



# 2022 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INSTITUTE

September 8, 2022  
8:15 am-5 pm

Hilton Garden Inn  
201 E 8th St  
Sioux Falls, SD



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South Dakota Network Against Family Violence and Sexual Assault

# KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**MIRA YUSEF**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**MONSOON ASIANS AND PACIFIC  
ISLANDERS IN SOLIDARITY**

Mira Yusef is a co-founder and executive director of Monsoon Asians & Pacific Islanders in Solidarity. She has also helped incubate four other organizations serving victims of gender-based violence in marginalized populations: Nisaa African Family Services; Iowa ARCh (Affirmation and Resources Chat) chatline; Iowa Coalition for Collective Change; and SAFI (Support for Arab Families in Iowa). Since 2010, Mira has been organizing and facilitating trainings and technical assistance on addressing gender-based violence locally, nationally, and internationally. She has a master's degree in Social Work, with specialization in Community Organizing, and a Master of Arts in Southeast Asian Studies from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Mira was a recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship, 2004-2005, to pursue research in the Philippines on Muslim Filipinas employed as domestic workers in the Middle East. She was also awarded the National Security Education Program (NSEP) David Boren Fellowship in 2006 to study the Indonesian and Malay languages as well as conduct field research in Malaysia and Philippines.



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**WORKING TOGETHER TO PROMOTE VICTIMS'  
RIGHTS FOR A SAFER SOUTH DAKOTA**

# KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**MELISSA HIATT**  
**PRESIDENT**

**LEVAV LEADERSHIP CONSULTING**

Melissa brings a practical expertise and professional skill set to develop the emotional health of individuals, teams and organizations. Melissa fulfills her professional calling and goals as the President of Levav Leadership Consulting, Senior Consultant at Leadership Vision Consulting, and Pediatric Chaplain at Sanford Health.



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# KEYNOTE SPEAKER

## GENE JOHNSON COURT INNOVATION

Mr. Gene A. Johnson, Jr. facilitates and develops curriculums for battering intervention programs for men and young men. These programs include Center for Court Innovation's Supervised Release Tactics and Choices, Urban Resource Institute Abusive Partner Intervention Program in collaboration with the Office of the District Attorney of New York, Rising Ground's (formerly Edwin Gould Services for Families) STEPS to End Family Violence Teen Accountability Program in partnership with Kings County Criminal Court Youthful Offender Domestic Violence Court, Community Driven Solutions and Safe Horizon's Domestic Violence Accountability Program.

Mr. Johnson has facilitated and designed various processes to promote dialogues about masculinity and its role in society.

Gene has also developed and facilitated conflict resolution, mediation, and restorative justice trainings and models in various New York City public schools.

He is also a mediator, conflict resolution consultant, New York State certified basic mediation trainer, New York State certified ombudsman, facilitator and a parliamentarian (Robert Rules of Order) experienced with divorce, custody and visitation, child support, family, restorative justice, transformative mediation and victim offender mediation. He also was on a committee that created a mediation domestic violence screening tool used in New York State family court.



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# THE AGENDA

\* All times notated are Central Standard Time

*Lunch and snacks will be provided thanks to the generous sponsorship of the Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation*

- 7:30-8:15am** Registration, Networking, & Breakfast
- 8:15-8:30am** Welcome, Opening Prayer & Lakota Song  
Krista Heeren-Graber
- 8:30-9:45am** **KEYNOTE**  
Building Our Capacity in Serving Multi-Lingual Victims & Survivors  
Mira Yusef  
*Monsoon Asians and Pacific Islanders in Solidarity*
- 9:45-10:00am** Break
- 10:00-11:30am** **BREAKOUT SESSION I - Revir A**  
**Working with Multi-Lingual Survivors: Mira Yusef**  
Providing Trauma-Informed & Culturally Relevant Victim Services to Multi-Lingual Victims & Survivors
- Survivor Track: SD Survivor Task Force Against Family Violence, Sexual Assault + Sex Trafficking - Revir B**  
Navigating the long-Term Impact of Domestic Violence
- Abusive Partner Intervention Programming Track: Court Innovation - Revir C-D**  
Enhancing Facilitation Skills: Incorporating the Sciences of Trauma and Hope into Programming
- 11:30-1:00pm** Lunch
- 1:00-2:15pm** **KEYNOTE**  
Rumbling with Vulnerability  
Melissa Hiatt  
*Levav Leadership Consulting*
- 2:15-2:30pm** Break

