to transform the beliefs and behaviors that fuel patterns of abuse.



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THE CONNECT TRAINING INSTITUTE (CTI)

transforms the understanding of New York-based community leaders and social service professionals about the causes and consequences of family and gender violence. Intensive training sessions equip participants to develop prevention and intervention strategies in their communities, workplaces, schools, health care centers and faith-based organizations.

THROUGH TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION,

participants critically examine beliefs and behaviors, shifting their perceptions of family violence and illuminating its many dimensions. Graduates develop skills to help individuals and communities keep women and children safe, hold batterers accountable and cultivate relationships based on mutual respect.

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CTI COURSES

- > **The Faces of Family Violence: The Essentials and Intersection**
- > **Women's Empowerment for Survivors and Victims**
- > **Working with Children Exposed to Domestic Violence**
- > **Understanding Men Who Batter and Abuse**
- > **Batterers Intervention Training**
- > **Parenting Education for Mothers Affected by Intimate Partner Violence**
- > **Girls Empowerment**

SPECIALIZED TRAININGS

- > CTI also designs specialized training on family violence that meets the needs of individual organizations or professional groups, including unions, health care workers, clergy and corporations.

EXPERT PRESENTATIONS

- > A speaker series brings in leading experts to highlight particular issues related to family violence, such as masculinity and gender, racial and class oppression, the role of the media and the effects of trauma.

For more information or to enroll in CTI, email cti@connectnyc.org, or visit www.connectnyc.org/cti.htm



changing awareness

CTI TRAINING explores the impact of family violence on the whole family. The core curriculum includes an intensive introductory course on family violence and six specialized courses.

The Faces of Family Violence: The Essentials and Intersection is a four-day intensive course on the fundamentals of domestic violence. A prerequisite for all other CTI courses, it emphasizes the intersections between violence and the many health and social justice issues affecting New York City's communities. Topics include types of abuse and trauma, impacts on women and children, why men batter and abuse, safety planning, HIV and substance abuse, culture and immigration, issues for the lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgendered/questioning communities, and the navigation of social service and legal systems.

Women's Empowerment for Survivors and Victims is for people working with women victims and survivors. It looks at how family violence shapes personal and social lives, and teaches techniques for empowering and healing victims. Participants develop their own curricula, cultivate advocacy skills and create a personal self-care plan to manage the stress of working with trauma victims.

Working with Children Exposed to Domestic Violence instructs participants on the impacts of trauma at different stages of development, from infancy to adolescence. The course presents play therapy techniques for individuals and groups, along with methods for nurturing children's natural resilience and potential for healing.

Understanding Men Who Batter and Abuse helps participants deconstruct the cultural, psychological, racial and historical underpinnings of family violence. Participants investigate their own gender socialization and experiences with family violence.

Batterers Intervention Training develops the in-depth knowledge and skills required to lead batterers intervention groups. Female and male instructors co-lead the training using role plays and theatre techniques to model healthy relationships. Graduates of Understanding Men Who Batter and Abuse are selected for the course through an evaluation.

"Sometimes it's hard for men—particularly those who are marginalized—to understand their role in oppressing women. Using racism or classism as a parallel can help men to understand their position of power and where they fall in a larger system."

Quentin Walcott, CTI Director

Parenting Education for Mothers Affected by Intimate Partner Violence offers knowledge, practices and skills for those helping to mothers respond to their children's experiences of family violence. Participants learn to create space for mothers to reflect on factors shaping their parenting beliefs and style.

Girls Empowerment is a six-day course on teen dating violence and other abuses that girls and young women face. It provides room to explore these issues and heal the hurtful impacts of gender socialization. Participants acquire skills to set up peer-to-peer and community action projects for girls.

Realigning Relationships

"We have to be committed to equality, and we have to practice it seven days a week. Walk the walk," urges John Aponte, a psychologist who co-leads the Working with Men Who Batter and Abuse course with Pamela Edstrom.

Working with batterers can be difficult and potentially dangerous, but it is key to preventing family violence. CTI's training approach is rigorous and comprehensive, calling for a fundamental realignment of understanding about individual and social relationships

Pamela canvasses the room at a recent class, asking participants to 'check in' on their personal and professional experiences. One talks about improving screening for family violence in an emergency room where cases go undetected. Another explains how he recently responded with an apology rather than anger to a misunderstanding.



Over three hours, the conversation touches upon such core issues as responsibility and accountability, and negotiation and compromise. John and Pamela regularly link the discussion to the role of male privilege and power in family violence. Participants role-play a discussion between a husband and wife, first as a confrontation and then as a search for consensus. They make connections among the types of abuse they've seen in institutions and between people.

"We are planting seeds," Pamela says. By cultivating awareness within themselves, CTI graduates carry it out into the world.

