



**IN THEIR  
SHOES:**

Teens and

**Dating**

**Violence**

“In Her Shoes / In Their Shoes” copyright © 2020 Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WSCADV). Used under license. All rights reserved. All trademarks, logos, and branding therein are owned by WSCADV. None of the “In Her Shoes / In Their Shoes” materials or marks provided or incorporated herein may be used, reproduced, or transmitted, in whole or in part, in any form or by any means, except with permission from WSCADV ([www.wscadv.org](http://www.wscadv.org)).



OVW Disclaimer - This project was supported by Grant No. 2020-CY-AX-0003 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this presentation are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.



# Welcome to In Their Shoes: Teens and Dating Violence Classroom Edition

- ▶ This scenario-based training is designed to help participants learn and talk about what dating is like for today's teens- from their perspective.
- ▶ Scenarios are based on true stories
- ▶ We encourage you to reach out to the supportive people in your life if this experience brings up anything difficult for you.
- ▶ **Trigger Warning!!!**

- ▶ The characters stories were created based on the real-life experiences of teens.
- ▶ You will have the opportunity to walk in these teen's shoes by reading the cards and following the directions and making choices.
- ▶ A Heads Up: The people in these stories experience some troubling things. We will be doing a follow-up debrief. Most likely somebody in your group has gone through something similar.

# Goals of In Her Shoes

- ▶ Spark discussion
- ▶ Increase awareness
- ▶ Encourage Empathy

Everyone deserves to be in relationships where we are respected, loved, and valued.

# Let's Get Started:

- ▶ The characters whose stories you are about to read were created based on the real-life experiences of survivors.
- ▶ You will have the opportunity to walk in a survivor's shoes for a short time:
  - ▶ Reading the cards
  - ▶ Following the directions
  - ▶ Making Choices

# Instructions: How to Walk In Their Shoes-

You will become a character

## Characters

Click on the name of a character to see their story.



**Ashley**



**Cara**



**Derek**



**Elena**



**Kyoko**



**Samantha**

# You will begin by getting to know your character on their introduction card.



**Ashley**

Click here to  
see Jimmy's  
perspective

## **Ashley Marie Carlson**

I'm Ashley and I live with my parents and my sisters. I'm the oldest. Next time I blow out my candles I'll be 17. We live in the country. My dad's a mechanic and can fix anything. My mom does hair at a salon in town.

After I graduate, I want to be a flight attendant and travel, travel, travel! Flight attendants get to help people feel comfortable. I'm good at that. In my room I have posters of the Eiffel Tower and Buckingham Palace.

I've gone out with a few boys, like to the movies and stuff. But nothing more. Like Pastor Thomas says, "A woman's body is a flower that only blooms in holy matrimony." Then I met Jimmy. He's totally cute and smart. I know we've only been together for one month, but I'm pretty sure he's *the one*. OMG don't get me started, I could talk about him all day!!!!

Go to **Together - Card #1**

Before you move to the next card, check the back of the card for the “Thoughts” of the character's partner.

### **James (Jimmy) Woodward**

*I'm Jimmy and I'll be 21 next month. I can't believe I'm back here, living in my parents' basement. It's not like I didn't do anything while I was gone. I got my degree from community college. First in my family to go past high school. I had a job in a packing plant and they said I was "management material." Seriously. But then it went south. I'm just here for a little while, until I can get back on my feet again.*

*I looked for work hard for a month when I got*

*back home. But the only offer I got was at the local burger joint and I swear I still have nightmares from the four years I worked there before. No way, man. Not doin' that again.*

*So I've just been layin' low. Been lifting weights, playing video games, and checking out chicks online. Then I met Ashley. Damn! She's the one good thing I've got goin'. She's got these huge blue eyes. Man, when I'm with her, everything's OK. She makes me feel like I've got another chance.*

# Select the choice you would like your character to make. Some cards have multiple choices, others have only one.

—Continue to walk in your character's shoes and make choices until you finish their story.

## Together - Card #1

Jimmy's parents are at work and he asked you to cut school and watch a movie with him in his room. At first you didn't want to, but then he asked you what you really learned at school and you had to admit, not much.