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**2:30-3:30pm**

## **BREAKOUT SESSION II**

**Working with Multi-Lingual Survivors:**

**Taneeza Islam & Olimpia Justice - Revir A**

Building Trust Through Language Access

**Survivor Track: SD Survivor Task Force Against**

**Family Violence, Sexual Assault +**

**Sex Trafficking - Revir B**

South Dakota Tool Kit for Domestic Violence,  
Sexual Assault + Sex Trafficking

**Abusive Partner Intervention Programming Track: Court  
Innovation - Revir C-D**

Enhancing Facilitation Skills: Self- Reflection and Holistic  
Engagement In Abusive Partner Intervention Programs

**3:30-3:45pm**

Break

**3:45-5:00pm**

## **KEYNOTE**

**Working with Abusive Partner Intervention Programs:**

**Increasing Safety, Accountability and Engagement**

Gene Johnson

*Court Innovation*

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## **BUILDING OUR CAPACITY IN SERVING MULTI-LINGUAL VICTIMS & SURVIVORS**

MIRA YUSEF

Starting the conversation regarding offering culturally-relevant services and what that looks like.

## **RUMBLING WITH VULNERABILITY**

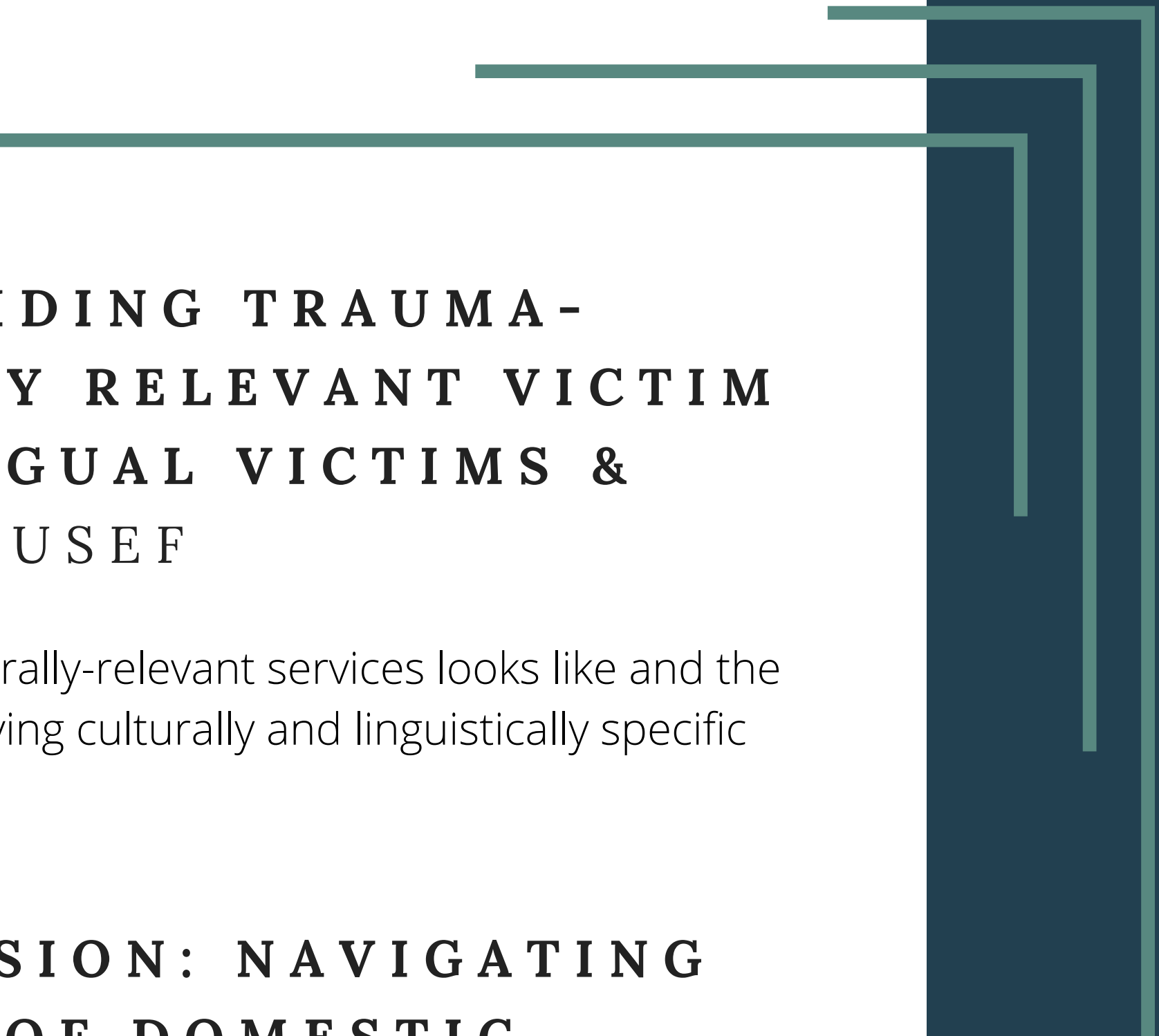
MELISSA HIATT

Vulnerability feels like weakness, but it's not. Vulnerability is our greatest measure of courage. Participants will learn to pay attention to the internal messages that happen when they feel vulnerable. Learning to rumble with our feelings of vulnerability will lead to greater emotional strength and courage.

## **WORKING WITH ABUSIVE PARTNER INTERVENTION PROGRAMS: INCREASING SAFETY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND ENGAGEMENT**

GENE JOHNSON

Jurisdictions across the country are looking for new ways to include abusive partner intervention in their coordinated community approach to domestic violence, seeking flexible, holistic approaches that reflect the needs and strengths of their communities. The Center, together with Futures Without Violence and our OVW funded partners on the Abusive Partner Intervention and Engagement TTA project developed a set of guiding principles to inform our work with jurisdictions that is values-based. These Guiding Principles focus on survivor centered, culturally responsive, trauma informed and strengths-based approaches to abusive partners, encouraging communities to create programs and responses that reflect the diversity of their communities and center the voices of those most impacted by intimate partner violence. This presentation will invite attendees to reflect on the strengths and needs of their communities and offer strategies to create values-based responses that support multiple pathways to accountability, safety and healing. Apply guiding principles and best practices to individual jurisdictions. Identify innovative national practices to engage people who cause harm through intimate partner violence. Identify local collaborative strategies to increase accountability and safety through abusive partner intervention programming.



**A CONVERSATION: PROVIDING TRAUMA-  
INFORMED & CULTURALLY RELEVANT VICTIM  
SERVICES TO MULTI-LINGUAL VICTIMS &  
SURVIVORS WITH MIRA YUSEF**

A space to continue to discuss what culturally-relevant services looks like and the different strategies and challenges in serving culturally and linguistically specific communities.

**SURVIVOR PANEL DISCUSSION: NAVIGATING  
THE LONG-TERM IMPACT OF DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE WITH THE SD SURVIVOR TASK FORCE**

The Survivor Panel Discussion will provide the opportunity to hear first-hand from those who have survived domestic violence. Each speaker will courageously share their personal story of heart break and resilience as they continue to navigate the long-term impact of abuse. This panel discussion will not only entail the struggle for voice and justice, but speakers will also share the desperate need for a survivor informed approach regarding the legal and judicial system and therapeutic resources, how finding the courage to ask for help impacted them, and where they are today on their personal journey of healing.

**ENHANCING FACILITATION SKILLS:  
INCORPORATING THE SCIENCES OF TRAUMA  
AND HOPE INTO PROGRAMMING WITH GENE  
JOHNSON, TERRI STRODHOFF & JIM HENDERSON**

Practitioners must acknowledge the nuances and complexities of humanity, understanding that many people who cause harm have been impacted by systems of oppression, may have experienced trauma in their own lives, and have varying levels of risks and access to basic needs. All these factors may influence their use of abuse and/or pathways to change. Engagement and intervention strategies should be trauma informed and person-centered, moving away from one-size-fits-all approaches, addressing the unique needs of participants, and leveraging participants' inherent strengths and goals to effect positive behavior change. The purpose of this workshop is to give participants to understand trauma informed facilitation and how to create space for achieving hope and healing. Program providers are highly encouraged to attend.



## **BUILDING TRUST THROUGH LANGUAGE ACCESS WITH TANEZA ISLAM & OLIMPIA JUSTICE**

Interpreters are the key to building trust with multilingual clients. Having forms and materials available in other languages creates a more welcoming and inclusive environment. This session will focus on barriers multilingual survivors face in our ecosystem of services in South Dakota and explore its impact on survivors healing. We will identify opportunities for service providers to provide language access and understand the importance of cultural competency in providing services.