Jimmy's lit all these candles—like 50 of them! It is sooooo beautiful and sweet! Soon you're kissing and it feels so good. Then Jimmy takes off your shirt and it's thrilling and scary at the same time. Then his fingers are on the top button of your jeans. "No," you murmur, pushing his hand away.

"C'mon baby..." he says.

"Please...Jimmy...no..."

"You'll like it, I promise..."

Then your cell phone rings and you jump up to get it. It's your mom. You throw your shirt back on. "Tease," he whispers. You're not really sure what to say so you tell him you need to get home, and Jimmy says, "Fine, as long as I get to see you tomorrow..."

If you can't wait to tell your best friend Chelsea, go to

**Friends - Card #1**

If you want to go home and help your mom with dinner, go to

**Family - Card #1**

# MAIN POINTS TO REMEMBER.....

- ▶ Stick to your character's color
- ▶ Follow the directions at the bottom of each card.
- ▶ Pick up the correct numbered card at the next station.
- ▶ Leave the cards at the stations.
- ▶ Always check the back of the card for the character's partner thoughts.

# Any Questions?

## READY - SET- GO.....

- ▶ We will give you a 10-minute warning before the simulation ends.
- ▶ At the end, we will all meet back up and have a debriefing discussion about your experiences.
- ▶ At anytime you need to take a break or debrief come find one of us.

# Debrief

- ▶ The simulation is not complete without a debrief.
  - ▶ We would like to give you the chance to debrief with in your group before we come to the main group.

## Debriefing Reflection



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Character's Name \_\_\_\_\_

After going through In Their Shoes,  
What did you think? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What did you feel? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What was the most surprising? Most difficult? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please add any additional thoughts:

# Group Debrief

- ▶ How does technology affect the dynamics of teen relationships? How can it be used to exploit/stalk/harass/control?
- ▶ How do these stories match up with what you see in teen relationships? How does the picture get murkier when both teens are using unhealthy and/or abusive tactics in relationships?
- ▶ Obviously, these characters do not depict the full range of experiences teens have in their relationships. What other kinds of behaviors and dynamics have you observed?
- ▶ Many teen relationships (both healthy and otherwise) are marked by levels of obsession. What is the difference between healthy and unhealthy or dangerous obsession?
- ▶ How are teens using alcohol and drugs? How does this use affect their lives and relationships?

# Group Debrief continued

- ▶ People who are trying to control their partners are also suffering in all sorts of ways. What was it like for you to observe the abusive partners' perspectives? How can we help both teens in an abusive relationship?
- ▶ Sexual coercion is a defining factor in teen dating violence. Given this, what are the implications for how we support teens to have positive, healthy relationships?
- ▶ How do family members' opinions about teens' partners impact their ability to make decisions about their relationships?
- ▶ Teens sometimes say that what looks out of control to adults can be normal. How can you tell the difference?
- ▶ How does teen dating violence look different from adult domestic violence? Why?

# TAKE AWAYS

- ▶ We hope this experience has helped you better understand the realities that young people often face when it comes to their relationships, communities, and options. The truth is that many young people are living in incredibly difficult situations, often without support or resources to turn to. Domestic Violence happens in all communities. We all have a role to play in ending domestic violence.
- ▶ Everyone needs supportive people they can count on when things get hard. No matter what our role is, it is our collective work to break down the barriers to getting support and to change the conditions that allow violence, control, and coercion to thrive as it does now.
- ▶ There are no simple solutions, but each of us has a role to play in supporting young people to have healthy, happy, and safe relationships.

**NOW THAT YOU HAVE WALKED IN THEIR SHOES, WHAT ACTIONS ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE THINGS BETTER IN YOUR COMMUNITY?**



**Safe Place**  
of Eastern South Dakota

Like us on **FACEBOOK** (Safe Place of Eastern South Dakota)  
Check us out online at [www.safeplace-esd.org](http://www.safeplace-esd.org)

**Contact:**

**Crisis Hotline: 605-996-4440**

**Shelter: 605-996-2765**

**Family Visitation Center: 605-996-8880**