## **SOUTH DAKOTA TOOL KIT FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT & SEX TRAFFICKING WITH SD SURVIVOR TASK FORCE**

The "South Dakota Tool Kit for Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault & Sex Trafficking" was created by survivors to give the gift of hope and to help others effected by abuse. As survivors, we had to learn what abuse was, many of us not recognizing that what we were experiencing was in fact abuse. This tool kit provides in-depth definitions of the various elements of abuse in an effort to help others further identify, understand, and navigate ongoing circumstances and/or the aftermath of abuse. It is our goal to also provide a comprehensive list of available services & support information to victims, survivors, non-advocate agencies and our community members. This is an online tool kit with the ability to print or share.

## **ENHANCING FACILITATION SKILLS: SELF- REFLECTION AND HOLISTIC ENGAGEMENT IN ABUSIVE PARTNER INTERVENTION PROGRAMS WITH WITH CENTER FOR COURT INNOVATION**

Facilitating a healing, growth, and accountability process for others is only possible as an extension of the facilitators' exploration of those factors in their own lives. Everyone is impacted by systems of oppression—white supremacy, heteropatriarchy, settler colonialism, ableism, classism—as well as their own personal experiences of trauma, and everyone can cause harm. These factors prevent one's capacity to be present for others in ways that promote healing and transformation. Facilitators, agency leadership, and system stakeholders must engage in ongoing self-reflection to understand and acknowledge their privilege and power, actively work to dismantle systems of oppression, and take accountability for harm caused in their own lives and within their fields of practice. This breaks down the us vs. them dichotomy that separates anti-IPV professionals from participants and provides a model of self-reflection and accountability for participants and the broader community. The purpose of this workshop is to give participants the opportunity to practice self-reflection and identify concrete ways to center racial equity in the work of abusive partner intervention. Program providers are highly encouraged to attend.

# BREAKOUT SPEAKERS

## T A N E E Z A I S L A M

Taneeza Islam, Esq. is an immigration lawyer working with survivors of violence in South Dakota since 2014. She is the co-founder and Executive Director of SD Voices for Peace, the only nonprofit organization in the state providing free immigration legal services to survivors and unaccompanied minors from Central America. SDVFP's mission is to build power and enable healing in immigrant, refugee and Muslim communities by amplifying their voices and working in solidarity with all who dismantle bigotry and racism. Our programs include civic engagement, education, and advocacy on issues that impact immigrant communities. In response to COVID, SDVFP raised \$1.2M for the states only emergency relief fund for immigrants, received federal grants to educate and provide access to COVID and flu vaccines for multilingual communities and is currently engaging in Medicaid expansion.

## O L I M P I A J U S T I C E

Olimpia Justice is a trusted interpreter and translator with 25 years of experience and has been working with Taneeza since 2017. She is passionate about bilingual literacy and education, as well as suicide and gun violence prevention. In 2003, she graduated from the University of the Americas-Puebla school of law and has called Sioux Falls home since 2005. She lives with her husband, three daughters, two rescue cats and a dog.

## T E R R I S T R O D T H O F F

Terri Strodthoff is the Founder and Executive Director of the Alma Center, a national award-winning community-based agency in Milwaukee pioneering the approach of Healing Focused Care to support transformative change and end cycles of violence and abuse. Dr. Strodthoff has 30 years experience in the work of domestic violence intervention and prevention, including program design and administration, evaluation and direct service delivery. Dr. Strodthoff received her Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. She has co-authored articles and is a regular presenter and trainer for national and local audiences.



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## GENE JOHNSON

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# BREAKOUT SPEAKERS

## JAMES HENDERSON

James Henderson is an internationally known expert and author around the criminal justice and systems response to intimate partner violence. He has been the director of Accountable Choices, a men's program addressing intimate partner violence and fatherhood in the Detroit metropolitan area, since 1995. He also facilitates gender responsive, trauma informed and holistic focused alcohol education and prevention courses, which look at the multiple pathways into addiction.

As a consultant, he is the director of Offender Accountability for the Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention. He is a trainer with the international training team of the European Alliance for Hope and Empowerment since 2018 and for the Red Rose Foundation in Australia since 2017.

James provides probation training as an associate with the National Criminal Justice Training Center of Fox Valley Technical College. He is working with the Center for Court Innovations around trauma informed and hope focus intervention with men and assisting communities on improving the delivery or engagement of programs addressing men's use of coercive control. From 2002-2019 he provided technical assistance for the Office on Violence against Women's federally funded grantees through The Battered Women's Justice Project, and the American Probation and Parole Association.

He has partnered with several national and international training organizations on a multitude of projects involving criminal and family court, offender accountability, collaboration, engagement, and intervention, all tapping into his 25 years of experience in the field of abuse, trauma and recovery.



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